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VOL. X. No. 4

October-December, 1905

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PRIMARY QUARTERLY



The Home Study Series

For the Little Ones

Sabbath School Publications
* Presbyterian Church in Canada *

Rev. R. Douglas Fraser.

Editor & Business Manager

Confederation Life Building Toronto

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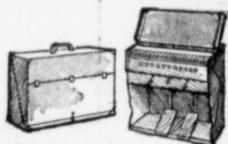
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The Primary Quarterly

Rev. R. Douglas Fraser, M.A., Editor
Rev. J. M. Duncan, B.D., Associate Editor

Vol. X.

October, November, December, 1905

No. 4

The Sleep Mother

White—as the lillies are white—
The fleece of the cygnet's breast
Not softer is, nor so light,
As the feather-froth of the nest
Where she lays the baby to rest;
While the world rolls on in the night,
And the stars drop down the West.

Sweet—as the roses are sweet—
The little white roses that blow
Brave in the red sun's heat,
Fresh as a fall of snow,
In a place that the wind-sprites know
As they tumble over the wheat;
Such is her spell, I trow.

Still—as the silence is still—
As the silver drip of the dew,
A noiseless, crystalline rill
Searching the green glens through
For the violet's cup of blue.
Sleep, little one, your fill,
Till the robins waken you !

How One Mother Managed

There were six in all, so you see she had full opportunity to work out her plan; and there were two boys and four girls of them: so that the adaptability of the plan to the different sorts of children was clearly shown. It was a very simple plan; and a very old one—one very likely thought out, or more likely still *felt* out, by our first mother. It was to take the bed-time hour and the still quiet of the Sabbath, and especially of the long Sabbath evenings, to tell the children stories.

For week days sometimes fairy tales, sometimes stories of the brave things men did on the battlefield, when they fought for country and for loved ones. But on the Sabbaths, only "the old, old story." Some-

times it was Joseph, or David, or Daniel, or Timothy, or, as more often, the babe of Bethlehem and the boy of Nazareth, and the great Preacher and Healer who spread such joy where'er He went, and who suffered such cruel agonies, and rose so triumphantly from the grave. Sometimes she began at the beginning, and went over it all in order from the making of the heaven and the earth, all through the sad things and the glad things, till the appearing of the new heaven and the new earth and the Holy City which is above.

Did they weary? Sometimes they wearied the sweet mother, for more, and more still; but the tale never grew old. Three times the "Story of the Bible"—it was the book from which the mother read when she began at the beginning and went through—was worn to shreds before the last of the babes had grown old enough to read it for herself.

It meant many an hour of self-denial—for twenty years every Sabbath evening at home and with the little ones. But the best things are always bought dear; and the price was not too great. The mother is older now; but her "children walking in the truth" is her rich reward, and one of them beginning in the same good way with children of her own.

There were two breaks in the circle; one darling boy taken to the loving Saviour's arms in infancy—to learn the story yonder, though not here; the other, a sweet girlie of four, who was the quickest and brightest of them all, and would meet her dear Lord as a known Friend. Those who remained are scattered now, fighting life's battles, and gathering in some of the sweets; but there

God Redeeming His People

is no one thing that has gone deeper and further in giving them the strong hand that triumphs in the evil day, and the pure heart that can enjoy earth's pleasures to the full, than the mother's wisdom and the mother's love, which took time to tell them the story of God's loving ways with men.

What Do You See When You Shut Your Eyes?

I was strolling one day in a city park, when I passed a very pretty girl about ten years old who was sitting, with a brother, a little younger, on a seat beside the path. It was in the autumn, and they had been gathering acorns, and they had in their hands some of the very longest ones I had ever seen. Some of the nuts were nearly if not quite two inches long, and as they were only partially ripened, the green and the bronze blended together in the coloring so that they were very beautiful. I paused a moment to admire them, and as the little girl looked up in my face, I said, "How long they are; I never saw any quite so fine!" She smiled back happily in return, and said, "Yes, they are. We gathered them back there under those trees."

I strolled on down the path and came up under the trees from another direction, and was poking my cane about, gathering some of the acorns, when, hearing a little rustle behind me, I looked up, and there was the pretty young girl I had seen a few moments before resting by the path.

"O!" she exclaimed, "are you gathering acorns too?" I replied, "Yes; I have some little people of my own at home."

"Have you a little girl?" she asked.

"Yes; I have a little girl, but she is not so old or large as you are."

"Well, then," said she, "you must take these acorns, for I am too large to play with them now."

"You must keep them," said I, "and I will hunt up some of my own."

But she urged, and I saw she was going to be grieved if I did not take them, and so I said, "Will it make you happier if I take them?"

"O, yes!" she said eagerly, "If you take

them, when I go to bed to-night I will shut my eyes, and see your little girl playing with them, and then I will be so glad that I gave them to you for her."

What a pretty thought it was the little girl had, and what a nice thing it is to do some act of kindness every day, so that when we shut our eyes at night we can remember somebody whom we have made happy that day. If one can do that every day of their lives, they will have a glorious road to look back over when they get old.

My Share

I have no lands, I have no gold ;
Fame's way my footsteps miss :
But I've my baby girl to hold,
My little lad to kiss.
To helpful heights I may not reach,
Or tides of error stay ;
Be mine the sweeter task, to teach
Their unstained lips to pray.

God Redeeming His People

Last Quarter we saw how God's people were carried away captive to a strange land. There they remained for seventy years. But God did not forget them. He was planning all the while to bring them back to their own home. This Quarter we are going to study the wonderful story of how He did bring them back. And at the end of the Quarter, we shall have two Lessons specially about the great Saviour whom God sent into the world to deliver us from sin, and so prepare us for the home above. The Quarter's Lessons will tell us about GOD REDEEMING HIS PEOPLE :

1. By punishing their oppressors.
2. By delivering them from danger.
3. By giving them freedom.
4. By enabling them to rebuild the temple.
5. By giving them the Holy Spirit.
6. By defeating plots against them.
7. By guiding them to their own land.
8. By answering their prayers.
9. By warning them against intemperance.
10. By making them brave.
11. By sending them His Word.
12. By promising them a Saviour.
13. By saving them from sin.
14. By showing kindness to them.

AN ORDER OF SERVICE

FOR PRIMARY CLASSES OR THE HOME LESSON

Fourth Quarter, 1905

Mrs. J. F. Jackson

I. RECITATION.

Teacher. What has God given us ?

Class. God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Teacher. Freely ye have received, freely give.

Class. God loveth a cheerful giver.

II. PRAYER (all together).—The Lord's Prayer. (Let the teacher explain from time to time the meaning of the petitions.)

III. SINGING. (Tune 575, Book of Praise.)

Father, lead me, day by day,
Ever in Thine own sweet way;
Teach me to be pure and true;
Show me what I ought to do.

When my heart is full of glee,
Make me to remember Thee;
Happy most of all to know
That my Father loves me so.

IV. THE MISSIONARY QUESTION for the day. (See each Lesson. The very little ones will not be expected to learn this by heart, but it may be repeated several times over, and any needed explanation given.)

V. OFFERINGS.

VI. SUPPLEMENTAL LESSON. Learn verse by verse, and repeat Memory Passage, "The Lambs of the Flock," Mark 10 : 13-16; also learn verse by verse and sing hymn 567, Book of Praise :—

I think when I read that sweet story of old,
When Jesus was here among men,
How He called little children as lambs to His
fold,
I should like to have been with Him then;
I wish that His hands had been placed on my
head,
That His arms had been thrown around me,
And that I might have seen His kind look
when He said,
" Let the little ones come unto Me."

Yet still to His footstool in prayer I may go,
And ask for a share in His love;
And if I now earnestly seek Him below,
I shall see Him and hear Him above—

In that beautiful place He has gone to prepare
For all who are washed and forgiven;
And many dear children are gathering there
"For of such is the kingdom of heaven."

But thousands and thousands who wander
and fall
Never heard of that heavenly home;
I should like them to know there is room for
them all,

And that Jesus has bid them to come.
I long for that blessed and glorious time,
The fairest and brightest and best,
When the dear little children of every clime
Shall crowd to His arms and be blest.

Amen.

VII. LESSON FOR THE DAY.

VIII. LESSON HYMN. See the Hymn given with each Lesson.

IX. SINGING. (Tune 552, Book of Praise.)

Now the time has come to part;
Father, come to every heart;

Go Thou with us as we go,
And be near in all we do.

Daniel and Belshazzar

Lesson I.

DANIEL AND BELSHAZZAR

October 1, 1905

Daniel 5 : 17-30. Study the chapter—Memory Verses 29, 30.*

Golden Text—The face of the Lord is against them that do evil.—Psalm 34 : 16.

it whomsoever he will. 22 And thou his son, O Belshaz'zar, hast not humbled thine heart, though thou knewest all this :

23 But hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven ; and they have brought the vessels of his house before thee, and thou, and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them ; and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know : and the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose *are* all thy ways, hast thou not glorified : 24 Then was the part of the hand sent from him ; and this writing was written. 25 And this *is* the writing that was written, ME'NE, ME'NE, TE'KEL, UPHAR'SIN. 26 This *is* the interpretation of the thing : ME'NE ; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it. 27 TE'KEL ; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. 28 PE'RES ; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Per'sians. 29 Then commanded Belshaz'zar, and they clothed Dan'iel with scarlet, and *put* a chain of gold about his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom. 30 In that night was Belshaz'zar the king of the Chalde'ans slain.

THE LESSON RETOLD

is Robins on
Under Nebuchadnezzar, king of the Chaldees, Babylon became one of the most beautiful and magnificent cities of ancient times. But Nebuchadnezzar, instead of honoring and obeying the Lord God of heaven, who had given him such great glory and riches, behaved himself foolishly and set his face proudly against his Maker, so the Lord drove him from his kingdom and punished him with a terrible punishment for seven years.

Another king was now reigning in Babylon. Belshazzar, his son, the crown prince, made a great feast in his palace to a thousand

of his chief men, whom he invited to drink wine with him out of the holy gold and silver vessels which Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple in Jerusalem, the banqueting chamber being lighted with the sacred candlesticks also taken from God's house.

