

OUR NEW ILLUSTRATED PAPERS

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October-December, 1899

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Presbyterian Church in Canada



THE
PRIMARY QUARTERLY



The
Home
Study
Series

FOR
THE
LITTLE
ONES

PUBLISHED UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

REV. R. DOUGLAS FRASER, M.A.

Editor and Business Manager

Confederation Life Building

TORONTO



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The Primary Quarterly

Vol. IV.

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER, 1899

No. 4

JEWELS is the name of the new paper for the little ones, which is to begin with the first of January, 1900.

OUR JEWELS these darling children are ; no possession more precious or more prized. How beautiful they are and what radiance they shed all around them. Where the little children come, there is light and laughter ; it is summer all the year.

"MY JEWELS" the Father in heaven calls those who love Him ; and did not His own Son say of the babes brought by their mothers to Him for His blessing, "Of such is the kingdom of heaven" ?

OUR JEWELS AND GOD'S ! Shall it not be our care, as it surely is His, that they shall be "kept for the Master's use," kept pure and stainless in this sin-defiled world and polished to the highest lustre. Let us do diligently and joyfully all that a holy example and loving nurture can do, to preserve them from evil now and to fit them for shining like stars in the Redeemer's crown of glory by-and-by.

The Little Ones dearly love what is pretty and bright. God made them so. We shall try not to forget it in arranging the matter for the little paper. We shall seek to make it week by week a jewel casket. It will have the Golden Text—the brightest jewel of all, because it is straight from God's hand—and a story on the Golden Text, and all the dainty bits we can find, and pictures in plenty. And we shall hope to help the parents and the teachers to instil into the hearts of the little ones the beautiful Christ-spirit, so that their lives, even from tender years, may shine with the beauty of Christ-likeness.

When you have finished using this num-

ber, the old year will be almost ended. It has been a prosperous year for the PRIMARY QUARTERLY, which goes now to more than twice as many readers as when the year began. We want to see it or THE PRIMARY LEAFLET, which has the same lesson material, in every home where there are very young children. For eighteen months, beginning with the New Year, we are to study the life of our Lord Jesus. We shall seek to make the study profitable.

To have the details of that matchless life imbedded in the minds of the children, and the very image of the perfect Son of God stamped upon their hearts is the aim.

Our part will be so to reproduce the story of the Gospels that the youngest can understand. We may confidently look to the great Spirit of light and life to apply the truth.

Step by step with the lessons in the life of Jesus, our Church will go forward in the great task to which she has set herself of raising a *million dollars* for Christ's work in our own and other lands.

This is to be over and above all her ordinary givings, and the children will be eager to have their share in it.

Already, on Children's Day, they have made their first offering.

But they will now begin to plan greater things for next Children's Day. When children make up their minds to get money together, they generally show themselves great financiers.

We love when we give, and the New Century Fund affords a means ready to the hand of all who are anxious to kindle a flame of enthusiasm in the hearts of the little ones for the Heavenly Master and for the work which He expects our Church to do for Him.

Miss E. Keenan

The Children's Festival

By Rae Furlands

Christmas is peculiarly the children's festival. When God, who is Love, made a manifestation of that love in the person of Jesus Christ, He gave, and Christ, though King of Kings and Lord of Lords, willingly took, the form of a little child. Certainly it seems fitting that the children should have a prominent place in the plans arranged to commemorate the season of this wonderful birth.

Begin to plan early. When the little folk are anticipating with pleasure the Thanksgiving dinner, both parents and teachers may lead them to think of those less favored than themselves with this world's goods; and if they are allowed to feel a little bit of the joy of giving, they will be the more ready to appreciate something of the thought of the greatest and most wonderful Gift the world has ever had.

Early tell them the Christmas story. I wish I had space to write out Kate Douglas Wiggin's simple and realistic arrangement of it. It is better *told* to little children at first. Later, read it to them from St. Luke's Gospel.

But, after all, it is little the teacher can do compared with the opportunities the father and mother have. And yet, how often are those opportunities missed or misused. Wonderful surprises are planned for the children, but we think *they* are too little to give, or for anything to be expected of them. A few years later, we wonder that they have grown so selfish and exacting. What else could be expected of such training? Rather let us begin, from the very first, to encourage them to express in tangible form their love for other people. This does not necessarily mean expense. Things which will be beautiful in the eyes of those who love them can be manufactured at home. A picture may be colored with crayons or paints. Two or three little lesson picture cards may be sewn together in the form of a screen, and numerous other things will suggest themselves.

These home-made gifts have a larger edu-

cational influence than bought ones; but if you, dear mother, prefer the latter, let them be bought with careful thought. Do not, I beseech you, swell the number of those who hurry their children, when admiring and deliberating on the large selection before them, with some such remark as "Be quick, I cannot wait here all day; you will have to get something, but it does not matter what. It will be broken before the week is out, but that is no concern of ours." Where is the Christmas spirit—the God spirit which so loved the world—in this? How could a child get any true conception of Christmas with such a preparation? No, let us aim to make the preparation and the season itself such a time of quiet joy that our wee ones will so learn to know and love Jesus, that they will want to please, and to obey Him, and to pray to Him.

At this time, as well as at all others, for the true welfare of the children, it is necessary that parents and teachers work intelligently together. Let the parents visit the school, if possible. Encourage the singing of the hymns at home. Most children will want to sing them over and over, and will repeat the story to their baby brothers and sisters, to their dolls or to themselves.

In selecting the Christmas hymns, let the teacher be careful to take those which tell the story of the birth, or set forth the purpose of Christ's coming. Numbers 519, 520, and 297, and parts of 28 and 30 in our Book of Praise are excellent examples.

In the week-day entertainment which it is usual to have at this season, ever keep before the mind of the individual child that all are working together for the pleasure and happiness of the community. If the children are to entertain the grown folk, endeavour to have them do so collectively, as far as possible. Let mother and teacher do all in their power to prevent the "I can do better than you" spirit, that self-consciousness, which so spoils a child. The best thing to help them into happy ways is the thought of the gentle, Christ Child, who always thought, not of self, but of how to serve others.

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A Look Ahead

The lessons of this quarter close the six years' course of studies in the Holy Scriptures. They belong to the period of the Restoration, when God "turned again the captivity" of His people, and brought them once more into their own land. It was a period of countless blessings, and therefore a time for abundant and joyous thanksgivings. The memory of those bright days was to be an inspiration and uplift to the faithful souls who still kept heart and hope through the long, weary centuries, when wave after wave of calamity broke over the nation, and it seemed as if the promised Messiah would never come. The **GOLDEN TEXT FOR THE QUARTER** strikes the key-note of the lessons:

"BLESS THE LORD, O MY SOUL, AND FORGET NOT ALL HIS BENEFITS."

On each Sabbath of the thirteen we are to consider one of

God's Benefits

1. His House, Psalm 122.
2. Help in trouble, Esther 3: 1-11.
3. His presence in peril, Esther 8: 3-8; 15-17.
4. Guidance in perplexity, Ezra 8: 21-32.
5. Deliverance from bondage, Ps. 85, 126.
6. The privilege of prayer, Nehemiah 1: 1-11.
7. Protection from enemies, Nehemiah 4: 7-18.
8. His Holy word, Nehemiah 8: 1-12.
9. Warnings against sin, Proverbs 23: 29-35.
10. The Sabbath Day, Nehemiah 13: 15-22.
11. The opportunity to give, Malachi 1: 6-11; 3: 8-12.
12. Promises of good, Malachi 3: 13-4: 6.
13. The Wonderful Saviour, Isaiah 9: 2-7.
14. REVIEW—All God's Benefits.

Prayer Hymn

[To be sung with hands folded and in low and reverent tones.]

Thou by whom the birds are fed,
Give to me my daily bread;
And Thy Holy Spirit give,
Without whom I cannot live.

Make me, Lord, obedient, mild,
As becomes a little child;
All day long, in every way,
Teach me what to do and say.

JOY IN GOD'S HOUSE

Lesson I.

Psalm 122—Memory Verses, 6-9

October 1, 1899.

1 I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD:

2 Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jeru'salem.

3 Jeru'salem is builded as a city that is compact together :

4 Whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, unto the testimony of Is'rael, to give thanks unto the name of the LORD.

5 For there are set thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of Da'vid.

6 Pray for the peace of Jeru'salem : they shall prosper that love thee.

7 Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces.

8 For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will now say, Peace be within thee.

9 Because of the house of the LORD our God I will seek thy good.

THE LESSON RETOLD

The Jews had one great Church. It was at Jerusalem, and was called the Temple.

Now, all the people could not live at Jerusalem. Many of the priests and rulers and judges lived there, but most of the people lived far away in the other cities and towns and in the villages.

The Temple was built on Mount Zion, and because it stood so high, its shining roof could be seen far off when the day was sunny and clear.

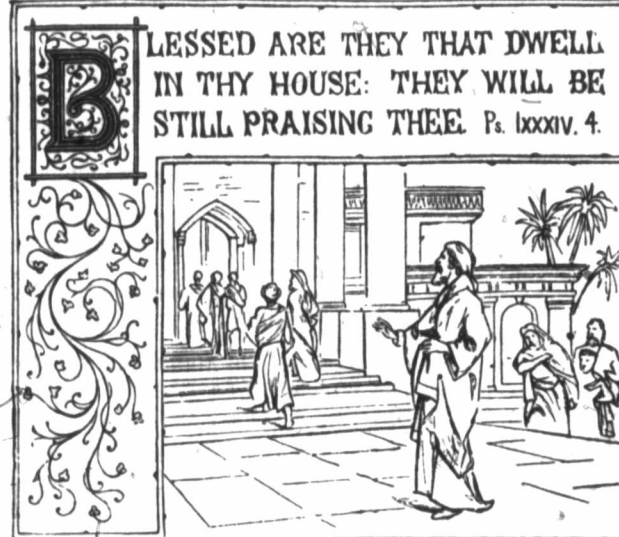
one village would start out and walk together. Soon they would meet people from other towns, all going to the same place in a long procession.

The Jews felt very happy at such times, and would talk to each other about where they were going, and what a beautiful city Jerusalem was. "Why," they would say, "it is the joy of the whole earth."

Sometimes the journey would take several days, and at night the people would camp near some well or other pleasant place. There they would sing about Jerusalem, their beloved city and all its glory.

The name of the Jews' hymn-book was The Psalms. It was a very old book, and very heavy to carry. You know books were not printed in those days, but were written on white parchment, made of sheepskin, and were rolled up on wooden rollers. The Psalm - book was heavy, as it contained one hundred and fifty psalms.

Someone made a smaller book for using when they were away from home. It was called the traveller's hymn-book (Songs of Degrees).



It was only the very rich people who could drive or ride on horse-back to church, and the road to Jerusalem was long and very hilly.

But nothing could keep a good Jew from worshipping God at least three times every year in His own house, so all the people in

The verses were short, and everybody knew the tunes.

There was one that they always sang when they got quite near the city and could see the people crowding through the gates. It is the lesson for to-day and begins :

"I was glad when they said unto me,
Let us go into the house of the Lord."
It should always be a joy to us to go to

God's house, because He has promised to
meet His people there. He delights to hear
our songs and our prayers.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What was the name of the great Jewish Church? Ans.—The Temple. 2. Where was the Temple? Ans.—At Jerusalem. 3. How did the people go to church? Ans.—Most of them walked. 4. What did they do on the road? Ans.—They sang hymns. 5. What was the name of their hymn-book? Ans.—The Psalms. 6. Was it a large or small book? Ans.—A very large book. 7. How many Psalms were there in the book? Ans.—One hundred and fifty. 8. Where are the Psalms now? Ans.—They are part of our Bible. 9. Did the Jews like to go up to Jerusalem? Ans.—Yes. 10. Why were

they glad? Ans.—Partly because they could see all their friends there. 11. What else made them glad to go? Ans.—Because God's house was there. 12. What did the people do at the Temple? Ans.—They worshipped God and gave thanks to Him. 13. For what did they thank him? Ans.—For happy homes and for all his kindness to them. 14. What is the Golden Text? Ans.—"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." 15. Why should we be glad to go to God's house? Ans.—Because He has promised to meet His people there and delights to hear them.

Sammy's Book.

Sammy Anderson did not like going to church. When he was a very little fellow he said he was afraid of the tower falling on him, but the real reason was that he did not like Sunday clothes.

His mother was puzzled to know what to do about it, but one Saturday the postman brought a parcel for "Master Sammy Anderson." It was a lovely picture-book, full of color from Aunt Jessie.

The story was about little Samuel.

"Why, that's my name," said Sammy. "What kind of a fellow was little Samuel?"

So his mother read all about him; how the little boy lived in the church—it was a tabernacle or tent then—and helped old Eli, the priest who took care of it, to trim the lamps, and how, though he could see his

mother only once a year, yet he never cried. He always wore the little coat that she made him. That helped to keep him from getting homesick.

Then, one day, when all his work was done, he heard God calling his name, and he was there to answer right at once.

There was a picture of the little coat, too. It was blue and white, just like Sammy's new one.

The next day when mother was getting ready for church, Sammy said, "Mother, I don't really suppose that tower would hurt me, I mean not if I had on my 'Samuel coat.' And perhaps sometime God might call my name too, and maybe I had better be there—don't you think so, mother?"

I HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY THAT

I Should Love God's House

Golden Text—I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.—Ps. 122 : 1.

* Catechism - 49. How long did Jesus remain on earth after he rose from the dead? Jesus remained forty days on earth after His resurrection.

Lesson Hymn

How lovely is thy dwelling-place,
O Lord of hosts to me!
The tabernacles of thy grace
How pleasant, Lord, they be.
Amen.

—Psalm Selection 57, Book of Praise.

* The questions are taken from Carson's Primary Catechism by courtesy of the publishers, Messrs. A. & W. Mackinlay, Halifax, N.S.

Miss Violet Robinson

Miss Violet Robinson

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HAMAN'S PLOT AGAINST THE JEWS

Lesson 11.

Esther 3: 1-11—Memory Verses, 5, 6

October 8, 1899

1 After these things did king Ahasue'rus promote Ha'man the son of Hammeda'tha the A'gagite, and advanced him, and set his seat above all the princes that *were* with him.

2 And all the king's servants, that *were* in the king's gate, bowed, and revered Ha'man: for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mor'decai bowed not, nor did *him* reverence.

3 Then the king's servants, which *were* in the king's gate, said unto Mor'decai, Why transgressesst thou the king's commandment?

4 Now it came to pass, when they spake daily unto him, and he hearkened not unto them, that they told Ha'man, to see whether Mor'decai's matters would stand: for he had told them that he *was* a Jew.

