

The Anxious Leaf.

ONCE on a time a little leaf
Was seen to bow its head with grief
Then said the branch on which it grew:
"My little leaf, what troubles you?"

The leaf to this made sad reply—
"A wind just now went moaning by,
And as it passed croaked in my ear:
'You may not long enjoy life here.'"

The branch told this unto the tree,
Which whispered back immediately:
"My pretty leaf, you need not fret,
For you shall stay all summer here—
And when the time has come to go,
You will not want to stay, I know."

And so the leaf its murmuring ceased,
And from its care was well released.
Then autumn came, and all around
The leaves with richest tints were crowned.

Oh, how they sparkled, all arrayed,
In robes of every ravishing shade
And when the leaf asked what it meant,
Down from the tree reply was sent:

The leaves are ready now to go,
And in the joy they sparkle so!
No more the leaf desired to stay,
It grew more beautiful each day:

Until a gentle puff of wind
Came up so softly from behind,
That thinking it was all in play,
The leaf let go and flew away.

Awhile in air it twirled around,
Then gently fell upon the ground;
And now, where fancies vigil keep,
It rests in happy, dreamless sleep.

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF OUR LORD.

A. D. 27.] LESSON IX. [Dec. 2.

CHRIST'S TESTIMONY TO JOHN

Luke 7. 24-35. Memory verses, 27, 28.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Behold, I send my messenger before thy face—Luke 7. 27.

OUTLINE.

1. The Prophet, v. 24-30.
2. The People, v. 31-35.

TIME.—A. D. 27.

PLACES. Jesus in Galilee, John the Baptist in prison at Machærus, near the Dead Sea.

CONNECTING LINKS.

While John's popularity was at its height, he incurred the anger of King Herod by rebuking his sins, and was promptly thrown into a dungeon at Machærus. While there confined, news of our Lord's amazing work was borne to him, and he sent messengers to inquire whether indeed he was the King that was to come. Without giving a direct answer, Jesus bade them wait and watch the marvellous attestations of his Messianic power, and as soon as they withdrew, bore the following testimony to John.

EXPLANATIONS.

24. "A reed"—John's firm, strong character is contrasted with a trembling reed.

25. "Raiment"—Clothing. "Apparelled"—Cloth. A reference to John's manner of living. (Matt. 3. 4.)

27. "Prepare the way"—John prepared the way for Christ by proclaiming repentance, and leading the nation to righteous living.

28. "Not a greater"—John was the greatest of the prophets, because what others foretold in the distance he proclaimed as at hand; and in true nobility of character he was surpassed by none. "Least in the kingdom"—Any believer in Christ, however low his station. "Greater than he"—In that disciples have all that John foresaw. Our privilege as Christians is greater than that of the prophets, since we know more of Christ than did David or Isaiah.

29. "Publicans"—Taxgatherers, hated by all patriotic Jews because, for pay, they served their country's enemies in a peculiarly exasperating way. "Justified God"—Praised God, and endorsed what Jesus had just said.

34. "Winebibber"—Drunkard.

HOME READINGS.

M. Christ's testimony of John.—Luke 7. 24-35.

Th. Testimony of the people.—Matt. 21. 23-32.

H. Herod's testimony.—Mark 6. 14-20.

Th. Great in the sight of the Lord.—Luke 1. 5-17.

F. The forerunner.—Luke 1. 67-80.

S. The voice.—Matt. 3. 1-12.

Su. A shining light.—John 6. 31-38.

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

Where in this lesson are we shown—

1. The greatness of John's mission?
2. The privilege of every true Christian?
3. The folly of unbelief?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. What did Jesus say about John the Baptist? That there was no greater prophet than he. 2. What further did he say? "He that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he." 3. What had the prophet, speaking in the name of God, said about John? Golden Text: "Behold I send," etc. 4. What did the faultfinders say about John's austerity and strictness? "He hath a devil." 5. What did they say about Jesus's sociability and charity? They said the same

OSTRICH RAISING.

Ostrich raising has been successfully introduced into southern California, and is likely to become a large industry in the future. There is no reason why equal success should not be reached in Texas. The business is very profitable, as the rich plumes of the birds always command a high price. Happily, wearing these magnificent ornaments does not imply the destruction of the birds, as is the case with the wearing of ornaments of other birds. The destruction of millions of birds annually to meet the demands of fashion is a deep reproach to our modern civilization, some of the loveliest races of birds, including some of the richest singers, as nightingales and others,



WINGS.

higher prices. A flock of ostriches may be kept together in a field well fenced. They need no shelter, as they sleep in the open air. They are rarely sick; and if the field is well supplied with water they will fare well without any herdsmen to watch them.

The value of the feathers exported from the Cape has increased in fourteen years from three hundred and fifty thousand dollars to over four and a half millions; and the demand is in excess of the supply.