Suddenly, as Belshazzar and his friends were drinking and feasting and singing praises to their heathen gods, a hand appeared on the wall opposite the golden candlesticks, and in full view of the king and his guests, wrote upon the wall these strange words : "MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN" ; at the

*The Scripture Memory Passages of the Supplemental Lesson Course are recommended as a substitute for those here given Sabbath by Sabbath. They will be found in the Supplemental Lesson Leaflets.

sight of which Belshazzar trembled, so that his knees knocked against one another for fear. Not knowing the meaning of the writing, the king called for all his astrologers and magicians, promising that whoever should be able to explain the meaning of the words should be made third ruler in the kingdom. But none of them were able to explain it.

Then the queen-mother came in and spoke to her son, saying, "There is a certain very wise old man here named Daniel, who has a gift for interpreting dreams. Send for him and it may be that he will be able to tell the meaning of the writing." So the king sent for Daniel, who now spoke to him in the name of his God, the Lord of Israel, saying, "O king, the most high God gave Nebuchadnezzar your father a great kingdom, but when his heart was lifted up with pride, his glory was taken away from him, and thou, knowing all this, hast sinned in the same way, and especially in that thou hast profaned these, the vessels of the house of the Lord, and hast given glory to graven images instead of to the Lord, in whose hand thy breath is. The interpretation of the writing is this : 'MENE, MENE,' 'God has numbered thy kingdom and finished it'; 'TEKEL,' 'Thou art weighed in the balance and found wanting'; 'UPHARSIN,' 'Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.'

Then the king gave orders that Daniel be dressed in the royal purple, with a chain of gold about his neck, and be proclaimed third ruler in his kingdom. That very night the king's enemies took the city, killing Belshazzar in his palace, according to all that Daniel had spoken in the name of the Lord.

Questions on the Lesson

1. Why did God punish Nebuchadnezzar ?
2. Who was Belshazzar ? 3. How did Belshazzar greatly dishonor God at his banquet ?
4. Why should he not have made such use of the vessels ? 5. What happened when the feast was at its height ? 6. How did Belshazzar feel when he saw the hand upon the wall ? 7. For whom did he send to read the writing ? 8. Who suggested sending for Daniel ? 9. What did he say the writing meant ? 10. How was he rewarded ? 11. How did Daniel's prophecy come true ?

Lesson Hymn

God is always near me,
Though so young and small ;
Not a look, or word, or thought
But God knows it all. Amen.
—Hymn 511, Book of Praise

The Catechism

PRIMARY CATECHISM—48. **How long did Jesus remain on earth after He rose from the dead?** Jesus remained forty days on earth after His resurrection. 49. **What was Jesus doing for His disciples during the forty days after His resurrection?** He came to His disciples at different times to comfort and teach them.

SHORTER CATECHISM—96. **What is the Lord's supper ?** A. The Lord's supper is a sacrament, wherein, by giving and receiving bread and wine, according to Christ's appointment, his death is showed forth ; and the worthy receivers are, not after a corporal and carnal manner, but by faith, made partakers of his body and blood, with all his benefits, to their spiritual nourishment, and growth in grace.

The Question on Missions

37. Why are we specially interested in India as a foreign mission field ? Because India has a population of nearly 300,000,000 souls, and three-fifths of these are under British rule, and, therefore, are our fellow-subjects.

SOMETHING TO DRAW

How kind God is to warn us against doing evil. He knows how full of danger it is. We

MENE MENE TEKEL
UPHARSIN

are always safe when we heed His warnings. The story of Belshazzar teaches us how sad is the end of those who despise them.

I Have Learned To-day
THAT GOD IS MY DEFENDER

Daniel in the Lions' Den

Lesson II.

DANIEL IN THE LIONS' DEN

October 8, 1905

Daniel 6 : 10-23. Study the chapter—Memory Verses, 21-23.

Golden Text—The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.—Psalm 34 : 7.



own signet, and with the signet of his lords ; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel.

18 Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting : neither were instruments of musick brought before him : and his sleep went from him.

19 Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions.

20 And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel : and the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions ?

21 Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever.

22 My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me : forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me ; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

23 Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Because Daniel was upright, and Darius, king of Persia, had made him chief ruler in his kingdom, the other princes hated Daniel and plotted how they might destroy him. Because they could not find him out in any wrongdoing, they watched and planned how they might catch and punish him for his religion. Knowing Daniel to be a faithful worshipper of the Lord God of Israel, these wicked princes went to the king and persuaded him to make a law such as no one had power to change, saying that, for a month, anyone found praying to any God or man except to the king himself, should be punished by being thrown into a den of lions.

When Daniel knew that the law was signed, he went into his house, and leaving the windows open towards Jerusalem, he kneeled and prayed aloud to God, as he had always

10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house ; and his windows were open in his chamber toward Jeru'salem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

11 Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.

12 Then they came near, and spake before the king concerning the king's decree : Hast thou not signed a decree, that every man that shall ask a petition of any God or man within thirty days, save of thee, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions ? The king answered and said, The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Per'sians, which altereth not.

13 Then answered they and said before the king, That Daniel, which is of the children of the captivity of Ju'dah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three times a day.

14 Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him : and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him.

15 Then these men assembled unto the king, and said unto the king, Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Per'sians is, That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed.

16 Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.

17 And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den ; and the king sealed it with his own hand.

18 Then said the king to Daniel, Thy God, if he will deliver thee, let him deliver thee.

19 Then Daniel was cast into the den of lions, and the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting : neither were instruments of musick brought before him : and his sleep went from him.

20 And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel : and the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions ?

21 Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever.

22 My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me : forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me ; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

23 Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.

done three times every day. But his enemies were watching, and went immediately and told the king that Daniel had broken his decree.

Then Darius, who loved Daniel, was very angry with himself for having made such a law, and tried to think of some plan to save his servant, but it was too late. That very evening at sunset, Daniel was thrown into the lions' den, the mouth of which was closed with a large stone, sealed with the king's seal, that no one might move it.

That night Darius could neither eat nor sleep, nor listen to the music which was usually played before him. He was thinking of Daniel, and was greatly troubled.

When it was just beginning to be light, the king arose, and running to the mouth of the den, he called in a loud voice, "O Daniel, has

your God been able to deliver you from the lions?"

Quickly the answer came back, "O king, live for ever! My God has sent His angel, and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me." Then the king was very glad, and commanded that Daniel be drawn up out of the den; and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he had trusted in his God. After this Darius wrote another decree, saying, I will make a law that in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel; for He is the living God.

Questions on the Lesson

1. Why were the princes jealous of Daniel?
2. What law did they get the king to make?
3. What did Daniel do when he knew about the king's decree?
4. How many times in the day did he pray to God?
5. Who were watching him?
6. What message did his enemies take to the king?
7. Why was Darius unhappy?
8. What was done with Daniel?
9. How did the king spend the night?
10. What did he do in the morning?
11. What did Daniel answer from the den?
12. What is the Golden Text?

Lesson Story

A little girl in India came to school one morning with a severe bruise on her forehead. When asked by the missionary what had caused it, she would give no answer. But another child told how that the day before the girl's father had asked why she had neglected to pray before the idols. "Father," answered the child, "I have prayed every day to Jesus. I do not pray to idols, because I do not believe in them."

This so enraged her heathen father that he seized his child by the neck and bent her head forcibly before the idol, striking it several times on the ground, until it bled and afterwards swelled into a painful lump.

This story shows what even children in heathen countries sometimes have to suffer for their religion.

Lesson Hymn

Singing, if my way be clear;
Praying, if the path be drear;
If in danger, for Him call;
Trusting Jesus—that is all. Amen.

—Hymn 293, Book of Praise

The Catechism

PRIMARY CATECHISM — 50. **What happened at the end of forty days?** After forty days Jesus went up to heaven. 51. **What is Jesus now doing for us in heaven?** He intercedes for us, and He rules over all things for our good.

SHORTER CATECHISM — 97. *What is required to the worthy receiving of the Lord's supper?* A. It is required of them that would worthily partake of the Lord's supper, that they examine themselves of their knowledge to discern the Lord's body, of their faith to feed upon him, of their repentance, love, and new obedience; lest, coming unworthily, they eat and drink judgment to themselves.

The Question on Missions

38. Where are our India missions situated? In Central India, where work was begun about thirty years ago.

SOMETHING TO DRAW

The lion is one of the fiercest and strongest of beasts. But God is far stronger, and is



able to save us, as He saved Daniel, from every danger. We need have no fear when He is with us. How sweet it is to trust in Him, and have no fear of harm!

I Have Learned Today

THAT GOD DELIVERS FROM DANGER

Lesson III.

RETURNING FROM CAPTIVITY

October 15, 1905

Ezra 1 : 1-11. Study the chapter—Memory Verses, 5, 6.

Golden Text—The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad.—
Psalm 126 : 3.



the Le'vites, with all *them* whose spirit God had raised, to go up to build the house of the LORD which *is* in Jeru'salem.

6 And all they that *were* about them strengthened their hands with vessels of silver, with gold, with goods, and with beasts, and with precious things, beside all *that* was willingly offered.

7 Also Cy'rus the king brought forth the vessels of the house of the LORD, which Nebuchadnezzar had brought forth out of Jeru'salem, and had put them in the house of his gods ;

8 Even those did Cy'rus king of Per'sia bring forth by the hand of Mith'redath the treasurer, and numbered them unto Sheshbaz'zar, the prince of Ju'dah.

9 And this *is* the number of them : thirty chargers of gold, a thousand chargers of silver, nine and twenty knives,

10 Thirty basons of gold, silver basons of a second *sort* four hundred and ten, *and* other vessels a thousand.

11 And all the vessels of gold and of silver *were* five thousand and four hundred. All *these* did Sheshbaz'zar bring up with *them* of the captivity that were brought up from Bab'ylon unto Jeru'salem.

THE LESSON RETOLD

When God's people had been in captivity in the heathen country of Babylon for about seventy years, the Lord fulfilled His promise made through the prophet Jeremiah and others, that one day they should be allowed to return in peace to their own land.