5 And when Ha'man saw that Mor'decai bowed not, nor did him reverence, then was Ha'man full of wrath.

6 And he thought scorn to lay hands on Mor'decai alone; for they had shewed him the people of Mor'decai: wherefore Ha'man sought to destroy all the Jews that *were* throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasue'rus,

even the people of Mor'decai.

7 In the first month, that *is*, the month Ni'san, in the twelfth year of king Ahasue'rus, they cast Pur, that *is*, the lot, before Ha'man from day to day, and from month to month, to the twelfth month, that *is*, the month A'dar.

8 And Ha'man said unto king Ahasue'rus, There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of thy kingdom; and their laws *are* diverse from all people; neither keep they the king's laws: therefore it *is* not for the king's profit to suffer them.

9 If it please the king, let it be written that they may be destroyed: and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver to the hands of those that have the charge of the business, to bring *it* into the king's treasuries.

10 And the king took his ring from his hand, and gave it unto Ha'man the son of Hammeda'tha the A'gagite, the Jews' enemy.

11 And the king said unto Ha'man, The silver *is* given to thee, the people also, to do with them as it seemeth good to thee.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Though many of the Jews had gone home to Jerusalem some were still left behind in Persia, where they had lived so long.

One of these was Mordecai. He was serv-



ant to the great heathen king Ahasuerus, and had once saved the king's life.

The king wrote in a book what Mordecai had done and then forgot all about him.

After this Ahasuerus chose a heathen prince called Haman to rule over his servants. The king said that everybody must obey Haman and kneel down to him as if he were a god.

Of course Mordecai could not do so, because he was a Jew and a servant of the true God.

At first Haman did not notice him. But all the other servants kept saying to Mordecai, "Are you not afraid to disobey the king? You will surely suffer for it."

After a while they told Haman about Mordecai and the prince was so very angry that he said to himself, "I will not only kill Mordecai but all his relations, even all the Jews of the country."

But he could not do such a dreadful thing without the king's leave. So he made up a story and said to the king, "I'm afraid you don't know it, but there are some people living in your country that it is not safe for you to let alone. They have such bad laws

See Lesson 1

that they will do a great deal of harm and they are always disobeying you. Perhaps you could write a letter saying that they must be killed."

Then Haman opened his purse and showed the king how much money he himself was willing to give. It was more than ten million dollars.

The king said to Haman, "Punish these people anyway you wish, and use my money for the work—as much as you need."

To show that he trusted him the king gave Haman his seal-ring, so that he could sign the king's name as often as he liked.

Then Haman went away to make his wicked plans and to write his letters.

See Lesson 1

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Had all the Jews returned to Jerusalem? Ans.—No. Some still lived in heathen Persia. 2. What did the king say everybody must do? Ans.—Everybody must bow down to Prince Haman. 3. Who would not do so? Ans.—Mordecai, the Jew. 4. Why? Ans.—Because it would be displeasing to God. 5.

What punishment did Haman get ready for Mordecai? Ans.—He got the King to say that all the Jews must be killed. 6. Had they done wrong? Ans.—No. 7. Who was taking care of the Jews? Ans.—God. 8. What is the Golden Text? Ans.—"If God be for us, who can be against us?"

Obeying Orders

See Lesson 1

An English farmer saw a party of huntsmen riding about his farm. He set a boy to shut the gate, and not to open it for anyone. The huntsmen came up and ordered the boy to open it. This he refused to do. He said his master had told him not to open the gate and he intended to obey him. After a while one of the huntsmen came up and said commandingly:

open the gate."

The boy lifted his cap, but answered firmly, "I am sure the Duke of Wellington would not wish me to disobey orders. I must keep this gate shut; no one is to pass through, but with my master's permission."

Greatly pleased, the honest old soldier lifted his hat as he replied, "I honour the man or boy who cannot be frightened into doing wrong. With an army of such soldiers I could conquer the world."

"My boy, do you know me? I am the Duke of Wellington, and I command you to



See Lesson 1

I HAVE LEARNED TO-DAY THAT

God is my shield



Golden Text—If God be for us, who can be against us?—Rom. 8 : 31.



Catechism—50. What did Jesus do during the forty days after his resurrection? He came to His disciples at different times to comfort and teach them.

Lesson Hymn

THE morning bright with rosy light
Has waked me up from sleep;
Father, I own Thy love alone
Thy little one doth keep.
All through the day, I humbly pray,
Be Thou my guard and guide;
My sins forgive, and let me live,
Blest Jesus, near Thy side. Amen.

—Hymn 509, Book of Praise.

ESTHER PLEADING FOR HER PEOPLE

Lesson III.

Esther 8 : 3-8 and 15-17—Memory Verses, 15-17

October 15, 1899

3 And Es'ther spake yet again before the king, and fell down at his feet, and besought him with tears to put away the mischief of Ha'man the A'gagite, and his device that he had devised against the Jews.

4 Then the king held out the golden sceptre toward Es'ther. So Es'ther arose, and stood before the king,

5 And said, If it please the king, and if I have found favour in his sight, and the thing seem right before the king, and I be pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to reverse the letters devised by Ha'man the son of Hammeda'tha the A'gagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews which are in all the king's provinces :

6 For how can I endure to see the evil that shall come unto my people? or how can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred?

7 Then the king Ahasue'rus said unto Es'ther the queen and to Mor'decai the Jew,

Behold, I have given Es'ther the house of Ha'man, and him they have hanged upon the gallows, because he laid his hand upon the Jews.

8 Write ye also for the Jews, as it liketh you, in the king's name, and seal it with the king's ring : for the writing which is written in the king's name, and sealed with the king's ring, may no man reverse.

15 And Mor'decai went out from the presence of the king in royal apparel of blue and white, and with a great crown of gold, and with a garment of fine linen and purple : and the city of Shu'shan rejoiced and was glad.

16 The Jews had light, and gladness, and joy, and honour.

17 And in every province, and in every city, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a good day. And many of the people of the land became Jews ; for the fear of the Jews fell upon them.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Mordecai had taken care of a little girl whose parents were dead. She was his cousin, and her name was Hadassah. When she grew up she was so beautiful that the king chose her to be queen, but he did not know she was a Jew. Her new name was Queen Esther.

When Mordecai heard of Haman's wicked plan to kill all the Jews, he and his friends were in such trouble that they could eat nothing, but went crying and mourning with ashes on their heads.

Then Mordecai sent Queen Esther a message

—“ You must *see Benoni* and get the king to change his mind.” Then Esther said, “ Tell all the Jews to gather together and pray, and I and my maidens will pray for three days. Then I will go and speak to the king.”

Now there was a law that whoever went into the king's presence without being invited should be put to death.

Esther knew that she was doing a dangerous thing, but to serve her people she went in dressed in her most beautiful clothes.

When the king saw her standing in the room, he was pleased and held out his golden sceptre to show her that she might stay. Then he asked Esther what she wanted. But the queen did not tell him at once. She invited him and Haman to a dinner, and invited them again next day ; and the second day at the table she showed the king the meaning of Haman's plans.

The king was so angry at Haman that he ordered him to be hanged and his place given to Esther's cousin Mordecai, the Jew. The king then gave Mordecai his ring and told him to write letters saying that the king's mind was changed, and that no harm must fall upon God's people.



So Mordecai came out of the king's palace dressed in the king's colors—blue and white and purple—and wearing a great gold crown on his head.

How glad the Jews were! In every city

there was feasting and laughing and a great holiday, and what Esther had done was written in the Bible so that everyone could remember how good and brave she was, and how God kept her when she did her duty.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. When Mordecai heard of Haman's plans what did he do? Ans.—He sent a message to Queen Esther. 2. Who was Esther? Ans.—She was a Jew and Mordecai's cousin. 2. What did he want her to do? Ans.—To beg the king to change his mind. 4. What did Esther say? Ans.—“I will, if all the Jews will pray for me.” 5. Was it a safe thing to

go to the king without an invitation? Ans.—No. 6. Was the king pleased to see Esther? Ans.—Yes, he held out his golden sceptre. 7. What did Esther ask the king? Ans.—To save her people and punish Haman. 8. Did the king do so? Ans.—Yes, and he gave Haman's place to Mordecai. 9. How did the Jews feel? Ans.—Very happy and glad.

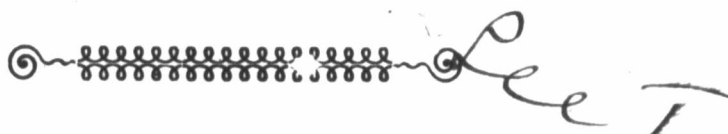
Brave Arthur

When Arthur Stanley was a very little boy he was sent away to live at Rugby school. The first night, when bed-time came and all the boys in his room were getting ready for bed, he saw first one boy and then another duck under the covers without saying his prayers. At last his friend Tom did the same.

“Don't you say your prayers?” he asked of Tom. “Blake won't let us.” “I shall,” said the new boy. “Better not,” said Tom, though half hoping he would try it for the sake of the fun. Most of the boys were in

bed when the new boy was ready to knelt. It was a moment before the others knew what he was doing. Then boots, pillows and all sorts of things came flying at him.

Arthur knelt in spite of all. The next night he knelt again. This time they were watching and made it even harder for him. By-and-bye, however, the teasing stopped. Then Tom knelt too, and soon another boy, and another. Before Arthur Stanley left Rugby, every boy in the school knelt to say his prayers.



I HAVE LEARNED TO-DAY THAT

I Should Tell Everything to God



Golden Text—Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.—Ps. 37: 5.

Catechism—51. What happened at the end of forty days? After forty days Jesus went up to heaven.

52. What is Jesus now doing for us in heaven? He intercedes for us, and He rules over all things for our good.

Lesson Hymn

HAVE we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful,
Who'll all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Amen.
—Hymn 204, Book of Praise.

EZRA'S JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM

Lesson IV.

Ezra 8 : 21-32—Memory Verses, 21-23

October 22, 1899

21 Then I proclaimed a fast there at the river of Aha'va, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance.

22 For I was ashamed to require of the king a band of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy in the way : because we had spoken unto the king, saying, The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him ; but his power and his wrath is against all them that forsake him.

23 So we fasted and besought our God for this : and he was intreated of us.

24 Then I separated twelve of the chief of the priests, Sherebi'ah, Hashabi'ah, and ten of their brethren with them,

25 And weighed unto them the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, *even* the offering of the house of our God, which the king, and his counsellors, and his lords, and all Is'rael *there* present, had offered ;

26 ~~I~~ even weighed unto their hand six hundred and fifty talents of silver, and silver vessels an hundred talents, and of gold an

hundred talents ;

27 Also twenty basons of gold, of a thousand drams ; and two vessels 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

There was a good man among the Jews at Babylon, called Ezra, who taught the people and wrote out God's laws in a book. He was called a scribe, and what he wrote is part of the Bible.

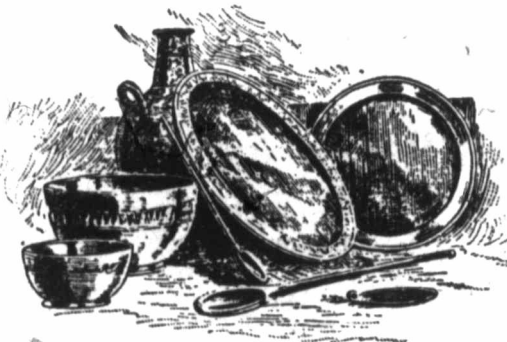
At Jerusalem the Jews were in trouble. Their enemies were too strong for them, and

But he had to get the king's leave first.

The king was willing to help and gave him money and power to act as a judge. He said, too, that any of the Jews who wished might go with Ezra, and a great many singers and priests and workers of all kinds offered to go.

When all were ready, they met beside the River Ahava and had a great prayer meeting. They knew that the desert was full of wild beasts and robbers who might steal their money and goods on the way. Some one said, "Perhaps we had better ask the king for soldiers to take care of us." But Ezra said, "I would be ashamed to do so ! Surely the king would think our God was not strong enough to fight for us. We will trust in Him." So, after they had prayed, Ezra took the money and the Temple cups and basins and tied them up in twelve parcels. Then he called twelve priests, giving each of them a bundle to care for, and told them not to open them until they came to God's house at Jerusalem.

At last they started ; the women and little



Offerings of Gold and Silver

they were beginning to act like the heathen themselves. Ezra made up his mind to go as a missionary to Jerusalem and teach the people God's law.

children riding on camels and donkeys, while the men walked. It took the procession four months to reach the city. Then Ezra wrote in his book the story of the journey. On one page he says that God was with them and kept them so safely that even the wild beasts and robbers were afraid when they saw them.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Who was Ezra? Ans.—A writer of God's laws. 2. What did he want to do? Ans.—To go to Jerusalem as a missionary. 3. Who gave him money and leave? Ans.—The heathen king. 4. In what condition was Jerusalem? Ans.—In a wicked condition. 5. Who went to help Ezra? Ans.—Singers and priests and other workers. 6. What did they do before starting? Ans.—They prayed to God to take care of them. 7. Why did they need to be taken care of? Ans.—The desert was full of wild beasts and robbers. 8. Did God take care of them? Ans.—Yes. 9. How do we know? Ans.—Because Ezra says so in his book, and they all got to Jerusalem safely.

My Papa

Little Mary was afraid to go upstairs in the dark. Her brother had told her that a great black wolf was watching for her on the landing.

Father was sitting on the back verandah and Mary wanted to give him the drawings she had made in the afternoon; but, alas! they were upstairs and there was no way of getting there except to pass the terrible wolf. At last she said, "Papa, when are you going upstairs?" "What for?" said Papa. "Oh, nothing, I thought you might

be going up. How do wolves get in, Papa?" "What wolves?" he asked, and Mary told what Ted had said. "Come," said her father, "we'll see about this." Some way it didn't seem so dark now, and holding his hand very tight, she started up the stairs. Yes, there was something breathing. It seemed to be drawing back and trying to look smaller. Then Mary burst out laughing. It was only Ted who, when he saw Papa, forgot to growl or bite. Mary felt safe because her papa was by her.



I HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY THAT

God is my Guide



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

Catechism—53. 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.

54. 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.

Lesson Hymn

COURAGE, brother! do not stumble,
Though thy path be dark as night;
There's a star to guide the humble—
"Trust in God and do the right."

Some will hate thee, some will love thee,
Some will flatter, some will slight;
Cease from man, and look above thee,—
"Trust in God and do the right."

Amen.

—Hymn 275, Book of Praise.