WINGS.

"WINGS! wings! to sweep
O'er mountain high and valley deep.
Wings! that my heart may rest
In the radiant morning's breast.

"Wings! to hover free
O'er the dawn-empurpled sea,
Wings! above life to soar,
And beyond death for evermore."
—Ruckert.

"You ought to take this horse," said the dealer, "he's a bargain." "Well, then, I don't want him," said Barlow. "I want him to drive, and I never could drive a bargain."

"Why didn't you come when I rang?" said a lady to her servant. "Because I didn't hear the bell." "Hereafter, when you don't hear the bell, you must come and tell me so." "Yes'm."

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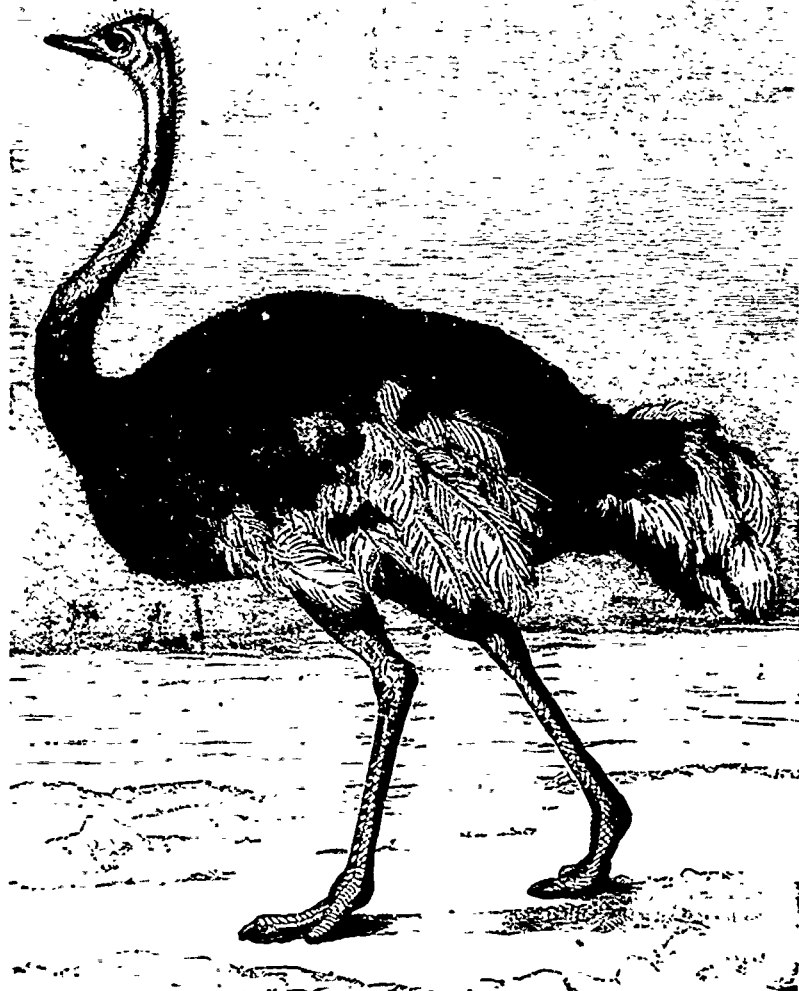
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THE OSTRICH.

thing. 6. What did Jesus say? "Wisdom is justified of all her children."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The inspiration of prophecy.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

Which were the ancient commandments thus quoted?

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord; and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might."—Deuteronomy 6. 4, 5.

—Uncle Wayback—"I declare, Elvira, this knife tastes soapy, same as the other one." Shrewd Niece—"It's too bad, uncle; but city servants are so careless. Try eating with your fork. May be that's clean."

—"Well," said a facetious stranger to a member of the brass band, "there is one thing to be thankful for." "Vat its dose?" inquired the musician. "You can always blow your own horn." "Nein, my friend. Dis cornet is porrowed."

having become almost extinct. The following is of interest on the subject of ostrich raising in South Africa:

Ostrich raising is coming to be a lucrative business in southern Africa, and is said to be the only means of saving this valuable bird from extinction. It is found that they thrive much better on grass land than in the desert, and that the birds choose desert life merely for self-protection. The profits of an extensive ostrich breeder may be estimated from these facts:

A single pair will raise four broods a year of from ten to fifteen chicks each. A chick a month old will sell for fifty dollars; and a full-grown ostrich will yield twenty-five white feathers a year, worth five dollars apiece at Cape Town. Taking old and young together, it is estimated that the birds average over one hundred dollars a year profit. As they live forty or fifty years, the profits are simply enormous. They need little care, living easily on grass, though relishing grain, and giving in return for the luxurious diet finer feathers than those of the wild birds, and which bring

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