At this time Cyrus, king of Persia, was ruling in the land of Babylon. One of his first acts after conquering the country was to make a decree, that all captives within his dominions should be allowed to go free. Guided by the Spirit of the Lord, Cyrus now wrote a special proclamation to all Jews within his kingdom, in which he called for

1 Now in the first year of Cy'rus king of Per'sia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremi'ah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cy'rus king of Per'sia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and *put it* also in writing, saying,

2 Thus saith Cy'rus king of Per'sia, The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth ; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jeru'salem, which *is* in Ju'dah.

3 Who *is there* among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jeru'salem, which *is* in Ju'dah, and build the house of the LORD God of Is'rael, (he *is* the God,) which *is* in Jeru'salem.

4 And whosoever remaineth in any place where he sojourneth, let the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts, beside the freewill offering for the house of God that *is* in Jeru'salem.

5 Then rose up the chief of the fathers of Ju'dah and Ben'jamin, and the priests and

gold, with goods, and with beasts, and with precious things, beside all *that* was willingly offered.

7 Also Cy'rus the king brought forth the vessels of the house of the LORD, which Nebuchadnezzar had brought forth out of Jeru'salem, and had put them in the house of his gods ;

8 Even those did Cy'rus king of Per'sia bring forth by the hand of Mith'redath the treasurer, and numbered them unto Sheshbaz'zar, the prince of Ju'dah.

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11 And all the vessels of gold and of silver *were* five thousand and four hundred. All *these* did Sheshbaz'zar bring up with *them* of the captivity that were brought up from Bab'ylon unto Jeru'salem.

everyone among them who was willing to volunteer, to join with him in a great work ; "for," said Cyrus, "the Lord has commanded me that I should, with you, His people, undertake for Him the re-building of His temple in Jerusalem, which since the days of Nebuchadnezzar has lain in ruins.

That all who wished to return might be prepared both for their work and for the long journey, Cyrus next commanded that in every town and village where there were Jews, the people of that place should help them with presents and gifts as well as freewill offerings for the temple.

So willingly did their Babylonish neighbors respond to the king's word, that when the exiles were ready to start, it required more than four hundred camels and seven hundred horses, besides six thousand other beasts of burden, to carry them and their treasure home to Jerusalem.

When all were ready to go, Cyrus sent for his royal treasurer to bring the hundreds of gold and silver vessels which Nebuchadnezzar had stolen from God's house, and which had so long been used in the service of heathen gods, and gave them back to the exiles, putting them in charge of Zerubbabel, prince of Judah. And there went with the people an escort of soldiers to protect them by the way, and a band of singers, and a very great company, so that with Zerubbabel, their leader, they reached Jerusalem in joy and safety after a desert march of about five months.

Questions on the Lesson

1. How long were the Israelites captives in Babylon ?
2. What promise had God given them ?
3. Who was now king of Babylon ?
4. What proclamation did Cyrus make to the Jews ?
5. What work did he set before them ?
6. How did they get money for their journey and to re-build the temple ?
7. How did the people offer their gifts ?
8. What treasures did Cyrus give back to God's people before they left ?
9. How had these vessels come to Babylon ?
10. Who accompanied the exiles to Jerusalem ?
11. What is the Golden Text ?

Lesson Story

A little boy busy at play gave a glad little laugh. "Why, what happened, John?" his father asked. "Nothing, father; only I'm happy because it's your holiday, and you're home with mother and me, and I sort of bubbled over."

Long ago when God's people were returning from captivity, one of them said in speaking about it afterwards, "Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing. The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad."

The heavenly Father, like a good earthly father, gives joy to His children just by being near them, and by the loving things He does for them. He does not let yesterday's loving

kindnesses do for to-day; His mercies are new every morning.

Lesson Hymn

Fear ye not the way so lonely,
You, a little, feeble band ?

No ; for friends unseen are near us,
Holy angels round us stand ;

Christ, our Leader, walks beside us,
He will guard, and He will guide us,

Guide us to the better land. Amen.

—Hymn 583, Book of Praise

The Catechism

PRIMARY CATECHISM—52. What promise did Jesus make to His disciples when He was going away? Jesus promised to send them another Comforter, or Helper, to remain with them forever.

SHORTER CATECHISM—98. What is prayer ?

A. Prayer is an offering up of our desires to God, for things agreeable to his will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgement of his mercies.

The Question on Missions

39. What kind of climate has Central India ? There are three well-defined seasons. The hot season : from March to June, when all vegetation has died away; the rainy season beginning in July, when all nature quickly revives; the cold season beginning in October.

SOMETHING TO DRAW

Is it not a joy to bring gifts to those whom we love ? And God is the One we ought to



love most of all. When we love Him, we shall give of our money to Him, oh, so freely and gladly.

**I Have Learned Today
THAT JESUS MAKES ME FREE**

Lesson IV.

REBUILDING THE TEMPLE

October 22, 1905

Ezra 3 : 10 to 4 : 5. Study ch. 3 : 1 to 4 : 5—Memory Verses, 10, 11.

Golden Text—The temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.—1 Corinthians 3 : 17.

Ju'dah and Ben'jamin heard that the children of the captivity builded the temple unto the LORD God of Is'rael ;

2 Then they came to Zerub'babel, and to the chief of the fathers, and said unto them, Let us build with you ; for we seek your God, as ye do ; and we do sacrifice unto him since the days of E'sar-had'don king of As'sur, which brought us up hither.

3 But Zerub'babel, and Jesh'u'a, and the rest of the chief of the fathers of Is'rael, said unto them, Ye have nothing to do with us to build an house unto our God ; but we ourselves together will build unto the LORD God of Is'rael, as king Cy'rus the king of Per'sia hath commanded us.

4 Then the people of the land weakened the hands of the people of Ju'dah, and troubled them in building.

5 And hired counsellors against them, to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cy'rus king of Per'sia, even unto the reign of Dari'u's king of Per'sia.

THE LESSON RETOLD

When the Babylonish exiles reached Jerusalem, they found it in ruins, as it had been left by Nebuchadnezzar's armies long years before. As soon as they had provided shelter for themselves and their children, everyone set to work heartily upon the house of the Lord, and a whole winter was spent in clearing away the rubbish, and in gathering wood and stones for the new building. When spring came, the builders laid the foundation, and a great holiday was appointed for a certain day in May, when the corner-stone of God's house should be placed in position.

When all was ready, the priests, wearing their beautiful robes of blue and scarlet and purple, blew upon the brass trumpets to call

the people to assemble, after which the temple singers, or "Guild of Asaph," as they were called after the famous singer and leader in David's choir, began to sing praises and thanksgivings to God for His great mercy and kindness to His people Israel. As soon as one band of singers ceased, another took up their song, and all the people joined with a glad shout, because everyone rejoiced that the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid.

But some of the old people, who had seen the first temple and could remember how and why it had been destroyed, began to weep when they saw the new temple actually begun before their eyes: the noise of the shouting and the weeping could be heard for miles.

Now when the Samaritans, and other false worshippers, and all the enemies of Israel, heard how the exiles had returned with money and treasure, to rebuild the house of the Lord at Jerusalem, they came to Zerubbabel and other chief princes of Israel, saying, "Let us build with you, for there is very little difference between our worship and yours." But Zerubbabel said, "No," being afraid that heathen ways and customs might so creep in and defile the pure and holy worship of the Lord.

With this, their heathen enemies turned upon them and even wrote letters to Cyrus, king of Persia, slandering the Jews, and made so much trouble that the work upon God's house was greatly interrupted for fifteen years.

Questions on the Lesson

1. In what state did the returning exiles find Jerusalem ?
2. How did they spend the winter ?
3. What was appointed to be done in May ?
4. How did the priests call the people to assemble ?
5. Who led the praises of the people at the laying of the corner-stone ?
6. What did they sing ?
7. How did the people rejoice ?
8. Who wept while everyone was rejoicing ?
9. What request did the Samaritans make ?
10. Why did the Israelites not allow them to join in building ?
11. How did these people prove their unworthiness ?
12. What is the Golden Text ?

Lesson Story

There is a story of Sir Robert Peel, that he once ordered for his daughter a splendid riding-habit as a birthday gift. When it was finished, it appeared beautiful and perfect to look at, but it held the germs of a terrible disease called typhus, caught from the poor husband of the seamstress, who had carelessly thrown it over the sick man as she sat and worked beside him. From that garment the rich man's daughter took the disease and died.

Thus sin is contagious, and its evil association must be shunned as one shuns the plague.

It is only safe that God's people should separate themselves from the company of those who are wicked. Only in this way is it possible to keep either God's house or our own hearts pure.

Lesson Hymn

We love the place, O God,
Wherein Thine honor dwells ;
The joy of Thine abode
All earthly joy excels. Amen.
—Hymn 388, Book of Praise

The Catechism

PRIMARY CATECHISM—53. Who is the Comforter or Helper whom Jesus promised to send to His disciples ? The Holy Spirit is the Comforter whom Jesus promised to send.

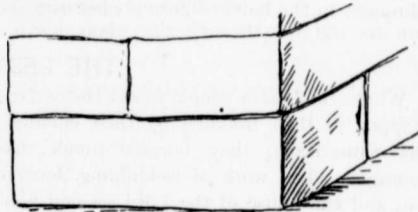
SHORTER CATECHISM—99. What rule hath God given for our direction in prayer ? A. The whole word of God is of use to direct us in prayer ; but the special rule of direction is that form of prayer which Christ taught his disciples, commonly called *The Lord's Prayer*.

The Question on Missions

40. How many missionaries have we in India at the present time ? There are 46 in all, including 13 wives of missionaries, and 18 unmarried lady missionaries ; 3 of the men and 6 of the unmarried ladies are medical missionaries.

SOMETHING TO DRAW

People begin a building by laying the foundation. And this must be well done, or the building will never be strong. Boys and



girls are at the beginning of life. God, and all their earthly friends who love them, want them so much to begin just right.

I Have Learned To-day
THAT I MAY HELP IN GOD'S WORK

Lesson V.

POWER THROUGH GOD'S SPIRIT

October 29, 1905

Zechariah 4:1-10. Study the chapter—Memory Verses, 8-10.