PSALMS OF DELIVERANCE

Lesson V.

Psalms 85 and 126—Memory Verses, Psalm 126

October 29, 1899

1 LORD, thou hast been favourable unto thy land : thou hast brought back the captivity of Ja'cob.

2. Thou hast forgiven the iniquity of thy people, thou hast covered all their sin. Selah.

3 Thou hast taken away all thy wrath : thou hast turned *thyself* from the fierceness of thine anger

4 Turn us, O God of our salvation, and cause thine anger toward us to cease.

5 Wilt thou be angry with us for ever ? wilt thou draw out thine anger to all generations ?

6 Wilt thou not revive us again : that thy people may rejoice in thee ?

7 Shew us thy mercy, O LORD, and grant us thy salvation.

8 I will hear what God the LORD will speak : for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints : but let them not turn again to folly.

9 Surely his salvation is nigh them that fear him ; that glory may dwell in our land.

10 Mercy and truth are met together ;

righteousness and peace have kissed *each other*.

11 Truth shall spring out of the earth ; and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

12 Yea, the LORD shall give *that which is good* ; and our land shall yield her increase.

13 Righteousness shall go before him ; and shall set us in the way of his steps.

Ps. 126 : 1 When the LORD turned again the captivity of Zi'on, we were like them that dream.

2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing : then said they among the heathen, The LORD hath done great things for them.

3 The LORD hath done great things for us ; *whereof we are glad*.

4 Turn again our captivity, O LORD, as the streams in the south.

5 They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.

6 He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves *with him*.

THE LESSON RETOLD

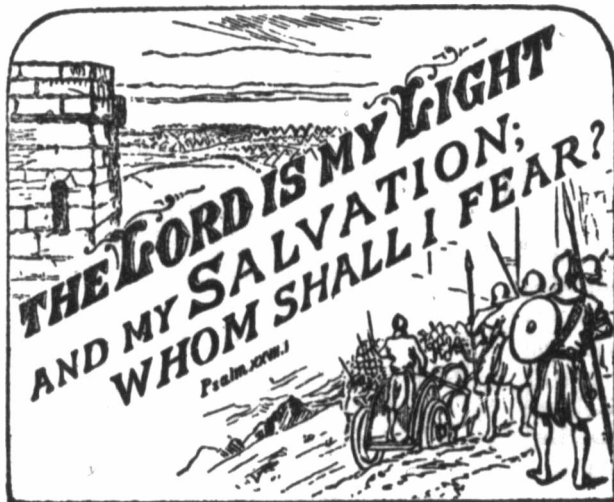
See Lesson 1

When God allowed his people to come back from heathen Babylon to their own city of Jerusalem, they were so glad that they laughed and shouted and sang.

In Babylon they had been too unhappy to sing. They were slaves, and though the heathen sometimes said, when they saw the people crying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion," they always answered, "We cannot

sing the Lord's songs in a strange land. Now they were safe home at last, and because they were so happy they could not help singing.

The psalm in to-day's lesson was sung by all the people in the Temple. While they sang the bands played, and soon everybody was shouting praises and thanks to God for all His goodness.



There was a prayer in the song too. It was that God would keep his people from grieving Him any more, and that He would always stay near them to give them peaceful, happy homes and true hearts.

There was another hymn, too, all about coming home. The chorus was, "The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad." Oh, how heartily the people sang it. They had been slaves and now were free once more.

God was pleased to hear the people singing these old psalms so long ago, and His people often sing them now, because there are no other hymns more beautiful, or so good to learn.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. When the Jews got home from Babylon, how did they feel? Ans.—Very glad and happy. 2. How did they show it? Ans.—They began to sing. 3. What did they sing? Ans.—Psalms. 4. Did they sing much in Babylon? Ans.—No. they were too unhappy. 5. At what place in Jerusalem did they meet for singing? Ans.—At the Temple. 6. What did they sing about? Ans.—

About God's goodness in bringing them home. 7. Did they ask God for anything? Ans.—Yes, that He would help them to please Him. 8. Was God pleased to hear the singing? Ans.—Yes. 9. What was the chorus of one of the psalms? Ans.—“The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad.” 10. Golden Text? Answer. “They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.”

A Piece of Gold

A little bit of gold was once lying hid in the earth. It had lain hid so long that it thought it would never be used, and it said to itself, “Why do I lie here? Why am I not picked up, that men may see me shine?”

One day a man dug it up, looked at it, and said, “There is some gold in this lump; but I cannot use it as it is; I must take it to the refiner.” When the refiner got it, he threw it into a melting-pot. As soon as the little piece of gold felt the heat, it began to tremble and cried, “I wish that I had lain quiet in the earth.”

But the fire grew hotter and hotter, and at

last the gold melted and left the earthy part of the lump by itself.

“Now,” said the gold, “my troubles are over; now I shall shine.”

But its troubles were not over yet. The man took it once more and began to hammer it into shape. “Ah,” said the gold, “what a trouble it is to be gold, if I had been common earth I should not have been put to all this pain.” “That is true,” said the man, but you could never have become what you are now. Then the piece of gold looked at itself in the glass—it was a shining gold ring for a queen's finger.



I HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY THAT

I Should be Glad in the Lord



Golden Text—They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. Ps. 126: 5.

Catechism—55. 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.

Lesson Hymn

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

—Hymn 17, Book of Praise.

NEHEMIAH'S PRAYER

Lesson VI.

Nehemiah 1 : 1-11—Memory Verses, 8-10

November 5, 1899

1 The words of Nehemi'ah the son of Hachali'ah. And it came to pass in the month Chis'leu, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shu'shan the palace,

2 That Hana'ni, one of my brethren, came, he and certain men of Ju'dah; and I asked them concerning the Jews that had escaped, which were left of the captivity, and concerning Jeru'salem.

3 And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jeru'salem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire.

4 And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven,

5 And said, I beseech thee, O LORD God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keepeth covenant and mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments:

6 Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of Is'rael thy servants, and confess the sins of

the children of Is'rael, which we have sinned against thee: both I and my father's house have sinned.

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

8 Remember, I beseech thee, the word that thou commandedst 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 they 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

Nehemiah was the name of a young Jew who lived at the palace and waited on the great heathen king Artaxerxes. His duty



From a Photograph.

Assyrian King and Cupbearer.

was to give the king his wine, so he was called the king's cupbearer.

The king thought a great deal of Nehemi-

ah because he knew he could trust him.

One day the young man was in the palace when some travellers came in. They were tired looking, as if they had come a long distance. Nehemiah knew at once that they were Jews by the way they talked. He soon learned that they were come from Jerusalem. One of the men turned out to be related to Nehemiah, who asked, "How were things getting on at Jerusalem when you left?"

Then the travellers began to tell how everything was in a bad state. The city walls had been broken down by the heathen and the gates set on fire. The Jews themselves were very unhappy, for their heathen neighbours laughed and mocked at them.

Nehemiah felt very sad when he heard about the troubles of his own people, for he knew it was all because they had disobeyed God. He thought a great deal about what he had heard. Every day he prayed to God to forgive the sins of his people. He also found the places in the Bible where God had

promised to make the Jews a strong nation, and he kept saying these promises over and over to himself while he did his work.

All the time he was waiting on the king he was wondering if it would be any use for him to go to Jerusalem to warn the people. He knew that the king might be angry if he were to speak of leaving him, for he would

be missed, and good cupbearers were not easy to get. They needed to be men who could be trusted or else some one might put poison into the king's wine.

Then Nehemiah prayed that God would make the king willing to help him, and God answered his prayer.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Who was Nehemiah? Ans.—A young Jew who waited on the king. 2. What kind of a servant was he? Ans.—A good and faithful servant. 3. Who came in one day while he was in the palace? Ans.—Some travellers from Jerusalem. 4. What did they tell Nehemiah about that city? Ans.—That the wall was broken down, and that the Jews were very unhappy. 5. How did this news make Nehemiah feel? Ans.—It troubled him greatly. 6. What did he do

about it? Ans.—He prayed to God. 7. What did he pray? Ans.—That God would forgive the sins of His people. 8. What did he think he would do himself? Ans.—He wanted to go to Jerusalem. 9. Why could he not go? Ans.—He was afraid the king would not spare him. 10. What did he do before speaking to the king? Ans.—He asked God to help him. 11. What is the Golden Text? Ans.—“Prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day.”

It Isn't Far to Jesus

It isn't far to Jesus;
If you only knew how near,
You would reach Him in a moment,
And banish all your fear.

He is standing close beside you,
If only you could see,
And is saying, could you hear Him,
“Let the children come to Me!”

For you know He never changes,
As your little friends do here,
He is always kind and ready,
Both to comfort and to cheer.

And the very best about it
He's always close at hand,
And will always listen to you,
And always understand.



I HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY THAT

God Always Hears Prayer



Golden Text—Prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day. Neh. 1: 11.

Lesson Hymn

Catechism—56. When did the Holy Spirit come? The Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost, ten days after Jesus went to heaven.

REST of the weary,
Joy of the sad,
Hope of the dreary
Light of the glad,
Home of the stranger,
Strength to the end,
Refuge from danger,
Savior and Friend. Amen.
—Hymn 95, Book of Praise.

REBUILDING THE WALLS OF JERUSALEM

Lesson VII.

Nehemiah 4 : 7-18—Memory Verses, 15-18

November 12, 1899

7 But it came to pass, *that* when Sanbal'lat 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 And it came to pass from that time forth, *that* the half of my servants wrought in the work, and the other half of them held both the spears, the shields, and the bows, and the habergeons ; 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.

THE LESSON RETOLD

When Nehemiah had prayed to God, he told the king his trouble and asked leave to go to Jerusalem. After making him promise to come back, the king allowed him to go, and gave him money and letters to those who could help him.

Now, there were living near Jerusalem two heathen rulers named Sanballat and Tobiah, who had done the Jews a great deal of mischief. When they heard that Nehemiah had come to mend the wall and build up the city, they were very angry and did everything they could to frighten him.

But Nehemiah called the Jews together, and began the work, though their enemies watched them and tried to break in when they were not looking.

Then Nehemiah planned that, whilst half the builders worked, the other half would keep Sanballat and his soldiers away with swords and spears and bows.

As they worked and fought, they prayed ; so that soon the wall was half done.

Then the people began to get tired.

But Nehemiah said, "Remember God is with us, and



go on fighting for your city, and your wives and your little ones."

Every day the walls grew higher and higher. Everybody mended the holes nearest his own house, but they had to build with one hand, for in the other was a sword or spear to fight with. They worked very

hard from sunrise until the stars came out, and they slept close to their work, so that no harm could come to it in the night.

At last the wall was finished and, when the heathen saw it, they were much ashamed, for they knew that God was with His people and had answered their prayers.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What did Nehemiah do after he had prayed to God? Ans.—He told the King.
2. What did the king do? Ans.—He gave Nehemiah leave to go to Jerusalem and begin to mend the wall and build the city.
3. Who tried to stop the work? Ans.—Two heathen princes.
4. Which won? Ans.—Nehemiah and the Jews.
5. Why? Ans.—Because God was with them.
6. How did

they work? Ans.—With a sword in one hand and a tool in the other.
7. Did they take any holidays? Ans.—No; they worked all day and watched all night.
8. Was it easy? Ans.—No. The people were often ready to give up.
9. Who cheered them on? Ans.—Nehemiah.
10. What is the Golden Text? Ans.—"Watch and pray."

Katy's Prayer

"Oh, please mend the necklace," prayed poor little Katy on her knees by the sofa. Then she opened her eyes and looked round to see if the chain was mended. No; the gold beads lay scattered over the floor just where the string broke, and she prayed again and again. She looked round, but the necklace was broken as before.

Then the poor little girl prayed once more, "Oh, please mend it! If You don't mother will know I have been in her drawer again, after she told me not to. Please make it whole. Amen." Again she looked. But it was broken as before.

At that moment Katy's mother came into the room. "What ails my little girl?" she said. "Why, Katy, how did the necklace

come here?" "But I prayed about it," said Katy, sobbing. "I prayed three times. Why didn't God mend it? You said He would answer prayers."

"My dear child," said her mother, "we cannot expect God to do what we can do for ourselves, nor to cover up our wicked acts when we do wrong. Come, bring the work-basket, and while I thread this needle get down and pick up every bead on the carpet." When Katy had found them all she strung them on mother's thread, and though it took a very long time, the chain at last was almost as good as ever.

So Katy's prayer was answered, and she saw how naughty she had been to disobey her mother.

I HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY THAT

I Should Watch and Pray

Golden Text.—Watch and pray.—Matt. 26 : 41.

Catechism—57. What did the Holy Spirit do on the day of Pentecost? On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit led a great many people to see that they were sinners and to trust in Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Lesson Hymn

FIERCE may be the conflict,
Strong may be the foe,
But the King's own army
None can overthrow.
Round His standard ranging,
Victory is secure;
For His truth unchanging
Makes the triumph sure.

Amen.

—Hymn 254, Book of Praise.

PUBLIC READING OF THE SCRIPTURES

Lesson VIII.

Nehemiah 8 : 1-12—Memory Verses, 1-3

November 19, 1899

1 And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was before the water gate ; and they spake unto Ez'ra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Mo'ses, which the LORD had commanded to Is'rael.

2 And Ez'ra the priest brought the law before the congregation both of men and women, and all that could hear with understanding, upon the first day of the seventh month.

3 And he read therein before the street that was before the water gate from the morning until midday, before the men and the women, and those that could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive unto the book of the law.

4 And Ez'ra the scribe stood upon a pulpit of wood, which they had made for the purpose ; and beside him stood Mattithi'ah, and She'ma, and Anai'ah, and Uri'jah, and Hilki'ah, and Maasei'ah, on his right hand; and on his left hand, Pedai'ah, and Misha'el, and Malchi'ah, and Ha'shum, and Hashbad-a'na, Zechar'iah, and Meshul'lam.

5 And Ez'ra opened the book in the sight of all the people ; (for he was above all the people;) and when he opened it, all the people stood up :

6 And Ez'ra blessed the LORD, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands : and they

bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

7 Also Jesh'ua, and Ba'ni, and Sherebi'ah, Ja'min, Ak'kub, Shabbetha'i, Hodi'jah, Maasei'ah, Keli'ta, Azari'ah, Joz'abad, Ha'nan, Pelai'ah, and the Levi'tes, caused the people to understand the law : and the people stood in their place.

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 Nehemi'ah, which is the Tirsha'tha, add Ez'ra 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.