Golden Text—Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord.—Zechariah 4:6.

and he shall bring forth the headstone *thereof* with shoutings, *crying*, Grace, grace, unto it.

8 Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

9 The hands of Zerub'babel have laid the foundation of this house ; his hands shall also finish it ; and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto you.

10 For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerub'babel with those seven ; they *are* the eyes of the LORD, which run to and fro through the whole earth.

THE LESSON RETOLD

When the Jewish people found themselves stopped in their building by their enemies, the Samaritans, they became much discouraged. The work of re-building Jerusalem and the house of the Lord seemed now well-nigh impossible. Compared with the great hosts of the Persians whom their enemies had persuaded against them, God's people were poor and few. During this hard time, the crops had suddenly failed, and now everything seemed to be against them.

In the midst of these troublous times, there arose a young prophet in Israel named Zechariah, whose chief mission it now became to comfort and arouse his discouraged people concerning the work they had undertaken for God and their nation. At this time the Lord often spoke to His messengers, the prophets, by means of visions or dreams, and one night as Zechariah was lying asleep, the Lord sent

him eight wonderful dreams, in each of which there was a picture or object lesson intended for the people.

In this dream there appeared to Zechariah an angel, who talked with him and showed him a golden candlestick with seven branch lights all springing from, and fed by, one bowl, which was kept continually filled with oil in a very curious way. The oil usually burnt in such lamps was pressed from the fruit of the olive tree, and Zechariah now saw two such trees growing one on each side of the candlestick, and joined to the bowl of it by two golden pipes, through which the oil flowed in a perpetual stream to feed the flame, so that it might not go out day or night.

When Zechariah did not at first understand the meaning of the vision, the angel explained to him that the candlestick with the branches was a picture of the Jewish nation, whose

work it was to bear to the world the light and knowledge of the kingdom of God. As the candle flame was fed by the oil, so the power and strength of God is given to help and comfort His needy people.

The Lord now sent Prince Zerubbabel and his builders a special motto and message to encourage them in their difficult work, saying, "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord. Let no man despise the day of small things, for as Zerubbabel hath laid the foundations of the house, his hands also shall finish it. Let all rejoice, for the wisdom and power of God are surely with him, that he may complete this building." And the angel showed Zechariah, as in a picture, Zerubbabel bringing forth the headstone to complete the temple of the Lord.

Questions on the Lesson

1. Who was Zechariah ? 2. In what trouble were the Jews at this time ? 3. How did God speak to Zechariah ? 4. What did he see in his dream ? 5. How were the lamps kept continually filled with oil ? 6. Who explained to Zechariah the meaning of his vision ? 7. Of what was the branching candlestick a picture ? 8. What was to be the work of the Jewish nation ? 9. To what did the angel compare God's Spirit ? 10. What special message did God send Zerubbabel ? 11. What is the Golden Text ?

Lesson Story

One spring a man sowed a package of cucumber seeds in his garden, taking great pains with the planting, and enriching the soil as much as possible. Then he watched and waited for the flat, green leaves, but for the most part in vain. So few came to reward his labors that he gave up that corner of the garden in disgust, leaving it to the weeds.

But one day in late summer he walked through the weeds, and his foot stumbled on something. It was an enormous cucumber. There they lay by the score, long past eating, but with seed enough to supply a whole town.

So, from a small and poor beginning, there are often great results. As the gardener could not hasten his cucumbers by watching and worrying over them, so in everything, when we have done our best we must leave the rest to God.

Lesson Hymn

Spirit, strength of all the weak,
Giving courage to the meek,
Teaching faltering tongues to speak ;
Hear us, Holy Spirit. Amen.
—Hymn 116, Book of Praise

The Catechism

PRIMARY CATECHISM — 54. What did Jesus tell His disciples the Holy Spirit would do for them? Jesus said the Holy Spirit would help them to remember and to understand what He had taught them.

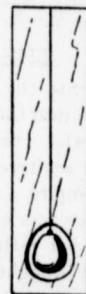
SHORTER CATECHISM — 100. What doth the preface of the Lord's prayer teach us ? A. The preface of the Lord's prayer (which is, *Our Father which art in heaven*) teacheth us to draw near to God with all holy reverence and confidence, as children to a father, able and ready to help us ; and that we should pray with and for others.

The Question on Missions

41. Give the names and population of the seven central stations where our missionaries live and work. Indore City, 83,000 Mhow City, 27,000; Neemuch City, 20,000; Rutlam City, 21,000; Ujjain City, 33,000; Dhar City, 18,000; Amkhut District, with Bil population of 218,000.

SOMETHING TO DRAW

The builder uses a line like this with a weight at the end, to make sure that the wall is perfectly straight. Do you know, God's



law is like this, showing us when our lives are right. We cannot go wrong when we obey its teachings.

I Have Learned Today

THAT GOD WILL MAKE ME STRONG

Lesson VI. ESTHER PLEADING FOR HER PEOPLE November 5, 1905

Esther 4:10 to 5:3. Study ch. 4:1 to 5:3—Memory Verses, 13, 14.

Golden Text—The Lord preserveth all them that love him.—Psalm 145:20.

deca'i *this answer*, 16 Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shu'shan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day : I also and my maidens will fast likewise ; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law : and if I perish, I perish.

17 So Mordeca'i went his way, and did according to all that Es'ther had commanded him.

CH. 5:1 Now it came to pass on the third day, that Es'ther put on *her* royal apparel, and stood in the inner court of the king's house, over against the king's house : and the king sat upon his royal throne in the royal house, over against the gate of the house.

2 And it was so, when the king saw Es'ther the queen standing in the court, *that* she obtained favour in his sight : and the king held out to Es'ther the golden sceptre that was in his hand. So Es'ther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre.

3 Then said the king unto her, What wilt thou, queen Es'ther ? and what is thy request ? it shall be even given thee to the half of the kingdom.

THE LESSON RETOLD

When, in the reign of Cyrus, the Jewish people returned from Babylon into their own land, there were some who remained behind, and in time became scattered over various parts of the Persian empire. Among these descendants of the exiles was a young woman named Esther, who, her father and mother being dead, had been brought up by Mordecaï, her aged kinsman, who sat in the gate of the king's palace.

Now Esther was more beautiful than all the maidens of the land, and for this reason was chosen by Ahasuerus to be his queen, and when the royal crown was placed upon her head, she was given ornaments and servants and great honor, but no one at the court, not

even the king himself, knew that she belonged to the people of the Jews.

About this time the king promoted Haman, one of his servants, to be a prince, and commanded that everyone in the palace should bow before him. But Mordecaï bowed not, knowing that Haman was the enemy of the Jews. Then Haman was very angry, and went to the king and persuaded him to give an order that upon a certain day all Jews throughout his empire, both young and old, men and women, little children, should be put to death. When the king's orders became known, there was great mourning among the Jews, and Mordecaï sent a message to Queen Esther, telling her that she must go before the

10 Again Es'ther spake unto Ha'tach, and gave him commandment unto Mordeca'i;

11 All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or woman, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, *there is* one law of his to put him to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live : but I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days.

12 And they told to Mordeca'i Es'ther's words.

13 Then Mordeca'i commanded to answer Es'ther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews.

14 For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, *then* shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place ; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed : and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this ?

15 Then Es'ther bade *them* return Mor-

king and plead for the life of her people.

Now there was a rule, that if anyone came unbidden into the presence of the king, he should be put to death, unless it happened that the king should hold out to him his golden sceptre. When at first Esther was afraid to go, Mordecai sent her a second message, saying, "Who knows but that you are come to the kingdom for such a time as this? If you fail us now, surely both you and all your people shall be destroyed." Then Esther answered, "Let all the Jews in the city fast and pray for me three days, and I will go to the king; and if I perish, I perish."

At the end of this time the queen put on her most beautiful robes, and went and stood in the court opposite the king's throne, and made herself so pleasing, that as soon as the king saw her he at once held out to her the golden sceptre, saying, "What is your desire, Queen Esther? It shall be given you even to the half of the kingdom." Then Esther invited the king and Haman to a great banquet in her pavilion, at which the king asked her to name her request. Then Esther fell at the king's feet and told him of Haman's wicked plot to destroy her people, imploring him to save her and her countrymen. Then the king arose from the banquet and his anger was kindled against Haman, and letters were sent by quick messengers into all parts of the country to prevent the mischief that he had planned against the Jews. And when, by the king's orders, Haman was hanged, Mordecai became prince in his place.

Questions on the Lesson

1. Who was Esther?
2. What secret did she keep from the king?
4. Who was Haman?
4. What mischief had he planned against the Jews?
5. What message did Mordecai send Esther?
6. Why did she hesitate to make a request to the king?
7. What was Mordecai's second message?
8. What was Esther's answer?
9. What did the queen now ask her people to do for her?
10. What happened when Esther entered the king's presence?
11. What did the king promise her?
12. When did Esther make her request?
13. How were the Jews saved?
14. What happened to Haman?
15. What is the Golden Text?

Lesson Hymn

As round about Jerusalem

The mountains stand alway,
The Lord his folk doth compass so,
From henceforth and for aye.
Do thou to all those that be good
Thy goodness, Lord, impart;
And do thou good to those that are
Upright within their heart.

—Ps. Sel. 100, Book of Praise

The Catechism

PRIMARY CATECHISM—55. How may we get the Holy Spirit? Jesus says that God will give His Holy Spirit to us if we ask Him.

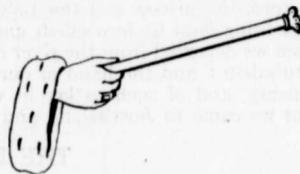
SHORTER CATECHISM—101. What do we pray for in the first petition? A. In the first petition (which is, *Hallowed be thy name*) we pray, That God would enable us and others to glorify him in all that whereby he maketh himself known; and that he would dispose all things to his own glory.

The Question on Missions

42. What language is chiefly used by our missionaries in India? Hindi is the language spoken by 80,000,000 people. The first thing the missionary must do after arriving in his field is to study the language.

SOMETHING TO DRAW

How happy Esther was when the king held out his golden sceptre and made her so great



a promise. But no earthly king ever did or could promise such precious things as God, our Heavenly Father, does. We have only to study these promises to have our hearts filled with joy.

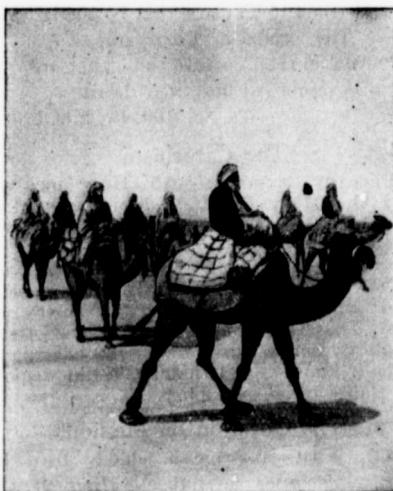
I Have Learned Today
THAT GOD IS WISE AND TENDER

Lesson VII.

EZRA'S JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM November 12, 1905

Ezra 8 : 21-32. Study vs. 15-36—Memory Verses, 21-23.

Golden Text—The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him.—
Ezra 8 : 22.



hundred talents ; 27 Also twenty basons of gold, of fine copper, precious as gold.

28 And I said unto them, Ye are holy unto the LORD ; the vessels are holy also; and the silver and the gold are a freewill offering unto the LORD God of your fathers.

29 Watch ye, and keep them, until ye weigh them before the chief of the priests and the Le'vites, and chief of the fathers of Is'rael, at Jeru'salem, in the chambers of the house of the LORD.

30 So took the priests and the Le'vites the weight of the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, to bring them to Jeru'salem unto the house of our God.

31 Then we departed from the river of Aha'va on the twelfth day of the first month, to go unto Jeru'salem : and the hand of our God was upon us, and he delivered us from the hand of the enemy, and of such as lay in wait by the way.

32 And we came to Jeru'salem, and abode there three days.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Among the descendants of the Jews who remained in Babylon after the return of Zerubbabel and his band to Jerusalem, more than seventy years before, was a zealous and wise priest named Ezra, whose chief work it became not only to care for and make copies of God's law, but to read and explain it to the people. Ezra, commonly called the scribe, or writer, believed that the only way to save his nation was through teaching them to know and obey God's law.

Now the work and wisdom of Ezra was so well known in Babylon, and he had become so pleasing to the king, that when one day Ezra made request to Artaxerxes that he

would allow him to return with a band of his countrymen to their own land, where they might be free to worship the Lord their God, the king at once made a proclamation, giving permission to as many of the Jews as were willing to leave Babylon to return with Ezra to Jerusalem, and gave him money and authority to do all that he had requested.

Then Ezra gathered his countrymen together beside the river of Ahava, for the special purpose of preparing their hearts for the holy pilgrimage they were undertaking. And here the Jews met, confessing their sins, and with fasting and prayer sought guidance and protection from the Lord for their journey.

Between Babylon and Jerusalem there lay a great desert, which at this time was infested with wild beasts and robbers, so that the king would have willingly given Ezra and his party a band of soldiers to protect them on their march. But Ezra refused, saying, "I have told the king that God is with His people and against their enemies, therefore to accept a guard of soldiers would be to bring disgrace upon the Lord. Let us trust only in Him, and He will save us."

So Ezra divided his company into bands and appointed twelve chief priests and twelve Levites, into whose care he gave the money and treasure that the king and his people had presented for the Lord's work ; and Ezra and the priests, with over seventeen hundred others, set out for their march to Jerusalem.

Questions on the Lesson

1. Who was Ezra ? 2. Why was he called the scribe ? 3. What did he believe about God's law ? 4. What request did he make to the king ? 5. What proclamation did the king make ? 6. What did he give Ezra besides permission to return ? 7. How did the prophet prepare the people for their journey ? 8. What danger lay before them in the desert ? 9. Why did Ezra refuse to accept a guard of soldiers from the king ? 10. What was given in charge to the priests ? 11. What is the Golden Text ?

Lesson Story

God often protects his people in strange ways. A few years ago during the Boxer riots in China, two missionaries were fleeing from Honan with their nine-months-old baby. On part of the route a small escort of soldiers had been given them ; they dared not kill the missionaries themselves, but they kept telling the people, "The foreigners have no influence : they are quite powerless."

At one place an angry crowd collected round the missionaries, and it seemed as if they had not many minutes to live. Suddenly the father picked up the baby, walked boldly out with it into the crowd, and made it "chin-chin,"—give the pretty Chinese salutation with hands and head.

The effect was electrical. The threatening crowd were charmed. The baby's salute saved the lives of all three.

Lesson Hymn

Jesus, Shepherd of the sheep,
Who Thy Father's flock dost keep,
Safe we wake and safe we sleep,
Guarded still by Thee. Amen.
—Hymn 306, Book of Praise

The Catechism

PRIMARY CATECHISM—56. What will the Holy Spirit do for us? The Holy Spirit will dwell in our hearts, cleansing them from sin and helping us to be good.

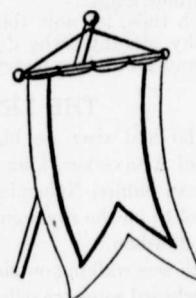
SHORTER CATECHISM—102. What do we pray for in the second petition ? A. In the second petition (which is, *Thy kingdom come*) we pray, That Satan's kingdom may be destroyed ; and that the kingdom of grace may be advanced, ourselves and others brought into it, and kept in it ; and that the kingdom of glory may be hastened.

The Question on Missions

43. How are the primary schools conducted in India ? They are sometimes held under the shade of a tree. When in a schoolroom, the children sit on mats. They sometimes learn to make figures and letters with the finger in sand sprinkled on bits of board. Besides the ordinary subjects, they learn hymns and scripture verses.

SOMETHING TO DRAW

We proudly wave the Union Jack, to show that we are loyal British subjects. Far more



proud should we be that we have Jesus as our king, to rule over us, and lead us through the world to our heavenly home.

**I Have Learned To-day That
GOD WILL BRING ME TO HEAVEN**

Lesson VIII.

NEHEMIAH'S PRAYER

November 19, 1905

Nehemiah 1 : 1-11—Memory Verses, 8, 9.

Golden Text—The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.—James 5 : 16.



thee now, day and night, for the children of Is'rael, which we have sinned.

7 We have dealt very corruptly against thee, and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the judgments, which thou commandest thy servant Mo'ses.

8 Remember, I beseech thee, the word that thou commandest thy servant Mo'ses, saying, *If ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations :*

9 But *if ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them ; though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, yet will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name there.*

10 Now these *are* thy servants and thy people, whom thou hast redeemed by thy great power, and by thy strong hand.

11 O Lord, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants, who desire to fear thy name : and prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man. For I was the king's cupbearer.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Among the Jews who had risen to high positions in the court of Artaxerxes, king of Persia, was a young man named Nehemiah, who had been appointed to be the royal cupbearer in the palace of Shushan.

One day, as Nehemiah was walking outside the palace gates, he overheard some travellers talking together in the Hebrew language, and coming nearer he discovered one of them to be his own brother, Hanani, who had just come back with some companions from Jerusalem, bringing news of those who had lately returned to their own land. And Hanani told

Nehemiah that, although the Jews had so far rebuilt the temple in Jerusalem, the walls and palaces of the city were still in ruins, being fiercely and frequently attacked by their heathen neighbors and enemies.

When Nehemiah, the courtier, heard how the city of God was still in danger, he was greatly troubled, and for four months he gave himself to fasting and prayer, and to thinking out what would be the best and wisest way for him to help in the matter. Nehemiah felt that all the trouble and discouragement in which the Jews now found

themselves was a punishment for the sins they had committed as a people against the Lord; and Nehemiah prayed, "O Lord God of Heaven, that keepest covenant and mercy with them that love Thee and keep Thy commandments, both I and my father's house have sinned. We have dealt very corruptly against Thee, and have not kept the commandments which Thou commandedst Thy servant Moses."

Nehemiah also reminded the Lord of His promise that, if His people should repent and obey His word, He would bring them home and re-establish them in their own land, where they should serve Him, and teach the heathen nations around them to know and obey the Lord God of Israel.

Day after day Nehemiah prayed and planned how he might best make request to the king for himself and his people, asking God earnestly to grant him mercy and success with his master, Artaxerxes, the great and powerful king of Persia.

Questions on the Lesson

1. Who was Nehemiah ? 2. Whom did he overhear talking ? 3. Who did one of the travelers turn out to be ? 4. Whence had they returned ? 5. What news did they bring from the Holy City ? 6. How did Nehemiah feel when he knew the walls were in ruins ? 7. To whom did he go with his trouble ? 8. What confession did he make before the Lord ? 9. What promise did he claim ? 10. How long did Nehemiah pray ? 11. What particular help did he ask for ? 12. The Golden Text ?

Lesson Story

An old monk had planted an olive sapling. "O Lord," he prayed, "it needs rain." So the Lord sent gentle showers. "Now, O Lord, my tree needs sun," and the sun shone in answer to his request. "Now, frost, my Lord, to harden its trunk," begged the monk, and the little tree stood sparkling with frost. But that night it died.

Then the monk sought the cell of a brother monk and told his strange experience. "I, too, have planted a little tree," he said, "and see, it thrives well. But I entrusted it to God. He who made it knows better what it needs than I."

Lesson Hymn

My God, is any hour so sweet,
From blush of morn to evening star,
As that which calls me to Thy feet—
The hour of prayer? Amen.

—Hymn 401, Book of Praise

The Catechism

PRIMARY CATECHISM—57. **Where do all our good thoughts and desires come from?** The Holy Spirit puts good thoughts and desires into our hearts. 58. **In what other ways is the Holy Spirit our Helper?** The Holy Spirit helps us in our study of the Bible and in prayer.

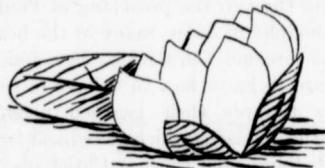
SHORTER CATECHISM—103. **What do we pray for in the third petition?** A. In the third petition (which is, *Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven*) we pray, That God, by his grace, would make us able and willing to know, obey, and submit to his will in all things, as the angels do in heaven.