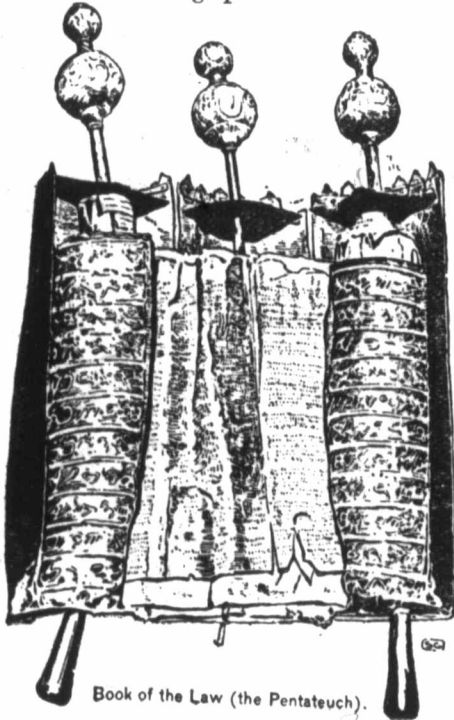
12 And all the people went their way to eat, and to drink, and to send portions, and to make great mirth, because they had understood the words that were declared unto them.

THE LESSON REVIEW

All the time the builders were mending the wall, Ezra the scribe was busy studying and copying out in writing the law given by God to Moses. His book, you will remember, was written on a large piece of parchment made of sheepskin and then rolled up.

At this time there were not many books, and very few persons could read, but everyone was anxious to hear what Ezra had written. So, the week after the wall was finished and when the people were well rested, Ezra invited them to meet early one morning in front of the Water gate to hear the word of the Lord. They built a high pulpit in the street, and Ezra stood up where everybody could see and hear him.

As soon as he unrolled the book, they all stood up, men and women and children. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, and the people shouted "Amen ! Amen !" and bowed their heads.



Book of the Law (the Pentateuch).

There were standing beside Ezra some priests and teachers who explained the hard words so that the children could understand what was meant. The people were very still and tried to catch every word.

When Ezra came to the Commandments, the people began to mourn and to weep, for they knew that they had not obeyed them as they should have done. But Nehemiah and Ezra, when they saw the people weeping,

said that God had forgiven their sins, and told them to stop crying and get ready for a great thanksgiving holiday.

Then Nehemiah showed them one way to be truly happy. He said, "Send some of your good things to those who have none;" and all the people went home to eat and to drink and to send presents, and to enjoy themselves, because they had understood what had been read from God's book.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Who was Ezra? Ans.—A scribe who wrote out God's law. 2. When did he read it to the people? Ans.—A week after the wall was finished. 3. Where did they make a pulpit? Ans.—In the street. 4. Who told the meaning of the hard words? Ans.—The priests and teachers. 5. How did the people listen? Ans.—Very quietly. 6. What happened when Ezra read the Commandments? Ans.—The people began to cry. 7. Why?

Ans.—They had disobeyed the Commandments. 8. What did Nehemiah and Ezra say to them? Ans.—To stop crying, for God had forgiven them. 9. What did Nehemiah say was one way of having a good time? Ans.—To help others to be happy. 10. What did they all do to show that they were glad? Ans.—They held a great thanksgiving holiday. 11. To whom did they send presents? Ans.—To those who had nothing.

Molly's Half Dollar

Molly's mother had been telling her about some poor children who lived in a dull and grimy city, and who had never even seen a green field. Molly lived in a beautiful farmhouse in the country, and it grieved her to think of those poor children.

She gave her new half dollar to her mother and asked her to send it to them.

Mother sent it, and two days later came a joyful surprise. The money had paid the

fare of one of the little city girls to come to Molly's home, and mother had invited her to stay at the farm for a month.

Was it not nice? Jennie soon grew rosy and plump, playing all day in the green fields and woods, and picking the sweet flowers and the wild berries; but I think Molly was the happier of the two, because, you know, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."



I HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY THAT

I Should be a Doer of God's Word



Golden Text—The ears of all the people were attentive unto the book of the law.—Neh. 8: 3.

Catechism—58. How may we get the Holy Spirit? Jesus says that God will give His Holy Spirit to us if we ask Him.

Lesson Hymn

FATHER of mercies, in Thy Word
What endless glory shines!
Forever be Thy name adored
For these celestial lines.

Amen.

—Hymn 118, Book of Praise.

WOES OF INTEMPERANCE

Lesson IX.

Proverbs 23 : 29-35—Memory Verses, 29-32 November 26, 1899

29 Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes?

30 They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine.

31 Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright

32 At the last it biteth like a serpent, and

stingeth like an adder.

33 Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things.

34 Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast.

35 They have stricken me, *shalt thou say, and, I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again.*

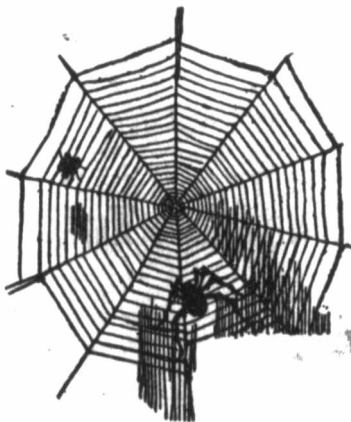
THE LESSON RETOLD

King Solomon was the wisest king that ever lived.

For his friends he choose the wisest men he could find, and people came from all over the world to ask his advice and to get his help when they were in trouble.

He was very rich, too, and could have whatever he wanted to eat and drink and wear.

King Solomon wished the boys and girls in his kingdom to grow up to be as wise as he was himself. He knew that soon he must



die and go away, so he wrote in a book some rules for them to keep if they wanted to grow strong and wise and to please God well. His book is called "The Proverbs." A

proverb means a wise word that everybody can understand. "The Proverbs" is a picture-book, too, and some of the pictures are lovely to look at.

There is one very pretty picture near the end of the book of a mother sitting in her house spinning. She is making red cloth out of wool to keep her children warm in the winter. By-and-by some poor people come along and she shakes hands with them and gives them some food and part of the cloth she has made.

But there are sad pictures too.

One of the saddest is of a poor, sick man. He is all ragged and bleeding. His eyes are red and he cannot walk straight. He has no hat and you can hear him muttering cross words to himself as he staggers along the road. Once he was a nice little boy, but now his own mother would hardly know him. He is drunk—he has spent all his money for strong drink, and people run away when they see him. He does not know that some one has beaten him. He is foolish enough even to think he could sleep on the top of a high mast or in the deep water.

Underneath this sad picture Solomon wrote some words to keep everybody from getting to be like the man in the dreadful picture. He says, "Look not *thou* upon the wine when it is red, for at the last it biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder."

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Who was King Solomon? Ans.—He was the wisest king that ever lived. 2. Whom did he choose for his friends? Ans.—The wisest men he could find. 3. Is King Solomon alive now? Ans.—No, he has been dead a long time. 4. What book did he write? Ans.—“The Proverbs” was one of the books he wrote. 5. What is a proverb? Ans.—A wise saying that everyone can understand. 6. What kind of rules are in Solomon’s book? Ans.—Good rules for helping people to live well. 7. What was the matter with the man in the sad picture? Ans.—He was drunk. 8. Did he look happy? Ans.—No, he was ragged and sick. 9. How did he get into such a state? Ans.—By drinking wine. 10. Had he always been bad and wretched? Ans.—No. 11. How far does Solomon say to keep away from strong drink? Ans.—He says, do not even look at it. 12. What else does he say about it? Ans.—That it is nice to take at first, but that at last it biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder. 13. What is the Golden Text? Ans.—“Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging, and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.”

Solomon’s Wine Cup

Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. **At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.**



I HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY THAT

I Should Never Taste Strong Drink



Golden Text—Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.—Prov. 20 : 1.



Catechism—59. 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.

Lesson Hymn

LORD, make me, from this hour,
Thy loving child to be,
Kept by Thy power,
Kept by Thy power
From all that grieveth Thee :

Till in the snow-white dress
Of Thy redeemed I stand,
Faultless and stainless,
Faultless and stainless,
Safe in that happy land. Amen.
—Hymn 587, Book of Praise.

KEEPING THE SABBATH

Lesson X.

Nehemiah 13 : 15-22—Memory Verses, 15-17

December 3, 1899

15 In those days saw I in Ju'dah some treading wine presses on the sabbath, and bringing in sheaves, and lading asses; as also wine, grapes, and figs, and all manner of burdens, which they brought into Jeru'salem on the sabbath day: and I testified against them in the day wherein they sold victuals.

16 There dwelt men of Ty're also therein, which brought fish, and all manner of ware, and sold on the sabbath unto the children of Ju'dah, and in Jeru'salem.

17 Then I contended with the nobles of Ju'dah, and said unto them, What evil thing is this that ye do, and profane the sabbath day?

18 Did not your fathers thus, and did not our God bring all this evil upon us, and upon this city? yet ye bring more wrath upon Is'rael by profaning the sabbath.

19 And it came to pass, that when the gates of Jeru'salem began to be dark before

the sabbath, I commanded that the gates should be shut, and charged that they should not be opened till after the sabbath: and some of my servants set I at the gates, that there should no burden be brought in on the sabbath day.

20 So the merchants and sellers of all kind of ware lodged without Jeru'salem once or twice.

21 Then I testified against them, and said unto them, Why lodge ye about the wall? if ye do so again, I will lay hands on you. From that time forth came they no more on the sabbath.

22 And I commanded the Le'vites that they should cleanse themselves, and that they should come and keep the gates, to sanctify the sabbath day. Remember me, O my God, concerning this also, and spare me according to the greatness of thy mercy.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Soon after the reading of the law the king of Persia sent for Nehemiah to come home.

Nehemiah stayed in Persia for five years, and when he came back to Jerusalem he found the people doing badly. Ezra was dead, and even the priests had forgotten to serve God. Nehemiah took a little walk

people were busy buying and selling, and counting out money. The gates of the city were open and the farmers were coming from the fields with loads of grain. Away over the wall Nehemiah could see men working in the vineyards making the grapes into wine. Then a man passed by crying,

"Fresh fish! Fresh fish!" for the people from the sea-coast were there with their fish to sell on the Sabbath.



around the city one Sabbath morning soon after he got back. Instead of meeting fathers and mothers going to the temple with their children, everybody was working as if it had been Saturday or Monday. He saw men loading asses with grapes and figs ready to send away. The shops were open too, and

this very thing, and that He would punish them, too.

The evening before the next Sabbath, when it was just beginning to get dark, Nehemiah said, "Close all the city gates, and do not open them until the morning after God's day"; and he sent some of his servants to

watch that nobody with anything to sell should come through during that time.

When the farmers and pedlars and fishermen came along with their goods and found the gates shut they sat down outside and waited. Nehemiah saw them sitting there. He said, "If you do this again I will have you

punished." When they saw that it was no use to wait, they went home and came no more on the Sabbath day.

Then Nehemiah set the Levites, who were helpers of the priests in the Temple, to watch the city gates on the Sabbath.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

1. When Nehemiah was away how did the Jews behave? Ans.—Wickedly. 2. What did Nehemiah find them doing the Sabbath after he came back? Ans.—Working as on other days. 3. What did he say to the rulers? Ans.—That God had punished their fathers for this and would punish them. 4. What plan did Nehemiah take to stop work on the Sabbath? Ans.—He ordered the city

gates to be closed all day. 5. What did he say to those who still came? Ans.—That he would have them punished. 6. Then, did Sabbath buying and selling stop? Ans.—Yes. 7. Who were set to watch the city gates on the Sabbath? Ans.—The Levites. 8. What is the Golden Text? Ans.—"Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy."

Why Bob Remembered

Bob and Marion were learning the Golden Text one Sunday after church. "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy," said mother, until they both knew it.

It was Bob's birthday and Uncle Tom had given him a beautiful air-gun as a present.

After dinner Marion went to find her gloves for Sunday School, but Bob slipped out through the back-door into the woods.

Just then the church-bell rang. "Remember!"—"Remember!"

"Bother that bell," said Bob. "What's it talking about anyway?"

Soon he saw a fine shot—a blackbird was sitting on a limb near by.

Bang! went the gun, but it missed aim. All at once the air seemed filled with birds of every kind, all screaming the same thing—

"Remember!" "Remember!"

Bob was so frightened that he dropped his gun and ran for home, but the birds followed, screaming louder and louder.

At the foot of the yard he met his old enemy, the turkey-gobbler. As soon as he saw Bob running, his face got very red. "Remember-the-Sabbath-day-to-keep-it-holy," he gabbled, in a very quick and angry voice.

But Bob was safe home now. Snatching his hat from the stand, he tore down the road towards the Sunday School. He was late, of course. His teacher was asking for the Golden Text. "What is it, Bob? Marion has forgotten it."

And do you know, Bob said it without a mistake.

I HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY THAT

I Should Keep the Sabbath Day Holy

Golden Text—Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.—Ex. 20 : 8.



Catechism—80. Where do all our good thoughts and desires come from? The Holy Spirit puts good thoughts and desires into our hearts.

Lesson Hymn

WE dare not trifle now
On this Thy holy day,
In silent awe we bow
On this Thy holy day.
Check every wandering thought,
And let us all be taught
To serve Thee as we ought
On this Thy holy day. Amen.
—Hymn 573, Book of Praise.

LESSONS IN GIVING

Lesson XI. Malachi 1 : 6-11 and 3 : 8-12—Memory Verses, Ch. 3 : 10 December 10, 1899

6 A son honoureth *his* father, and a servant his master : if then I *be* a father, where is mine honour? and if I *be* a master, where is my fear? saith the LORD of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name?

7 Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the LORD is contemptible.

8 And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts.

9 And now, I pray you, beseech God that he will be gracious unto us: this hath been by your means: will he regard your persons? saith the LORD of hosts.

10 Who is there even among you that would shut the doors for nought? neither do ye kindle fire on my altar for nought. I have no pleasure in you, saith the LORD of hosts, neither will I accept an offering at your hand.

11 For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name

shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name shall be great among the heathen, saith the LORD of hosts.

Ch. 3. 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 fruits before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.

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

THE LESSON RETOLD

Malachi was the last prophet God sent to the Jewish people before the time of Jesus Christ.