The Question on Missions

44. What are industrial schools? They are schools in which the children are taught some handicraft by which they can earn their own living. These schools increased greatly in number when so many children were gathered in during the famine.

SOMETHING TO DRAW

Did you ever go a-hunting water lilies? You found them lifting up their beautiful white heads in a muddy, stagnant pool.



Do you sometimes meet bad companions and hear evil words? If you ask Him to do so, Jesus will keep your hearts and lips pure like the lily, just as Nehemiah was kept true to God at the court of a heathen king.

**I Have Learned To-day That
GOD WILL ANSWER MY PRAYERS**

Lesson IX.

ABSTINENCE FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS November 26, 1905

World's Temperance Sunday

1 Corinthians 10 : 23-33—Memory Verses, 31-33.

Golden Text—Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.—1 Corinthians 10 : 12.



31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

32 Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gen'tiles, nor to the church of God:

33 Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.

THE LESSON RETOLD

When, through the preaching of Paul and other disciples of Jesus, many of the heathen Gentiles became Christians, they found it very hard to know how to behave in certain matters towards their heathen neighbors. One of the questions which gave most trouble was, whether or not they, as Christians, were free to eat the meat which had been offered in worship to idols. Many of the Gentile Christians were at this time living in foreign cities, and among heathen people, and were obliged to buy their food in the open market, where much of the meat and other provisions were known to have been used in heathen worship.

As at the Jewish sacrifices part of the offering only was burnt upon the altar, and the rest eaten by the priests or poor people, so among the Gentiles large portions of their heathen offerings were sold afterwards with other goods in the shops to whoever came to buy. In this way the Christians might

quite unknowingly buy such meat, or eat it in the houses of their heathen friends, and the question arose whether by so doing they were not encouraging the ways and customs of heathen worship.

When the matter came to the knowledge of Paul, the great teacher and apostle of the Gentiles, he wrote a letter to the Corinthian Christians, who were troubled about the matter, giving them a rule by which they could decide such questions for themselves. Paul knew that there was nothing wrong or right about the meat itself, but if by eating it the Christians were showing to others that they thought there was no difference between heathen worship and true worship, then it was wrong to eat it; so Paul wrote, "Let no man seek his own, but every man another's welfare."

When there was no danger of misleading others, Paul advised the Christians to go to market asking no questions as to whether

or not such and such meat had been offered to idols, also if they were invited to a feast at a friend's house, they were to make no inquiries concerning the food placed before them. But if anyone said, "This is heathen food," they were free to refuse it; otherwise they might appear to approve of wrong-doing.

"Whether, therefore," said Paul, "ye eat or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." As for himself, Paul said that he was willing to give up the use of meat altogether, if by his eating he should lead others to do wrong.

Questions on the Lesson

1. What question troubled the Gentile Christians?
2. What was done with meat remaining from heathen sacrifices?
3. What danger was there in eating it?
4. Who was Paul?
5. When did he say it was wrong to eat such food?
6. What rule did he give to decide the question?
7. What was to be done in buying such food in the market?
8. How were Christians to behave at feasts in their friends' houses?
9. What were they to do if they knew the meat was unholy?
10. Why were they to refuse it?
11. What is the Golden Text?

Lesson Story

I was out walking on a very icy day with a little boy. We came to the head of a high cliff, where a long stairway led down to the street. The steps were covered with ice, and it required the greatest care to get down safely. I took my walking stick, and reaching out the crooked end, told the little boy to take hold of it and then go forward very carefully. He, having perfect confidence, obeyed without fear.

As we went on, I was conscious of taking a good deal more care where I set my feet, than I should have done if that little fellow had not been holding on by my cane. The added care was caused by the thought, that if I did not keep my own footing sure, I should slip, and that would mean not only injury to me, but a dangerous fall for the child.

We must keep our own footing sure, if we are to help others, and the thought that we are helping others makes us more careful to keep steadfast ourselves.

Lesson Hymn

Oh, watch and fight and pray;

The battle ne'er give o'er;

Renew it boldly every day,

And help divine implore. Amen.

—Hymn 247, Book of Praise

The Catechism

PRIMARY CATECHISM—59. **What warning is given us in the Bible about the Holy Spirit?** The Bible tells us not to grieve the Holy Spirit. 60. **How may we grieve the Holy Spirit?** All sinful thoughts, words, or actions grieve the Holy Spirit.

SHORTER CATECHISM—104. **What do we pray for in the fourth petition?** A. In the fourth petition (which is, *Give us this day our daily bread*) we pray, That of God's free gift we may receive a competent portion of the good things of this life, and enjoy his blessing with them.

The Question on Missions

45. How is the school for blind children conducted? They are in school about four hours a day; during three and a half hours of which they are engaged in weaving. The wool spun in the Widows' Home at Indore is woven into blankets by the blind children at Ujjain.

SOMETHING TO DRAW

When we walk in a path full of stones, we watch our feet carefully, so that we shall not stumble and fall. So, when we are



amongst temptations to do wrong, we should take good heed. Otherwise we shall be sure to fall into sin.

I Have Learned To-day

THAT I SHOULD SET A GOOD EXAMPLE

Lesson X.

NEHEMIAH REBUILDS THE WALLS
OF JERUSALEM

December 3, 1905

Nehemiah 4: 7-20. Study the chapter—Memory Verses 19, 20.

Golden Text—Watch and Pray.—Matthew 26: 41.



16 And it came to pass from that time forth, *that* the other half of them held both the spears, the shields, and the bows, and the rulers were behind all the house of Ju'dah.

17 They which builded on the wall, and they that bare burdens, with those that laded, *every one* with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon.

18 For the builders, every one had his sword girded by his side, and so builded. And he that sounded the trumpet was by me.

19 And I said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, The work *is* great and large, and we are separated upon the wall, one far from another.

20 In what place therefore ye hear the sound of the trumpet, resort ye thither unto us: our God shall fight for us.

THE LESSON RETOLD

In answer to Nehemiah's prayers, the Lord now put it into the heart of Artaxerxes, king of Persia, to make Nehemiah governor of Jerusalem. But when Nehemiah went there, he did not at first tell his friends anything about what he had come to do, nor of his commission from the king, but at night he rode quietly up and down outside the broken walls, planning how it would be best to begin to restore them.

In the morning Nehemiah called the people and told them his plans, and with great joy everyone set to work to build the wall and to clear away the rubbish that for so long had blocked the towers and gates.

But when Sanballat and Tobiah, the chiefs of their heathen enemies round about, heard that Nehemiah had returned to Jerusalem and was rebuilding the wall, they

17 But it came to pass, *that* when Sanballat, and Tobi'ah, and the Ara'bians, and the Am'monites, and the Ash'dodites, heard that the walls of Jeru'salem were made up, *and* that the breaches began to be stopped, then they were very wroth.

8 And conspired all of them together to come *and* to fight against Jeru'salem, and to hinder it.

9 Nevertheless we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them.

10 And Ju'dah said, The strength of the bearers of burdens is decayed, and *there is* much rubbish; so that we are not able to build the wall.

11 And our adversaries said, They shall not know, neither see, till we come in the midst among them, and slay them, and cause the work to cease.

12 And it came to pass, that when the Jews which dwelt by them came, they said unto us ten times, From all places whence ye shall return unto us *they will be upon you*.

13 Therefore set I in the lower places behind the wall, *and* on the higher places, I even set the people after their families with their swords, their spears, and their bows.

14 And I looked, and rose up, and said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, Be not ye afraid of them: remember the Lord, *which is* great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses.

15 And it came to pass, when our enemies heard that it was known unto us, and God had brought their counsel to nought, that we returned all of us to the wall, every one unto his work.

16 The half of my servants wrought in the work, and the bows, and the habergons; and the rulers were

were very angry, and determined if possible to put a stop to the work. At first Nehemiah took no notice of their mocking threats, but when he knew for certain that the enemy were planning a secret attack upon the workmen, he set a watch against them day and night, and prayed earnestly to God to protect and defend His people in this their time of great danger.

Then Nehemiah gave each man with his family a certain place inside the wall to fortify it, and here they waited ready with their spears and arrows to defend themselves from any attack by the enemy, while Nehemiah comforted them, saying, "Be not afraid; remember the Lord: He will deliver us."

Now when Tobiah and Sanballat saw how they were outwitted, they withdrew, and

God's people returned joyfully to their building. After this Nehemiah divided the builders into two parts, half of whom worked on the wall while the other half held the spears and the shields ready to protect them. Also, every builder, as he worked, had his sword beside him, and the laborers who helped them did their work with one hand, and with the other held their weapons ready, if need be, to fight. And Nehemiah set trumpeters to watch upon the wall, to sound an alarm to gather the people together, if at any point their enemies should come suddenly upon them. In this way the work went on, and by the blessing of God and the wise plans of Nehemiah, the wall was completed in about seven weeks.

Questions on the Lesson

1. How did God answer Nehemiah's prayer ?
2. In what state did he find the walls of Jerusalem ?
3. How did the people receive him when they knew his plans ?
4. Who tried to prevent the work ?
5. What did the enemy plan to do ?
6. How did Nehemiah outwit them ?
7. What did Nehemiah do besides setting a watch to defend the wall ?
8. How did he protect the builders after the enemy withdrew ?
9. How did he encourage the people ?
10. When was the work finished ?
11. What is the Golden Text ?

Lesson Story

One evening a man was trudging home with a particularly awkward parcel. The strings cut into his fingers, and to carry it in his arms was no easier.

As he was leaving a grocery store, after making some final purchases, the clerk said pityingly, "That is quite a load. Don't you want me to fix it?" And taking the large parcel he tied the smaller ones to it, passing a stout cord over all, and hooked into the now solid bundle a small wooden handle, and handed it back to his customer, who walked away a new man. So comfortable had his parcel become, that he soon forgot he was carrying anything.

And so in life, there is everything in the way you take hold of what you do have to. What is the handle for life and work ? Nehemiah knew that it was prayer.