Men like Daniel and Ezra and Nehemiah

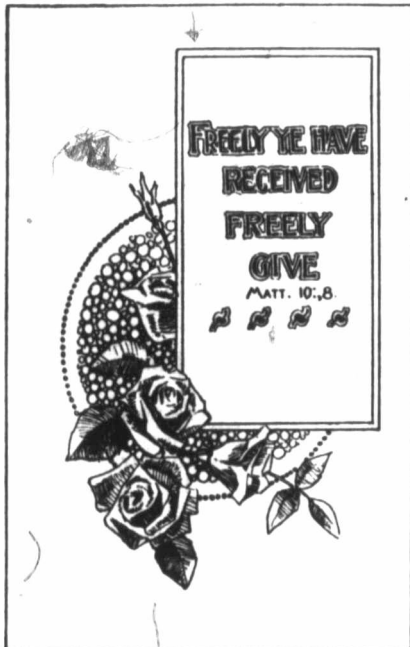
had warned the people before, and over and over again, of what they must do to please God, but still they disobeyed. So at last God sent Malachi to give them another chance to change their ways.

The strange part of it all was that the people did not think they had done anything wrong. They said, "What have we done?"

So Malachi had to show them.

Now one of God's commandments was that they should give back to Him part of what they had—some of their sheep, part of their money and their wine and their oil and their fruit. To do this was just one way of saying "Thank you" to God for all His goodness.

But the people were mean and wicked, and picked out the blind sheep, and the lame and sick cows, and the smallest, sourest fruit and sent these off to the Temple, and kept all that was good for themselves. They gave none of their money to the priests, so that, instead of being able to teach the people in God's house, these men had to leave their work to earn a living some other way.



But very soon the crops got poor and thin. Locusts flew over the fields and ate the wheat. The fruit grew wormy and mouldy upon the trees. The leaves dropped off the vines, for there was no rain.

Malachi said, "It is because of your meanness to God. Come now and bring good presents to His house and He will bless you. He will open His sky-windows and let

the rain fall on your fields, so that your barns will be too small to hold the crops, and your land will again be a lovely and beautiful place, instead of this wilderness."

Malachi had a promise, too, for those who were not Jews, that God would soon show to the heathen the same kindness as to His own people, and some day the whole earth would be filled with His glory.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Who was Malachi? Ans.—One of God's prophets. 2. What did God send him for? Ans.—To warn the Jews against their sins. 3. What had they done? Ans.—They had cheated God. 4. How? Ans.—By not giving Him the best they had. 5. What had they done with their best fruits and beasts? Ans.—Kept them for themselves. 6. Why

should they give anything to God? Ans.—To show their thanks for His goodness. 7. How were the people punished? Ans.—By bad crops. 8. How did Malachi say they would get God's blessing? Ans.—By honoring Him and giving Him what they ought to give. 9. What is the Golden Text? Ans.—"God loveth a cheerful giver."

Which Gave the Most?

Three children brought gifts one day to the Hospital for Sick Children.

Percy Wilson brought a splendid rocking-horse, for which his rich father had paid. It had a lovely mane and a long tail, and there were beautiful reins and a comfortable saddle. Every one said, "How kind, how generous, of dear little Percy!" And the matron thanked and praised him for his expensive gift.

Elsie Payne brought a doll, a musical top, a tea set, a toy organ, a farm-yard, and a

dolls' house. She had cleared out an old cupboard, and picked up for the poor children a number of toys she did not care for and would not miss.

Willie Bloom was a poor boy himself. He had saved two pennies in his money box to buy himself a little plant, but he made up his mind to go without the flower himself; and he carried the little pot to the hospital, and left it there for a crippled child.

Which gave the most?



I HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY THAT

God Loveth a Cheerful Giver



Golden Text—God loveth a cheerful giver.—2 Cor. 9: 7.

Catechism—61. In what other ways is the Holy Spirit our Helper? The Holy Spirit helps us in our study of the Bible and in prayer.

Lesson Hymn

JESUS, Lord, we humbly
pray,
Take our gifts on this Thy day:
Gladly, gratefully, we give,
Of Thy grace do Thou receive:
With our store we worship Thee,
As we seek Thy favor free. Amen.
—Hymn 426, Book of Praise.

FRUITS OF RIGHT AND WRONG DOING

Lesson XII.

Malachi 3 ; 13—4 : 6—Memory Verses, 16-18 December 17, 1899

13 Your words have been stout against me, saith the Lord. Yet ye say, What have we spoken so much against thee?

14 Ye have said, It is vain to serve God : and what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the Lord of hosts?

15 And now we call the proud happy ; yea, they that work wickedness are set up ; yea, they that tempt God are even delivered.

16 Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another : and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name.

17 And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels ; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

18 Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

Ch. 4. 1 For, behold, the day cometh,

that shall burn as an oven ; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble : and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

2 But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings ; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

3 And ye shall tread down the wicked ; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts.

4 Remember ye the law of Mo'ses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Ho'reb for all Is'rael, with the statutes and judgments.

5 Behold, I will send you Eli'jah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.

6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

THE LESSON RETOLD

The people listened to what Malachi had



said about giving to God, and God sent the rain and the fruits and the harvests again.

Then they said, "We will give Him larger presents still ; for the more we give Him the more He will bless us."

But they soon found out that they could not buy anything from God. He did not prosper them. They grew angry and said, "It's no use to give gifts to God, or to try to please Him. Look at the people that don't try. They seem happy."

But God had still some true friends among them—some that remembered His goodness and feared His name.

These people knew one another well and they often talked about God and how good He was, and often when they were alone they would think of God's promises.

Because they really loved and honored Him, God kept all their names written a book to remember them by, and He sent them a beautiful message by Malachi—"They shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up My jewels."

Malachi was told to write this promise on the last page of his book—the last book in the

Old Testament. (Let us turn it up and see).

He was to write underneath it that God would punish the wicked, and that a day was coming when they should be burned up, and that before that dreadful day, He would

send a messenger to give warning. "Listen to him," God said, and so be safe. So Malachi finished his book, and though it was written so long ago, it is just as true now as the day it was written.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. How did some of the Jews expect to get God's favor? Ans.—They thought they could buy it. 2. How? Ans.—With fine presents. 3. Was God pleased with their presents? Ans.—No. 4. Why? Ans.—Because they did not really love Him. 5. Were all the people bad? Ans.—No. 6. Who were true to God? Ans.—Malachi and some others. 7. How did they remember God? Ans.—They often met and talked

of His goodness and mercy. 8. Did God take notice? Ans.—Yes, He wrote all their names in His book. 9. What message did He send them? Ans.—"They shall be mine when I make up my jewels." 10. What did He say about the wicked? Ans.—They shall be burned up. 11. Did God offer to give these people another chance to be good? Ans.—Yes. 12. Whom did he promise to send? Ans.—His messenger.

Flowers and Weeds

Muriel and Grant were staying at Aunt Jane's until father and mother came back from the seaside.

"Let us surprise them," said Muriel. "Let's make a flower garden behind the potato-patch."

"All right," said Grant. "We'll start to-morrow."

"I'm going to begin mine this afternoon."

"Oh don't hurry," said Grant. "They won't come for ever'n and ever'n so long." And he ran to chase the hens off the pump. The next day Muriel's bed was nicely smoothed, except for some crooked lines on top, and there was a white stone at each

corner.

"Mine's done," said the little girl. "So's mine," said Grant, and he drew his heel all round a bare place near by.

"But you haven't planted anything."

"I will to-morrow—no hurry."

Next day was the picnic. All next week it rained. Then came mud, and it was two weeks before the children saw their gardens, and father and mother were home again.

What do you think they found when they went out to show them the flower gardens? What would you expect? Grant had sowed nothing, and his garden bed was crammed with weeds. Muriel's had little rows of green, which would be flowers by-and-by.

I HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY THAT

God is Just and Good

Golden Text—Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.—Gal. 6 : 7.

Catechism.—62. What warning is given us in the Bible about the Holy Spirit? The Bible tells us not to grieve the Holy Spirit.

63. How may we grieve the Holy Spirit? All sinful thoughts, words or actions grieve the Holy Spirit.

Lesson Hymn

WHEN He cometh, when He
cometh,
To make up His jewels,
All His jewels, precious jewels,
His loved and His own,
Little children, little children,
Who love their Redeemer,
Are the jewels, precious jewels,
His loved and His own. Amen.
—Hymn 591, Book of Praise.

CHRIST'S COMING FORETOLD

Lesson XIII.

Isaiah 9: 2-7—Memory Verses, 6, 7

December 24, 1899

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 Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

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 LORD of hosts will perform this.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Long ago, before the first Christmas day, there lived a man called Isaiah.

He was one of the prophets, and God showed him many things that were to happen long afterward.

Isaiah was so busy writing and speaking God's messages that he had no time to talk much about himself, and nobody knows exactly the name of his mother, or if he had a brother or sister, only that his father's name was Amoz.

When Isaiah was not writing in his book or listening to God's messages, he spent his time warning the Jews against their sins and encouraging them to be holy.

Every day Isaiah saw God's people praying to idols. They believed, too, in ghosts and

fortune-telling, and fought with their health neighbors.

At last they were so badly beaten by these enemies, and were so afraid of the harm they might yet do them that Isaiah called their country, "The land of the shadow of death."

The people themselves were so wicked that now they hardly knew the difference between right and wrong; so Isaiah said, "You are blind and sitting in great darkness." "But God has sent you a message," said the prophet, "that shall cure your blindness and scatter your enemies."

Then he told the Jews of the glad Christmas day that would sometime come, and of Jesus the little babe, who should be born to save people from their sins.

Now the Jews always gave their babies names with a special meaning.

Isaiah told the people five of the names that would be given to Jesus.

His name should be called *Wonderful*, to show that he is both God and man; *Counsellor*—because there is none so wise as He; *The Mighty God*—because of His power to make the world and keep everybody alive; *The Everlasting Father*—because He came to show the love of the Heavenly Father to His children.

But the name that the Jews liked best was one that meant no more war or fighting, but happiness and joy and quiet rest. It was *The Prince of Peace*.



See Pen out

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Whom did God send to teach the Jews before the time of Jesus? Ans.—The prophets. 2. Name some of the prophets. Ans.—Daniel, Ezekiel, Malachi, Isaiah. 3. Which of these spoke most about the Saviour? Ans.—Isaiah. 4. What did Isaiah see the Jews doing? Ans.—Praying to idols and fighting. 5. What did he call their country? Ans.—The land of the shadow of death. 6. What did he say about the people? Ans.—You are blind and in great darkness. 7. Did Isaiah mean that their eyes were blind? Ans.—No, he meant their hearts were sinful. 8. How did the prophet say that Christ should come? Ans.—As a little babe. 9. What was He coming for? Ans.—To save His people from their sins. 10. Did Isaiah's message come true? Ans.—Yes. 11. When? Ans.—When Jesus was born in Bethlehem. 12. How many names did Isaiah give Jesus in one of his verses? Ans.—Five. 13. Name the one the Jews liked best. Ans.—The Prince of Peace. 14. What is the Golden Text? Ans.—“Unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

A Merry Christmas.

A merry Christmas, children all,
Rich and poor, large and small,
To north, to south, to east, to west,
In every land where Christ is guest,
A merry, merry Christmas!

Now may we love our neighbours more,
And may we give from out our store,
That all may have a happy heart,

And take a gladsome, joyous part
In our merry, merry Christmas!

For when dear Christmas eve draws nigh,
Be it the time when you and I
Shall put away all wrong and sin,
And bid the holy Christ-Child in,
To bless our merry Christmas!



I HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY THAT

Jesus is My Saviour



Golden Text—Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.—Luke 2: 11.

Catechism—64. How may we please the Holy Spirit? We may please the Holy Spirit by doing what he puts into our hearts.

Lesson Hymn

THERE came a little child to earth
Long ago;
And the angels of God proclaimed His birth,—
High and low.
Out in the night, so calm and still,
Their song was heard;
For they knew that the Child on Bethle-
hem's hill
Was Christ the Lord. Amen.
—Hymn 520, Book of Praise.

Lesson XIV.

REVIEW—Fourth Quarter

December 24, 1899

Golden Text—Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.—Ps. 103 : 2.
Catechism—Questions 49-64.

Lesson Hymn

CAN a little child like me
 Thank the Father fittingly?
 Yes, oh yes! be good and true,
 Patient, kind in all you do;
 Love the Lord, and do your part;
 Learn to say, with all your heart,
 Father, we thank Thee!
 Father in heaven, we thank Thee!

For our comrades and our plays,
 And our happy holidays,
 For the joyful work and true
 That a little child may do,
 For our lives but just begun,
 For the great gift of Thy Son,
 Father, we thank Thee!
 Father in heaven, we thank Thee! Amen.

—Hymn 518, Book of Praise.



I HAVE LEARNED
 TO-DAY THAT

I Should Thank the Lord for all His Benefits

Lesson Title	Golden Text
LESSON I. Joy in God's House.	I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into house of the Lord.—Ps. 122 : 1.
LESSON II. Haman's Plot against the Jews.	If God be with us, who can be against us?—Rom. 8 : 31.
LESSON III. Esther Pleading for Her People.	Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.—Ps. 37 : 5.
LESSON IV. Ezra's Journey to Jerusalem.	The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him.—Ezra 8 : 22.
LESSON V. Psalms of Deliverance.	They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.—Ps. 126 : 5.
LESSON VI. Nehemiah's Prayer.	Prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day.—Neh. 1 : 11.
LESSON VII. Rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem.	Watch and pray.—Matt. 26 : 41.
LESSON VIII. Public Reading of the Scriptures.	The ears of all the people were attentive unto the book of the law.—Neh. 8 : 3.
LESSON IX. Woes of Intemperance.	Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.—Prov. 20 : 1.
LESSON X. Keeping the Sabbath.	Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.—Ex. 20 : 8.
LESSON XI. Lessons in Giving.	God loveth a cheerful giver.—2 Cor. 9 : 7.
LESSON XII. Fruits of Right and Wrong Doing.	Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap.—Gal. 6 : 7.
LESSON XIII. Christ's Coming Foretold.	Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.—Luke 2 : 11.
LESSON XIV. Review.	Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.—Ps. 103 : 2.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

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

LESSON I. Joy in God's House.	LESSON VII. Rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem.
LESSON II. Haman's Plot against the Jews.	LESSON VIII. Public Reading of the Scriptures.
LESSON III. Esther Pleading for Her People.	LESSON IX. Woes of Intemperance.
LESSON IV. Ezra's Journey to Jerusalem.	LESSON X. Keeping the Sabbath.
LESSON V. Psalms of Deliverance.	LESSON XI. Lessons in Giving.
LESSON VI. Nehemiah's Prayer.	LESSON XII. The Fruits of Right and Wrong Doing.
LESSON XIII. Christ's Coming Foretold.	

AN ORDER OF SERVICE

For Primary Classes, Fourth Quarter, 1899

I. AT SIGNAL, RISE, AND REPEAT SOFTLY—

We thank Thee for the Sabbath day,
For home and school and friends so dear,
For life and food and clothes to wear,
And all that tells us God is near.

II. OPENING HYMN.

III. RESPONSIVE EXERCISE —

TEACHER—Bless the LORD, O my soul.

CLASS—And all that is within me, bless His holy name.

TEACHER—Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.

IV. COLLECTION.

V. BIRTHDAY OFFERING AND PRAYER.

VI. SUPPLEMENTAL LESSON—Recite Golden Texts for the Quarter, as far as learned; also Psalm 145 : 15, 16.

VII. GESTURE HYMN ; followed by PRAYER HYMN.

VIII. THE LESSON for the Day, with Golden Text, Lesson Hymn, and Catechism

IX. SING LESSON Hymn for Quarter, 513, Book of Praise—

Poor and needy though I be,
God Almighty cares for me ;
Gives me clothing, shelter, food,
Gives me all I have of good.
Then to Him I tune my song,
Happy as the day is long ;
This my joy for ever be,
God Almighty cares for me. Amen.

X. SILENT PRAYER, closing with a few sentences repeated in concert after teacher.

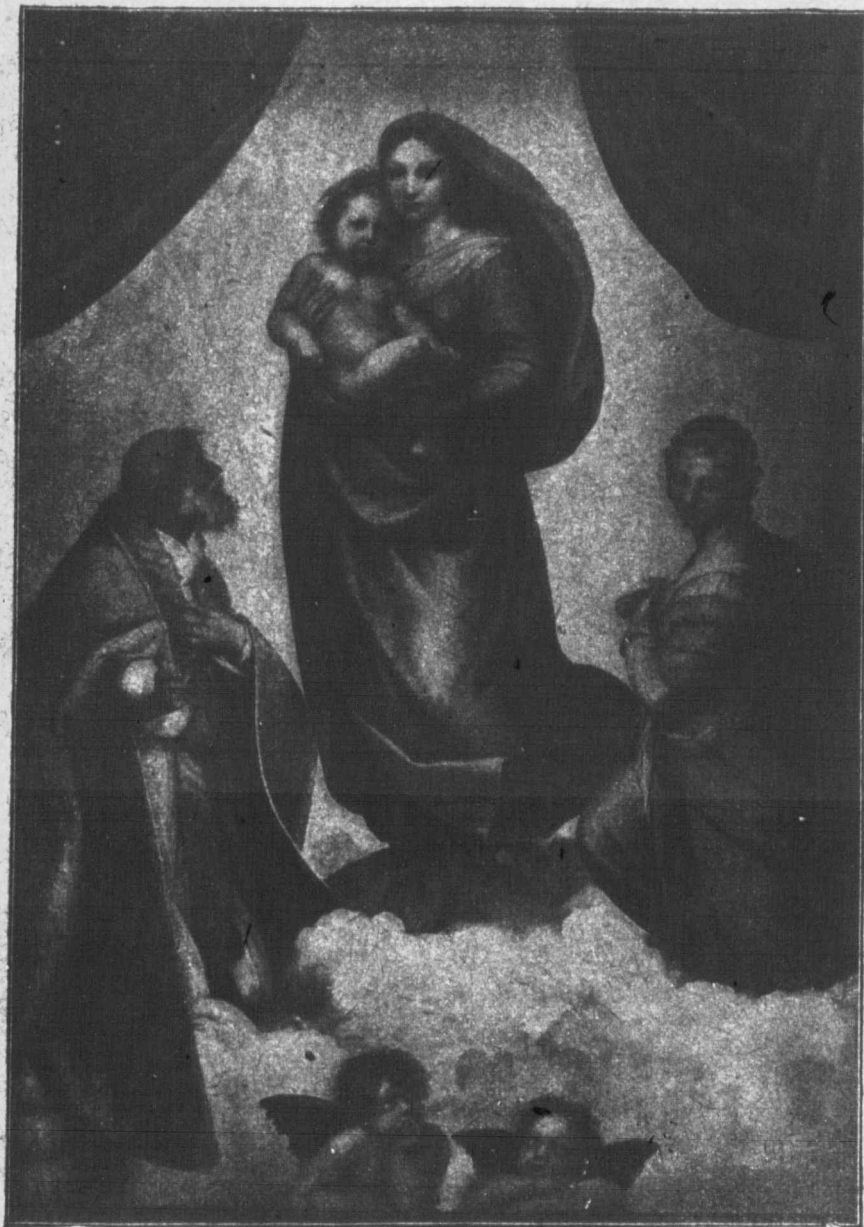
XI. DISMISSAL HYMN.

XII. MIZPAH BENECTION (in concert), "The LORD watch between me and thee when we are absent one from another."

Let papers be distributed as the children pass out.

[No provision is made for Roll Call. The assistant should mark the book as the children enter. Order of service may be simplified by omitting Nos. V., VI., and VII.]

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| 1 Narcissus, Paper White, | 2 Lilium Harrisii, |
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The Primary Quarterly

Vol. IV.

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER, 1899

No. 4

JEWELS is the name of the new paper for the little ones, which is to begin with the first of January, 1900.

OUR JEWELS these darling children are ; no possession more precious or more prized. How beautiful they are and what radiance they shed all around them. Where the little children come, there is light and laughter ; it is summer all the year.

"MY JEWELS" the Father in heaven calls those who love Him ; and did not His own Son say of the babes brought by their mothers to Him for His blessing, "Of such is the kingdom of heaven" ?

OUR JEWELS AND GOD'S ! Shall it not be our care, as it surely is His, that they shall be "kept for the Master's use," kept pure and stainless in this sin-defiled world and polished to the highest lustre. Let us do diligently and joyfully all that a holy example and loving nurture can do, to preserve them from evil now and to fit them for shining like stars in the Redeemer's crown of glory by-and-by.

The Little Ones dearly love what is pretty and bright. God made them so. We shall try not to forget it in arranging the matter for the little paper. We shall seek to make it week by week a jewel casket. It will have the Golden Text—the brightest jewel of all, because it is straight from God's hand—and a story on the Golden Text, and all the dainty bits we can find, and pictures in plenty. And we shall hope to help the parents and the teachers to instil into the hearts of the little ones the beautiful Christ-spirit, so that their lives, even from tender years, may shine with the beauty of Christ-likeness.

When you have finished using this num-

ber, the old year will be almost ended. It has been a prosperous year for the PRIMARY QUARTERLY, which goes now to more than twice as many readers as when the year began. We want to see it or THE PRIMARY LEAFLET, which has the same lesson material, in every home where there are very young children. For eighteen months, beginning with the New Year, we are to study the life of our Lord Jesus. We shall seek to make the study profitable.

To have the details of that matchless life imbedded in the minds of the children, and the very image of the perfect Son of God stamped upon their hearts is the aim.

Our part will be so to reproduce the story of the Gospels that the youngest can understand. We may confidently look to the great Spirit of light and life to apply the truth.

Step by step with the lessons in the life of Jesus, our Church will go forward in the great task to which she has set herself of raising a million dollars for Christ's work in our own and other lands.

This is to be over and above all her ordinary givings, and the children will be eager to have their share in it.

Already, on Children's Day, they have made their first offering.

But they will now begin to plan greater things for next Children's Day. When children make up their minds to get money together, they generally show themselves great financiers.

We love when we give, and the New Century Fund affords a means ready to the hand of all who are anxious to kindle a flame of enthusiasm in the hearts of the little ones for the Heavenly Master and for the work which He expects our Church to do for Him.

The Children's Festival

By Rae Furlands

Christmas is peculiarly the children's festival. When God, who is Love, made a manifestation of that love in the person of Jesus Christ, He gave, and Christ, though King of Kings and Lord of Lords, willingly took, the form of a little child. Certainly it seems fitting that the children should have a prominent place in the plans arranged to commemorate the season of this wonderful birth.

Begin to plan early. When the little folk are anticipating with pleasure the Thanksgiving dinner, both parents and teachers may lead them to think of those less favored than themselves with this world's goods; and if they are allowed to feel a little bit of the joy of giving, they will be the more ready to appreciate something of the thought of the greatest and most wonderful Gift the world has ever had.

Early tell them the Christmas story. I wish I had space to write out Kate Douglas Wiggin's simple and realistic arrangement of it. It is better *told* to little children at first. Later, read it to them from St. Luke's Gospel.

But, after all, it is little the teacher can do compared with the opportunities the father and mother have. And yet, how often are those opportunities missed or misused. Wonderful surprises are planned for the children, but we think they are too little to give, or for anything to be expected of them. A few years later, we wonder that they have grown so selfish and exacting. What else could be expected of such training? Rather let us begin, from the very first, to encourage them to express in tangible form their love for other people. This does not necessarily mean expense. Things which will be beautiful in the eyes of those who love them can be manufactured at home. A picture may be colored with crayons or paints. Two or three little lesson picture cards may be sewn together in the form of a screen, and numerous other things will suggest themselves.

These home-made gifts have a larger edu-

cational influence than bought ones; but if you, dear mother, prefer the latter, let them be bought with careful thought. Do not, I beseech you, swell the number of those who hurry their children, when admiring and deliberating on the large selection before them, with some such remark as "Be quick, I cannot wait here all day; you will have to get something, but it does not matter what. It will be broken before the week is out, but that is no concern of ours." Where is the Christmas spirit—the God spirit which so loved the world—in this? How could a child get any true conception of Christmas with such a preparation? No, let us aim to make the preparation and the season itself such a time of quiet joy that our wee ones will so learn to know and love Jesus, that they will want to please, and to obey Him, and to pray to Him.

At this time, as well as at all others, for the true welfare of the children, it is necessary that parents and teachers work intelligently together. Let the parents visit the school, if possible. Encourage the singing of the hymns at home. Most children will want to sing them over and over, and will repeat the story to their baby brothers and sisters, to their dolls or to themselves.

In selecting the Christmas hymns, let the teacher be careful to take those which tell the story of the birth, or set forth the purpose of Christ's coming. Numbers 519, 520, and 297, and parts of 28 and 30 in our Book of Praise are excellent examples.

In the week-day entertainment which it is usual to have at this season, ever keep before the mind of the individual child that all are working together for the pleasure and happiness of the community. If the children are to entertain the grown folk, endeavour to have them do so collectively, as far as possible. Let mother and teacher do all in their power to prevent the "I can do better than you" spirit, that self-consciousness, which so spoils a child. The best thing to help them into happy ways is the thought of the gentle, Christ Child, who always thought, not of self, but of how to serve others.

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A Look Ahead

The lessons of this quarter close the six years' course of studies in the Holy Scriptures. They belong to the period of the Restoration, when God "turned again the captivity" of His people, and brought them once more into their own land. It was a period of countless blessings, and therefore a time for abundant and joyous thanksgivings. The memory of those bright days was to be an inspiration and uplift to the faithful souls who still kept heart and hope through the long, weary centuries, when wave after wave of calamity broke over the nation, and it seemed as if the promised Messiah would never come. The **GOLDEN TEXT FOR THE QUARTER** strikes the key-note of the lessons:

"BLESS THE LORD, O MY SOUL, AND FORGET NOT ALL HIS BENEFITS."

On each Sabbath of the thirteen we are to consider one of

God's Benefits

1. His House, Psalm 122.
2. Help in trouble, Esther 3: 1-11.
3. His presence in peril, Esther 8: 3-8; 15-17.
4. Guidance in perplexity, Ezra 8: 21-32.
5. Deliverance from bondage, Ps. 85, 126.
6. The privilege of prayer, Nehemiah 1: 1-11.
7. Protection from enemies, Nehemiah 4: 7-18.
8. His Holy word, Nehemiah 8: 1-12.
9. Warnings against sin, Proverbs 23: 29-35.
10. The Sabbath Day, Nehemiah 13: 15-22.
11. The opportunity to give, Malachi 1: 6-11; 3: 8-12.
12. Promises of good, Malachi 3: 13-4: 6.
13. The Wonderful Saviour, Isaiah 9: 2-7.
14. REVIEW—All God's Benefits.

Prayer Hymn

[To be sung with hands folded and in low and reverent tones.]

Thou by whom the birds are fed,
Give to me my daily bread;
And Thy Holy Spirit give,
Without whom I cannot live.

Make me, Lord, obedient, mild,
As becomes a little child;
All day long, in every way,
Teach me what to do and say.

JOY IN GOD'S HOUSE

Lesson I.

Psalm 122—Memory Verses, 6-9

October 1, 1899.

1 I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.

2 Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jeru'salem.

3 Jeru'salem is builded as a city that is compact together :

4 Whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, unto the testimony of Is'rael, to give thanks unto the name of the LORD.

5 For there are set thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of Da'vid.

6 Pray for the peace of Jeru'salem : they shall prosper that love thee.

7 Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces.

8 For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will now say, Peace be within thee.

9 Because of the house of the LORD our God I will seek thy good.

THE LESSON RETOLD

The Jews had one great Church. It was at Jerusalem, and was called the Temple.

Now, all the people could not live at Jerusalem. Many of the priests and rulers and judges lived there, but most of the people lived far away in the other cities and towns and in the villages.

The Temple was built on Mount Zion, and because it stood so high, its shining roof could be seen far off when the day was sunny and clear.

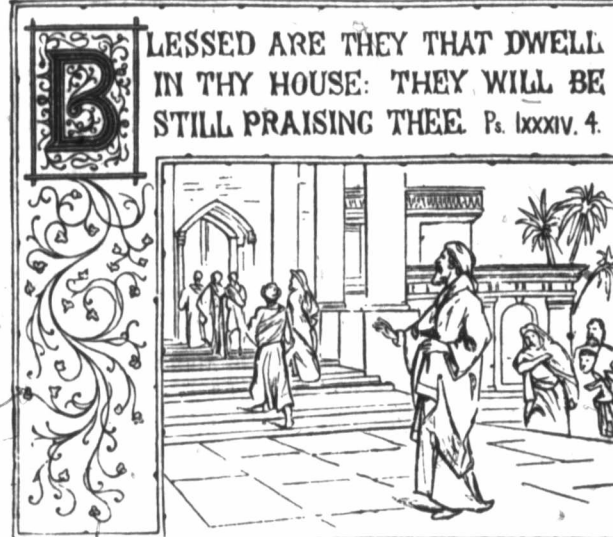
one village would start out and walk together. Soon they would meet people from other towns, all going to the same place in a long procession.

The Jews felt very happy at such times, and would talk to each other about where they were going, and what a beautiful city Jerusalem was. "Why," they would say, "it is the joy of the whole earth."