Lesson Hymn

Stand up for Jesus, Christian, stand !
Firm as a rock on ocean's strand !
Beat back the waves of sin that roll
Like raging floods around thy soul ! Amen.
—Hymn 260, Book of Praise

The Catechism

PRIMARY CATECHISM—61. How may we please the Holy Spirit? We may please the Holy Spirit by doing what He puts into our hearts.

SHORTER CATECHISM—105. What do we pray for in the fifth petition ? A. In the fifth petition (which is, *And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors*) we pray, That God, for Christ's sake, would freely pardon all our sins ; which we are the rather encouraged to ask, because by his grace we are enabled from the heart to forgive others.

The Question on Missions

46. What is meant by bazaar preaching ? It means preaching in the market or street to people who cannot be got into the churches. Our missionaries do much of this work.

SOMETHING TO DRAW

Sometimes men need to fight for their country. But oftener they need to work for it, as the masons in Nehemiah's time did,



with their trowels building the walls. And every lesson we learn thoroughly, and every bit of work we do well, helps to make our country great.

I Have Learned To-day

THAT I SHOULD FIGHT AGAINST SIN

Lesson XI.

READING AND OBEYING THE LAW December 10, 1905

Nehemiah 8 : 8-18. Study the chapter—Memory Verses 17, 18.

Golden Text—Blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.—Luke 11 : 28.

together the chief of the fathers of all the people, the priests, and the Le'vites, unto Ez'ra the scribe, even to understand the words of the law.

14 And they found written in the law which the LORD had commanded by Mo'ses, that the children of Israel should dwell in booths in the feast of the seventh month :

15 And that they should publish and proclaim in all their cities, and in Jeru'salem, saying, Go forth unto the mount, and fetch olive branches, and pine branches, and myrtle branches, and palm branches, and branches of thick trees, to make booths, as *it is* written.

16 So the people went forth, and brought *them*, and made themselves booths, every one upon the roof of his house, and in their courts, and in the courts of the house of God, and in the street of the water gate, and in the street of the gate of E'phraim.

17 And all the congregation of them that were come again out of the captivity made booths, and sat under the booths : for since the days of Jesh'uah the son of Nun unto that day had not the children of Is'rael done so. And there was very great gladness.

18 Also day by day, from the first day unto the last day, he read in the book of the law of God. And they kept the feast seven days ; and on the eighth day *was* a solemn assembly, according unto the manner.

THE LESSON RETOLD

One week after the walls of Jerusalem were finished came the time of the Feast of Trum-pets, which was the Jewish New Year. Then Nehemiah and Ezra, with the chief men of Israel, called all the people to gather together in the large public square, which lay between the city walls and the temple, that they might hear the word and com-mandments of God. At this time, when few, if any, of the common people could read, copies of the Bible were very scarce, and were always written by hand on costly parchment.

When all the people were assembled,

Ezra and Nehemiah, with the elders, took their places upon a raised platform facing the people, and as Ezra opened the roll, all the congregation stood up, and after he had given thanks to God, they bowed their heads and worshipped with their faces to the ground. In reading, Ezra and Nehemiah divided the Book of the Law into several portions, so that, in the pauses which came between the readings, the priests and Le-vites went among the people explaining and teaching that which they had just heard.

But many of the people, when they heard the word of the Lord, began to weep and

8 So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused *them* to understand the reading.

9 And Nehem'iah, which is the Tir'shatha, and E'zra the priest the scribe, and the Le'vites that taught the people, said unto all the people, This day *is* holy unto the LORD your God ; mourn not, nor weep. For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law.

10 Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared : for *this* day *is* holy unto our Lord : neither be ye sorry ; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.

11 So the Le'vites stilled all the people, saying, Hold your peace, for the day *is* holy ; neither be ye grieved.

12 And all the people went their way to eat, and to drink, and to send portions, and to make great mirth, because they had understood the words that were declared unto them.

13 And on the second day were gathered

lament, being ashamed and afraid when they remembered how they and their fathers had sinned. But Nehemiah and his helpers quieted them, saying, "This day is holy unto the Lord your God. Mourn not nor weep. Neither be ye grieved; for the joy of the Lord is your strength." And Nehemiah proclaimed a great holiday in honor of the Lord, who had forgiven the sins of His people, and he commanded that offerings and presents be sent to the poor and sick, and others not able to join publicly in God's feast.

So interested had everyone now become in knowing the word of the Lord, that the people gathered again to hear it on the second day; and when they learned how that the Lord had once commanded Moses that His people should once a year hold a solemn festival of thanksgiving, which was the long-forgotten Feast of Tabernacles, they decided to hold it again at once.

At this feast the people were commanded to gather together in Jerusalem from all parts of the country, bringing with them branches and boughs of olive and cedar and palm, with which they made booths and arbors, either on the flat roofs of the houses or in the open squares surrounding the temple, and in these they lived during all the time of the feast. This great festival, which was older than the time of Joshua, the children of Israel now kept with great gladness and rejoicing for seven days, and on the eighth day all the people joined with Ezra and Nehemiah in a solemn covenant to obey and honor all the word and commandments of the Lord.

Questions on the Lesson

1. For what purpose did Nehemiah call the people together at the New Year?
2. Where did the Israelites meet?
3. Who read them the law?
4. Why did the people weep when they heard it?
5. Who explained and taught it between the readings?
6. How did Nehemiah comfort the people?
7. Whom were they told to remember in their rejoicing?
8. Of what great and glad feast did Ezra read?
9. What was done at the Feast of Tabernacles?
10. How many days did they keep the feast?
11. What was done upon the eighth day?
12. The Golden Text?

Lesson Hymn

O give me Samuel's ear,
The open ear, O Lord,
Alive and quick to hear
Each whisper of thy word—
Like him to answer at Thy call,
And to obey Thee first of all. Amen.
—Hymn 577, Book of Praise

The Catechism

PRIMARY CATECHISM—62. What is a Christian? A Christian is one who loves and follows Jesus Christ. **63. What does following Jesus Christ mean?** To follow Jesus Christ is to trust and obey Him.

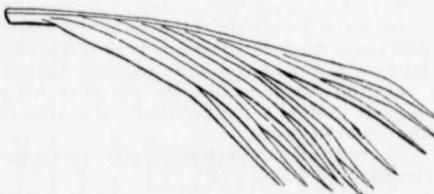
SHORTER CATECHISM—106. What do we pray for in the sixth petition? A. In the sixth petition (which is, *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil*) we pray, That God would either keep us from being tempted to sin, or support and deliver us when we are tempted.

The Question on Missions

47. What is meant by "itinerating" in missions? Most of the people of India live in villages of about 400 inhabitants each. The missionary takes an ox-cart loaded with his tent, medicines, books to sell, etc., and with one or more native helpers visits as many of the villages as possible.

SOMETHING TO DRAW

At the joyful Feast of Tabernacles, the people bore palm branches, to show their gladness. And if we only remembered all



the time how very good and loving God is, our faces would be bright with joy. He loves us so dearly, and is so eager that we should be happy.

I Have Learned Today

THAT I SHOULD STUDY THE BIBLE

Lesson XII.

PREPARATION FOR THE MESSIAH December 17, 1905

Malachi 3 : 1-12. Study chapters 3, 4—Memory Verses, 8-10.

Golden Text—I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me.—
Malachi 3 : 1.



his right, and fear not me, saith the Lord of therefore ye sons of Ja'cob are not consumed.

7 Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the Lord of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return ?

8 Will a man rob God ? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee ? In tithes and offerings.

9 Ye are cursed with a curse : for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.

10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground ; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts.

12 And all nations shall call you blessed : for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the Lord of hosts.

THE LESSON RETOLD

In spite of all that the Lord had done for His people, there were those who, instead of offering their best to Him in return, disdained His worship by presenting at the sacrifices of His house lame and sick animals, unwholesome bread, and such things as were imperfect and unfit for use. Others refused to perform the slightest service in the temple without pay, grudging every penny of the money required to support the services, while some among the Jews even married heathen wives.

In the midst of these and other abuses,

God sent a warning to His people by the prophet Malachi, who, with Ezra and Nehemiah, tried to put down the evil and sin of this time. For many years the Jews had been looking forward to the coming of the promised Messiah, and in his prophecy Malachi made a picture of the long-looked-for Saviour coming suddenly to His temple as a great king, with a messenger running before Him to prepare His way.

"When this Saviour shall come," said the prophet, "it shall be to cleanse and purify His people, not to punish them."

And Malachi compared the Lord's work to that of a faithful purifier and refiner of silver, sitting before his pot or crucible in which the precious metal is being tried by fire, until every particle of dross is destroyed and only that which is good remains. In the same way the Lord by His Spirit shall try the hearts of His people.

Malachi also pictured the Saviour as a judge, saying, "He shall be a swift witness against the sorcerers and the adulterers, and against false swearers and those who oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, and those that turn aside the stranger from his right."

Last of all Malaehi brought a loving invitation from the Lord that His people should return and serve Him, saying, "Return unto Me, and I will return unto you, saith the Lord of Hosts." To those who had thought to gain something by holding back their offerings from Him, the Lord said plainly through His prophet, that only by giving to Him should they receive the greatest blessings for themselves.

Questions on the Lesson

- How did God's people dishonor His house and worship?
- Of whom did the prophet Malachi come to speak?
- How did he say the Saviour should appear?
- What was His work to be?
- To what kind of workman did he compare Him?
- In what other way did the prophet picture Christ?
- What invitation did God send through Malachi to His people?
- What did He say to those who withheld their offerings from Him?
- What is the Golden Text?

Lesson Story

A little stream was hurrying down the mountain side on its way to the river. "You silly creature," said a stagnant pool, "to give away your waters now. When summer comes, you will dry up and perish. I am keeping every drop of water for my own use later on."

When the heat of summer came, the trees crowded to the bank of the little stream and threw their shelter over it in return for the life and refreshment it had brought them; but the selfish pool that kept its waters, dried up altogether.

It is thus more blessed for ourselves, as our Saviour says, to give than to receive.

Lesson Hymn

Hark, the glad sound, the Saviour comes!

The Saviour promised long;

Let every heart exult with joy,

And every voice be song! Amen.