Sometimes the journey would take several days, and at night the people would camp near some well or other pleasant place. There they would sing about Jerusalem, their beloved city and all its glory.

The name of the Jews' hymn-book was The Psalms. It was a very old book, and very heavy to carry. You know books were not printed in those days, but were written on white parchment, made of sheepskin, and were rolled up on wooden rollers. The Psalm - book was heavy, as it contained one hundred and fifty psalms.

Someone made a smaller book for using when they were away from home. It was called the traveller's hymn-book (Songs of Degrees).



It was only the very rich people who could drive or ride on horse-back to church, and the road to Jerusalem was long and very hilly.

But nothing could keep a good Jew from worshipping God at least three times every year in His own house, so all the people in

The verses were short, and everybody knew the tunes.

There was one that they always sang when they got quite near the city and could see the people crowding through the gates. It is the lesson for to-day and begins :

"I was glad when they said unto me,
Let us go into the house of the Lord."
It should always be a joy to us to go to

God's house, because He has promised to
meet His people there. He delights to hear
our songs and our prayers.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What was the name of the great Jewish Church? Ans.—The Temple. 2. Where was the Temple? Ans.—At Jerusalem. 3. How did the people go to church? Ans.—Most of them walked. 4. What did they do on the road? Ans.—They sang hymns. 5. What was the name of their hymn-book? Ans.—The Psalms. 6. Was it a large or small book? Ans.—A very large book. 7. How many Psalms were there in the book? Ans.—One hundred and fifty. 8. Where are the Psalms now? Ans.—They are part of our Bible. 9. Did the Jews like to go up to Jerusalem? Ans.—Yes. 10. Why were

they glad? Ans.—Partly because they could see all their friends there. 11. What else made them glad to go? Ans.—Because God's house was there. 12. What did the people do at the Temple? Ans.—They worshipped God and gave thanks to Him. 13. For what did they thank him? Ans.—For happy homes and for all his kindness to them. 14. What is the Golden Text? Ans.—"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." 15. Why should we be glad to go to God's house? Ans.—Because He has promised to meet His people there and delights to hear them.

Sammy's Book.

Sammy Anderson did not like going to church. When he was a very little fellow he said he was afraid of the tower falling on him, but the real reason was that he did not like Sunday clothes.

His mother was puzzled to know what to do about it, but one Saturday the postman brought a parcel for "Master Sammy Anderson." It was a lovely picture-book, full of color from Aunt Jessie.

The story was about little Samuel.

"Why, that's my name," said Sammy. "What kind of a fellow was little Samuel?"

So his mother read all about him; how the little boy lived in the church—it was a tabernacle or tent then—and helped old Eli, the priest who took care of it, to trim the lamps, and how, though he could see his

mother only once a year, yet he never cried. He always wore the little coat that she made him. That helped to keep him from getting homesick.

Then, one day, when all his work was done, he heard God calling his name, and he was there to answer right at once.

There was a picture of the little coat, too. It was blue and white, just like Sammy's new one.

The next day when mother was getting ready for church, Sammy said, "Mother, I don't really suppose that tower would hurt me, I mean not if I had on my 'Samuel coat.' And perhaps sometime God might call my name too, and maybe I had better be there—don't you think so, mother?"

I HAVE LEARNED TO-DAY THAT

I Should Love God's House

Golden Text—I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.—Ps. 122 : 1.

* Catechism - 49. How long did Jesus remain on earth after he rose from the dead? Jesus remained forty days on earth after His resurrection.

Lesson Hymn

How lovely is thy dwelling-place,
O Lord of hosts to me!
The tabernacles of thy grace
How pleasant, Lord, they be.
Amen.

—Psalm Selection 57, Book of Praise.

* The questions are taken from Carson's Primary Catechism by courtesy of the publishers, Messrs. A. & W. Mackinlay, Halifax, N.S.

Miss Violet Robinson

Miss Violet Robinson

*no John don't
nottles*

HAMAN'S PLOT AGAINST THE JEWS

Lesson 11.

Esther 3: 1-11—Memory Verses, 5, 6

October 8, 1899

1 After these things did king Ahasue'rus promote Ha'man the son of Hammeda'tha the A'gagite, and advanced him, and set his seat above all the princes that *were* with him.

2 And all the king's servants, that *were* in the king's gate, bowed, and revered Ha'man: for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mor'decai bowed not, nor did *him* reverence.

3 Then the king's servants, which *were* in the king's gate, said unto Mor'decai, Why transgressesst thou the king's commandment?

4 Now it came to pass, when they spake daily unto him, and he hearkened not unto them, that they told Ha'man, to see whether Mor'decai's matters would stand: for he had told them that he *was* a Jew.

5 And when Ha'man saw that Mor'decai bowed not, nor did him reverence, then was Ha'man full of wrath.

6 And he thought scorn to lay hands on Mor'decai alone; for they had shewed him the people of Mor'decai: wherefore Ha'man sought to destroy all the Jews that *were* throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasue'rus,

even the people of Mor'decai.

7 In the first month, that *is*, the month Ni'san, in the twelfth year of king Ahasue'rus, they cast Pur, that *is*, the lot, before Ha'man from day to day, and from month to month, to the twelfth month, that *is*, the month A'dar.

8 And Ha'man said unto king Ahasue'rus, There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of thy kingdom; and their laws *are* diverse from all people; neither keep they the king's laws: therefore it *is* not for the king's profit to suffer them.

9 If it please the king, let it be written that they may be destroyed: and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver to the hands of those that have the charge of the business, to bring *it* into the king's treasuries.

10 And the king took his ring from his hand, and gave it unto Ha'man the son of Hammeda'tha the A'gagite, the Jews' enemy.

11 And the king said unto Ha'man, The silver *is* given to thee, the people also, to do with them as it seemeth good to thee.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Though many of the Jews had gone home to Jerusalem some were still left behind in Persia, where they had lived so long.

One of these was Mordecai. He was serv-



ant to the great heathen king Ahasuerus, and had once saved the king's life.

The king wrote in a book what Mordecai had done and then forgot all about him.

After this Ahasuerus chose a heathen prince called Haman to rule over his servants. The king said that everybody must obey Haman and kneel down to him as if he were a god.

Of course Mordecai could not do so, because he was a Jew and a servant of the true God.

At first Haman did not notice him. But all the other servants kept saying to Mordecai, "Are you not afraid to disobey the king? You will surely suffer for it."

After a while they told Haman about Mordecai and the prince was so very angry that he said to himself, "I will not only kill Mordecai but all his relations, even all the Jews of the country."

But he could not do such a dreadful thing without the king's leave. So he made up a story and said to the king, "I'm afraid you don't know it, but there are some people living in your country that it is not safe for you to let alone. They have such bad laws

See Lesson 1

that they will do a great deal of harm and they are always disobeying you. Perhaps you could write a letter saying that they must be killed."

Then Haman opened his purse and showed the king how much money he himself was willing to give. It was more than ten million dollars.

The king said to Haman, "Punish these people anyway you wish, and use my money for the work—as much as you need."

To show that he trusted him the king gave Haman his seal-ring, so that he could sign the king's name as often as he liked.

Then Haman went away to make his wicked plans and to write his letters.

See Lesson 1

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Had all the Jews returned to Jerusalem? Ans.—No. Some still lived in heathen Persia. 2. What did the king say everybody must do? Ans.—Everybody must bow down to Prince Haman. 3. Who would not do so? Ans.—Mordecai, the Jew. 4. Why? Ans.—Because it would be displeasing to God. 5.

What punishment did Haman get ready for Mordecai? Ans.—He got the King to say that all the Jews must be killed. 6. Had they done wrong? Ans.—No. 7. Who was taking care of the Jews? Ans.—God. 8. What is the Golden Text? Ans.—"If God be for us, who can be against us?"

Obedying Orders

See Lesson 1

An English farmer saw a party of huntsmen riding about his farm. He set a boy to shut the gate, and not to open it for anyone. The huntsmen came up and ordered the boy to open it. This he refused to do. He said his master had told him not to open the gate and he intended to obey him. After a while one of the huntsmen came up and said commandingly:

"My boy, do you know me? I am the Duke of Wellington, and I command you to

open the gate."

The boy lifted his cap, but answered firmly, "I am sure the Duke of Wellington would not wish me to disobey orders. I must keep this gate shut; no one is to pass through, but with my master's permission."

Greatly pleased, the honest old soldier lifted his hat as he replied, "I honour the man or boy who cannot be frightened into doing wrong. With an army of such soldiers I could conquer the world."



See Lesson 1

I HAVE LEARNED TO-DAY THAT

God is my shield



Golden Text—If God be for us, who can be against us?—Rom. 8 : 31.



Catechism—50. What did Jesus do during the forty days after his resurrection? He came to His disciples at different times to comfort and teach them.

Lesson Hymn

THE morning bright with rosy light
Has waked me up from sleep;
Father, I own Thy love alone
Thy little one doth keep.
All through the day, I humbly pray,
Be Thou my guard and guide;
My sins forgive, and let me live,
Blest Jesus, near Thy side. Amen.

—Hymn 509, Book of Praise.

ESTHER PLEADING FOR HER PEOPLE

Lesson III.

Esther 8 : 3-8 and 15-17—Memory Verses, 15-17

October 15, 1899

3 And Es'ther spake yet again before the king, and fell down at his feet, and besought him with tears to put away the mischief of Ha'man the A'gagite, and his device that he had devised against the Jews.

4 Then the king held out the golden sceptre toward Es'ther. So Es'ther arose, and stood before the king,

5 And said, If it please the king, and if I have found favour in his sight, and the thing seem right before the king, and I be pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to reverse the letters devised by Ha'man the son of Hammeda'tha the A'gagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews which are in all the king's provinces :

6 For how can I endure to see the evil that shall come unto my people? or how can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred?

7 Then the king Ahasue'rus said unto Es'ther the queen and to Mor'decai the Jew,

Behold, I have given Es'ther the house of Ha'man, and him they have hanged upon the gallows, because he laid his hand upon the Jews.

8 Write ye also for the Jews, as it liketh you, in the king's name, and seal it with the king's ring : for the writing which is written in the king's name, and sealed with the king's ring, may no man reverse.

15 And Mor'decai went out from the presence of the king in royal apparel of blue and white, and with a great crown of gold, and with a garment of fine linen and purple : and the city of Shu'shan rejoiced and was glad.

16 The Jews had light, and gladness, and joy, and honour.

17 And in every province, and in every city, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a good day. And many of the people of the land became Jews ; for the fear of the Jews fell upon them.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Mordecai had taken care of a little girl whose parents were dead. She was his cousin, and her name was Hadassah. When she grew up she was so beautiful that the king chose her to be queen, but he did not know she was a Jew. Her new name was Queen Esther.

When Mordecai heard of Haman's wicked plan to kill all the Jews, he and his friends were in such trouble that they could eat nothing, but went crying and mourning with ashes on their heads.

Then Mordecai sent Queen Esther a message

—“ You must *see Benoni* and get the king to change his mind.” Then Esther said, “ Tell all the Jews to gather together and pray, and I and my maidens will pray for three days. Then I will go and speak to the king.”

Now there was a law that whoever went into the king's presence without being invited should be put to death.

Esther knew that she was doing a dangerous thing, but to serve her people she went in dressed in her most beautiful clothes.

When the king saw her standing in the room, he was pleased and held out his golden sceptre to show her that she might stay. Then he asked Esther what she wanted. But the queen did not tell him at once. She invited him and Haman to a dinner, and invited them again next day ; and the second day at the table she showed the king the meaning of Haman's plans.

The king was so angry at Haman that he ordered him to be hanged and his place given to Esther's cousin Mordecai, the Jew. The king then gave Mordecai his ring and told him to write letters saying that the king's mind was changed, and that no harm must fall upon God's people.



So Mordecai came out of the king's palace dressed in the king's colors—blue and white and purple—and wearing a great gold crown on his head.

How glad the Jews were! In every city

there was feasting and laughing and a great holiday, and what Esther had done was written in the Bible so that everyone could remember how good and brave she was, and how God kept her when she did her duty.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. When Mordecai heard of Haman's plans what did he do? Ans.—He sent a message to Queen Esther. 2. Who was Esther? Ans.—She was a Jew and Mordecai's cousin. 2. What did he want her to do? Ans.—To beg the king to change his mind. 4. What did Esther say? Ans.—“I will, if all the Jews will pray for me.” 5. Was it a safe thing to

go to the king without an invitation? Ans.—No. 6. Was the king pleased to see Esther? Ans.—Yes, he held out his golden sceptre. 7. What did Esther ask the king? Ans.—To save her people and punish Haman. 8. Did the king do so? Ans.—Yes, and he gave Haman's place to Mordecai. 9. How did the Jews feel? Ans.—Very happy and glad.

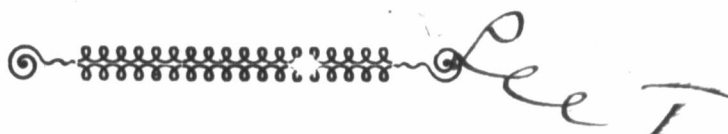
Brave Arthur

When Arthur Stanley was a very little boy he was sent away to live at Rugby school. The first night, when bed-time came and all the boys in his room were getting ready for bed, he saw first one boy and then another duck under the covers without saying his prayers. At last his friend Tom did the same.

“Don't you say your prayers?” he asked of Tom. “Blake won't let us.” “I shall,” said the new boy. “Better not,” said Tom, though half hoping he would try it for the sake of the fun. Most of the boys were in

bed when the new boy was ready to knelt. It was a moment before the others knew what he was doing. Then boots, pillows and all sorts of things came flying at him.

Arthur knelt in spite of all. The next night he knelt again. This time they were watching and made it even harder for him. By-and-bye, however, the teasing stopped. Then Tom knelt too, and soon another boy, and another. Before Arthur Stanley left Rugby, every boy in the school knelt to say his prayers.



I HAVE LEARNED TO-DAY THAT

I Should Tell Everything to God



Golden Text—Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.—Ps. 37: 5.

Catechism—51. What happened at the end of forty days? After forty days Jesus went up to heaven.

52. What is Jesus now doing for us in heaven? He intercedes for us, and He rules over all things for our good.

Lesson Hymn

HAVE we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful,
Who'll all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Amen.
—Hymn 204, Book of Praise.

EZRA'S JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM

Lesson IV.

Ezra 8 : 21-32—Memory Verses, 21-23

October 22, 1899

21 Then I proclaimed a fast there at the river of Aha'va, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance.

22 For I was ashamed to require of the king a band of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy in the way : because we had spoken unto the king, saying, The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him ; but his power and his wrath is against all them that forsake him.