—Hymn 35, Book of Praise

The Catechism

PRIMARY CATECHISM—64. Can a little child be a Christian? Yes. Jesus said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God."

SHORTER CATECHISM—107. What doth the conclusion of the Lord's prayer teach us? A. The conclusion of the Lord's prayer (which is, *For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen*) teacheth us to take our encouragements in prayer from God only, and in our prayers to praise him, ascribing kingdom, power, and glory to him. And, in testimony of our desire, and assurance to be heard, we say, *Amen*.

The Question on Missions

48. Is medical work important in missions? Yes, through it, in many cases, the missionary is enabled to gain access to the people with the gospel. Medical work is done at all our stations in either dispensary, or hospital, or both.

SOMETHING TO DRAW

God has sent many messengers to men. But the greatest Messenger of all was His own dear Son. And what a glad message

MY MESSENGER

He has brought to us. He tells us how our sins may be forgiven; how we can be strong and happy all our lives, and how, at last, we may go to be with Him in heaven.

I Have Learned Today

THAT JESUS DWELLS IN PURE HEARTS

Lesson XIII.

THE CHARACTER OF THE MESSIAH December 24, 1905

Isaiah 9 : 1-7—Memory Verse, 6.

Golden Text—Thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.—Matthew 1 : 21.



Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The
7 Of the increase of *his* government and peace *there shall* be no end, upon the throne of Da'vid, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the L^OR^D of hosts will perform this.

THE LESSON RETOLD

The prophet to whom God revealed most about the work and coming of the Saviour was Isaiah, who lived at a time when Israel was passing through some of the darkest years in her history. As a punishment for the wicked acts of the cruel King Ahaz, who had shut up the doors of the temple and established idol-worship throughout the land, God had allowed the Assyrians to overrun the country, so that Isaiah now spoke of his beloved nation as a people walking in darkness and dwelling in the land of the shadow of death.

But in these troublous times, Isaiah was able by God's Spirit to point forward to a time not far away, when God's people should be released from the power of the heathen Assyrians, and when, being delivered from their enemies, the little Jewish nation should increase and multiply, until it should become the chief means in God's hands of establishing His kingdom in the world.

1 Nevertheless the dimness *shall not be* such as *was* in her vexation, when at the first he lightly afflicted the land of Zebu'lun and the land of Naph'tali, and afterward did more grievously afflict *her* by the way of the sea, beyond Jor'dan, in Gal'ilee of the nations.

2 The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

3 Thou hast multiplied the nation, *and* not increased the joy: they joy before thee according to the joy in harvest, *and* as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.

4 For thou hast broken the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Mid'ian.

5 For every battle of the warrior *is* with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood; but *this* shall be with burning *and* fuel of fire.

6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called the everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

But the good news Isaiah brought his countrymen concerning the defeat of their present enemies and the joy that should come to them when they won back their fields and lands, was as nothing to the joyful tidings which he brought them of the certain coming of the great Saviour Himself, whom Isaiah now foretold should one day be born as a little child.

Not only did Isaiah foretell how Christ should come, but he was able hundreds of years beforehand to write the five names or titles by which He should be known to His people. Each of these names had a meaning, by which the prophet tried to show what the work and character of Christ should be. First He shall be both God and man; Counsellor, for by His perfect wisdom He controls the world, and everything in it; the Mighty God, for He shall save His people from their sins. Last of all Isaiah speaks of the coming Messiah as the Everlasting Father and the

Prince of Peace, because by no other names could he so well picture the tenderness and love of the Saviour, and the blessings He shall bring with Him for His people; and says, "Of the increase of His government and of peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David and upon his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever."

Questions on the Lesson

1. Who was Isaiah?
2. In what trouble were the Israelites at this time?
3. Why had God so punished them?
4. What comforting message did Isaiah bring them concerning their enemies?
5. What was Isaiah's chief message to God's people?
6. How many names and titles did he give to Christ?
7. Why was He to be called Wonderful?
8. What names described His wisdom?
9. What should be His chief work?
10. By what names did Isaiah picture the Saviour's love?
11. How long should His kingdom last?
12. What is the Golden Text?

Lesson Story

Once there was a king who was coming home from the wars, and because he had been victorious his subjects had voted him a triumphal procession, which was headed by trumpeters and soldiers carrying arms and flags taken from the enemy, after whom came the king himself sitting in a decorated chariot, drawn by four splendid horses. Last of all tramped the citizens, cheering and singing, and telling the crowds by the roadside of the bravery of their general.

Among those waiting for the procession to pass was a little boy, who, when the king's chariot came near, broke through the crowd and tried to get up into it as it was going. In a moment rough soldiers took hold of him, trying to put him down, saying, "Be quiet, boy! Do you not understand that this is our emperor?" The little fellow laughed and shouted back, "He may be your emperor, but he is my father!" Then the king, hearing the voice of the little boy, stopped the chariot and took him in, and the procession moved on.

Did you ever think that God is just as

kind as was that king with His little son? But God is more than a king, He is our Father. Let us all try to obey Him because He loves us more than any earthly parent.

Lesson Hymn

O come, all ye faithful,
Joyfully triumphant,
To Bethlehem hasten now with glad accord
Lo ! in a manger
Lies the King of angels;
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord . . . Amen.
—Hymn 34, Book of Praise

The Catechism

PRIMARY CATECHISM—Review Questions 48–56.

SHORTER CATECHISM—Review Questions 96–102.

The Question on Missions

49. What is a zenana? A zenana is a private portion of the home, in which the women and children live. Our lady missionaries, both doctors and teachers, visit the zenanas, ministering to the sick and teaching gospel truths.

SOMETHING TO DRAW

Think what a beautiful world this would be if there were no hateful thoughts, no angry words, no fierce blows and cruel

The Prince of Peace

battles. Now Jesus, the Prince of Peace, came to make this just such a world: and we can help by obeying Him ourselves, and by telling others of Him.

I Have Learned To-day That
JESUS IS A WONDERFUL SAVIOUR

Lesson XIV.

REVIEW

December 31, 1905

Golden Text—Thou crownest the year with thy goodness.—Psalm 65 : 11.**REPEAT**—Golden Texts for Quarter. PRIMARY CATECHISM—Review Questions 57–64. SHORTER CATECHISM—Review Qs. 103–107. THE QUESTION ON MISSIONS—Review Qs. 37–49.

The Golden Texts

Suppose we go over the Golden Texts for the Quarter just closing.

In the first of these Texts we find the word “against.” Repeat the Text. Would it not be a dreadful thing to have the Lord *against us*, as He was against the wicked Belshazzar. But be sure He never will be, unless first we are against Him.

“Encampeth round about.” Why, this Text makes us think of tents and soldiers. But it tells us of some One who can keep us more safely than a great army. Who is it? Repeat the Text.

The third Text ends with, “We are glad.” Why were God’s people glad? Yes, He had “done great things for them.” Think of all He has done for you, and you will be glad, also.

There is a very solemn word in the Text that comes next. It is “holy.” Let us repeat it very quietly and reverently. Remember the Lord who loves us, wants us to be holy, pure in thought and word and deed.

What a grand word that is in the fifth Golden Text! It is “power.” We all want to be strong. Repeat the Text. It tells us how we may be strong to do good and to fight evil.

Next, we have something said about, “All them that love Him.” Love whom? What is said of them? How very safe those are who love and trust God!

“The hand of our God,” in the Golden Text of Lesson VII.; what is said of it? Such a strong, loving, tender hand it is, so very gentle with the littlest and the weakest.

We are told something about “prayer” in Text number eight. What does it do? Yes, it “availeth much.” But what kind of persons must we be, if our prayers are to do great things? We must be “righteous,” always seeking to do God’s will like Nehemiah.

“Take heed,” says the ninth Golden Text. What is the rest of it? How careful we need to be, if we are not to do wrong, and lead others to do wrong with us!

A Golden Text with only three words! And only one syllable in each word! How easy to remember this! And how blessed to obey it!

“Blessed..hear..keep.” Fill in the other words of this Golden Text. What a simple way to be happy! And it is a sure way: that is the best of it.

“My messenger”—what is the rest of this Text? Who came to prepare the way for Jesus? We should love and honor Hir, as our king.

The most wonderful word in all the Golden Texts of the Quarter is in the last. It is “Jesus.” Let us repeat the Text, and keep its sweet music in our hearts always.

Lesson Hymn

Let us, with a gladsome mind,
 Praise the Lord, for He is kind :
 For His mercies aye endure,
 Ever faithful, ever sure.

Let us sound His name abroad,
 For of gods He is the God :
 For His mercies aye endure,
 Ever faithful, ever sure. Amen.

—Hymn 17, Book of Praise.

I HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY**That God is Good to Me**

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

Write in the spaces below (or get some one to do so for you) some one thing that you have learned from each lesson.

LESSON I. Daniel and Belshazzar.	Lesson VIII. Nehemiah's Prayer.
LESSON II. Daniel in the Lions' Den.	LESSON IX. World's Temperance Sunday.
LESSON III. Returning from Captivity.	LESSON X. Nehemiah Rebuilds the Walls of Jerusalem.
LESSON IV. Rebuilding the Temple.	LESSON XI. Reading and Obeying the Law.
LESSON V. Power Through God's Spirit.	LESSON XII. Preparation for the Messiah.
LESSON VI. Esther Pleading for Her People.	LESSON XIII. The Character of the Messiah.
LESSON VII. Ezra's Journey to Jerusalem.	LESSON XIV. REVIEW.

SABBATH SCHOOL AND CHURCH RECORD

[Many of the little ones will be pleased to mark down their attendance at Church and Sabbath School with the number of verses learned, etc.; and so here is a place to do it in. The record will be very interesting by the end of the Quarter. Mothers will help the tiny tots who cannot read or manage a pencil very well.]

Name..... Address.....

Name of Sabbath School..... Teacher's Name.....

DATE 1905	OCTOBER					NOVEMBER					DECEMBER					TOTAL FOR QUAR- TER
	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	3	10	17	24	31		
Present at S. School.																
No. of Verses learned																
No. Cat'm. Ques. l'rned																
Amt. of Contribution																
Present at Church, Sab. morning, or pre- vious Sab. evening..																

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