23 So we fasted and besought our God for this : and he was intreated of us.

24 Then I separated twelve of the chief of the priests, Sherebi'ah, Hashabi'ah, and ten of their brethren with them,

25 And weighed unto them the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, *even* the offering of the house of our God, which the king, and his counsellors, and his lords, and all Is'rael *there* present, had offered ;

26 ~~I~~ even weighed unto their hand six hundred and fifty talents of silver, and silver vessels an hundred talents, and of gold an

hundred talents ;

27 Also twenty basons of gold, of a thousand drams ; and two vessels 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

There was a good man among the Jews at Babylon, called Ezra, who taught the people and wrote out God's laws in a book. He was called a scribe, and what he wrote is part of the Bible.

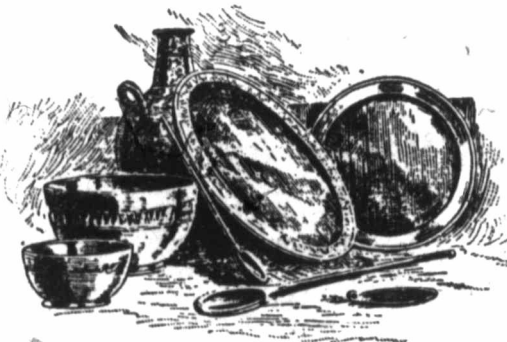
At Jerusalem the Jews were in trouble. Their enemies were too strong for them, and

But he had to get the king's leave first.

The king was willing to help and gave him money and power to act as a judge. He said, too, that any of the Jews who wished might go with Ezra, and a great many singers and priests and workers of all kinds offered to go.

When all were ready, they met beside the River Ahava and had a great prayer meeting. They knew that the desert was full of wild beasts and robbers who might steal their money and goods on the way. Some one said, "Perhaps we had better ask the king for soldiers to take care of us." But Ezra said, "I would be ashamed to do so ! Surely the king would think our God was not strong enough to fight for us. We will trust in Him." So, after they had prayed, Ezra took the money and the Temple cups and basins and tied them up in twelve parcels. Then he called twelve priests, giving each of them a bundle to care for, and told them not to open them until they came to God's house at Jerusalem.

At last they started ; the women and little



Offerings of Gold and Silver

they were beginning to act like the heathen themselves. Ezra made up his mind to go as a missionary to Jerusalem and teach the people God's law.

children riding on camels and donkeys, while the men walked. It took the procession four months to reach the city. Then Ezra wrote in his book the story of the journey. On one page he says that God was with them and kept them so safely that even the wild beasts and robbers were afraid when they saw them.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Who was Ezra? Ans.—A writer of God's laws. 2. What did he want to do? Ans.—To go to Jerusalem as a missionary. 3. Who gave him money and leave? Ans.—The heathen king. 4. In what condition was Jerusalem? Ans.—In a wicked condition. 5. Who went to help Ezra? Ans.—Singers and priests and other workers. 6. What did they do before starting? Ans.—They prayed to God to take care of them. 7. Why did they need to be taken care of? Ans.—The desert was full of wild beasts and robbers. 8. Did God take care of them? Ans.—Yes. 9. How do we know? Ans.—Because Ezra says so in his book, and they all got to Jerusalem safely.

My Papa

Little Mary was afraid to go upstairs in the dark. Her brother had told her that a great black wolf was watching for her on the landing.

Father was sitting on the back verandah and Mary wanted to give him the drawings she had made in the afternoon; but, alas! they were upstairs and there was no way of getting there except to pass the terrible wolf. At last she said, "Papa, when are you going upstairs?" "What for?" said Papa. "Oh, nothing, I thought you might

be going up. How do wolves get in, Papa?" "What wolves?" he asked, and Mary told what Ted had said. "Come," said her father, "we'll see about this." Some way it didn't seem so dark now, and holding his hand very tight, she started up the stairs. Yes, there was something breathing. It seemed to be drawing back and trying to look smaller. Then Mary burst out laughing. It was only Ted who, when he saw Papa, forgot to growl or bite. Mary felt safe because her papa was by her.



I HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY THAT

God is my Guide



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

Catechism—53. 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.

54. 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.

Lesson Hymn

COURAGE, brother! do not stumble,
Though thy path be dark as night;
There's a star to guide the humble—
"Trust in God and do the right."

Some will hate thee, some will love thee,
Some will flatter, some will slight;
Cease from man, and look above thee,—
"Trust in God and do the right."

Amen.

—Hymn 275, Book of Praise.

PSALMS OF DELIVERANCE

Lesson V.

Psalms 85 and 126—Memory Verses, Psalm 126

October 29, 1899

1 LORD, thou hast been favourable unto thy land: thou hast brought back the captivity of Ja'cob.

2. Thou hast forgiven the iniquity of thy people, thou hast covered all their sin. Selah.

3 Thou hast taken away all thy wrath: thou hast turned *thyself* from the fierceness of thine anger

4 Turn us, O God of our salvation, and cause thine anger toward us to cease.

5 Wilt thou be angry with us for ever? wilt thou draw out thine anger to all generations?

6 Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?

7 Shew us thy mercy, O LORD, and grant us thy salvation.

8 I will hear what God the LORD will speak: for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints: but let them not turn again to folly.

9 Surely his salvation is nigh them that fear him; that glory may dwell in our land.

10 Mercy and truth are met together;

righteousness and peace have kissed *each other*.

11 Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

12 Yea, the LORD shall give *that which is good*; and our land shall yield her increase.

13 Righteousness shall go before him; and shall set us in the way of his steps.

Ps. 126: 1 When the LORD turned again the captivity of Zi'on, we were like them that dream.

2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The LORD hath done great things for them.

3 The LORD hath done great things for us; *whereof we are glad*.

4 Turn again our captivity, O LORD, as the streams in the south.

5 They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.

6 He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves *with him*.

THE LESSON RETOLD

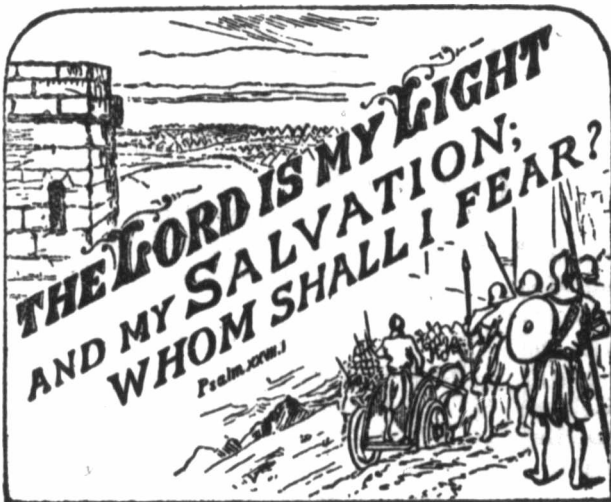
See Lesson 1

When God allowed his people to come back from heathen Babylon to their own city of Jerusalem, they were so glad that they laughed and shouted and sang.

In Babylon they had been too unhappy to sing. They were slaves, and though the heathen sometimes said, when they saw the people crying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion," they always answered, "We cannot

sing the Lord's songs in a strange land. Now they were safe home at last, and because they were so happy they could not help singing.

The psalm in to-day's lesson was sung by all the people in the Temple. While they sang the bands played, and soon everybody was shouting praises and thanks to God for all His goodness.



There was a prayer in the song too. It was that God would keep his people from grieving Him any more, and that He would always stay near them to give them peaceful, happy homes and true hearts.

There was another hymn, too, all about coming home. The chorus was, "The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad." Oh, how heartily the people sang it. They had been slaves and now were free once more.

God was pleased to hear the people singing these old psalms so long ago, and His people often sing them now, because there are no other hymns more beautiful, or so good to learn.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. When the Jews got home from Babylon, how did they feel? Ans.—Very glad and happy. 2. How did they show it? Ans.—They began to sing. 3. What did they sing? Ans.—Psalms. 4. Did they sing much in Babylon? Ans.—No. they were too unhappy. 5. At what place in Jerusalem did they meet for singing? Ans.—At the Temple. 6. What did they sing about? Ans.—

About God's goodness in bringing them home. 7. Did they ask God for anything? Ans.—Yes, that He would help them to please Him. 8. Was God pleased to hear the singing? Ans.—Yes. 9. What was the chorus of one of the psalms? Ans.—“The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad.” 10. Golden Text? Answer. “They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.”

A Piece of Gold

A little bit of gold was once lying hid in the earth. It had lain hid so long that it thought it would never be used, and it said to itself, “Why do I lie here? Why am I not picked up, that men may see me shine?”

One day a man dug it up, looked at it, and said, “There is some gold in this lump; but I cannot use it as it is; I must take it to the refiner.” When the refiner got it, he threw it into a melting-pot. As soon as the little piece of gold felt the heat, it began to tremble and cried, “I wish that I had lain quiet in the earth.”

But the fire grew hotter and hotter, and at

last the gold melted and left the earthy part of the lump by itself.

“Now,” said the gold, “my troubles are over; now I shall shine.”

But its troubles were not over yet. The man took it once more and began to hammer it into shape. “Ah,” said the gold, “what a trouble it is to be gold, if I had been common earth I should not have been put to all this pain.” “That is true,” said the man, but you could never have become what you are now. Then the piece of gold looked at itself in the glass—it was a shining gold ring for a queen's finger.



I HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY THAT

I Should be Glad in the Lord



Golden Text—They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. Ps. 126: 5.

Catechism—55. 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.

Lesson Hymn

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

—Hymn 17, Book of Praise.

NEHEMIAH'S PRAYER

Lesson VI.

Nehemiah 1 : 1-11—Memory Verses, 8-10

November 5, 1899

1 The words of Nehemi'ah the son of Hachali'ah. And it came to pass in the month Chis'leu, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shu'shan the palace,

2 That Hana'ni, one of my brethren, came, he and certain men of Ju'dah; and I asked them concerning the Jews that had escaped, which were left of the captivity, and concerning Jeru'salem.

3 And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jeru'salem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire.

4 And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven,

5 And said, I beseech thee, O LORD God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keepeth covenant and mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments:

6 Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of Is'rael thy servants, and confess the sins of

the children of Is'rael, which we have sinned against thee: both I and my father's house have sinned.

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

8 Remember, I beseech thee, the word that thou commandedst 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 they 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

Nehemiah was the name of a young Jew who lived at the palace and waited on the great heathen king Artaxerxes. His duty



From a Photograph.

Assyrian King and Cupbearer.

was to give the king his wine, so he was called the king's cupbearer.

The king thought a great deal of Nehemi-

ah because he knew he could trust him.

One day the young man was in the palace when some travellers came in. They were tired looking, as if they had come a long distance. Nehemiah knew at once that they were Jews by the way they talked. He soon learned that they were come from Jerusalem. One of the men turned out to be related to Nehemiah, who asked, "How were things getting on at Jerusalem when you left?"

Then the travellers began to tell how everything was in a bad state. The city walls had been broken down by the heathen and the gates set on fire. The Jews themselves were very unhappy, for their heathen neighbours laughed and mocked at them.

Nehemiah felt very sad when he heard about the troubles of his own people, for he knew it was all because they had disobeyed God. He thought a great deal about what he had heard. Every day he prayed to God to forgive the sins of his people. He also found the places in the Bible where God had

promised to make the Jews a strong nation, and he kept saying these promises over and over to himself while he did his work.

All the time he was waiting on the king he was wondering if it would be any use for him to go to Jerusalem to warn the people. He knew that the king might be angry if he were to speak of leaving him, for he would

be missed, and good cupbearers were not easy to get. They needed to be men who could be trusted or else some one might put poison into the king's wine.

Then Nehemiah prayed that God would make the king willing to help him, and God answered his prayer.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Who was Nehemiah? Ans.—A young Jew who waited on the king. 2. What kind of a servant was he? Ans.—A good and faithful servant. 3. Who came in one day while he was in the palace? Ans.—Some travellers from Jerusalem. 4. What did they tell Nehemiah about that city? Ans.—That the wall was broken down, and that the Jews were very unhappy. 5. How did this news make Nehemiah feel? Ans.—It troubled him greatly. 6. What did he do

about it? Ans.—He prayed to God. 7. What did he pray? Ans.—That God would forgive the sins of His people. 8. What did he think he would do himself? Ans.—He wanted to go to Jerusalem. 9. Why could he not go? Ans.—He was afraid the king would not spare him. 10. What did he do before speaking to the king? Ans.—He asked God to help him. 11. What is the Golden Text? Ans.—“Prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day.”

It Isn't Far to Jesus

It isn't far to Jesus;
If you only knew how near,
You would reach Him in a moment,
And banish all your fear.

He is standing close beside you,
If only you could see,
And is saying, could you hear Him,
“Let the children come to Me!”

For you know He never changes,
As your little friends do here,
He is always kind and ready,
Both to comfort and to cheer.

And the very best about it
He's always close at hand,
And will always listen to you,
And always understand.



I HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY THAT

God Always Hears Prayer



Golden Text—Prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day. Neh. 1: 11.

Lesson Hymn

Catechism—56. When did the Holy Spirit come? The Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost, ten days after Jesus went to heaven.

REST of the weary,
Joy of the sad,
Hope of the dreary
Light of the glad,
Home of the stranger,
Strength to the end,
Refuge from danger,
Savior and Friend. Amen.
—Hymn 95, Book of Praise.

REBUILDING THE WALLS OF JERUSALEM

Lesson VII.

Nehemiah 4 : 7-18—Memory Verses, 15-18

November 12, 1899

7 But it came to pass, *that* when Sanbal'lat 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 And it came to pass from that time forth, *that* the half of my servants wrought in the work, and the other half of them held both the spears, the shields, and the bows, and the habergeons ; 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.

THE LESSON RETOLD

When Nehemiah had prayed to God, he told the king his trouble and asked leave to go to Jerusalem. After making him promise to come back, the king allowed him to go, and gave him money and letters to those who could help him.

Now, there were living near Jerusalem two heathen rulers named Sanballat and Tobiah, who had done the Jews a great deal of mischief. When they heard that Nehemiah had come to mend the wall and build up the city, they were very angry and did everything they could to frighten him.

But Nehemiah called the Jews together, and began the work, though their enemies watched them and tried to break in when they were not looking.

Then Nehemiah planned that, whilst half the builders worked, the other half would keep Sanballat and his soldiers away with swords and spears and bows.

As they worked and fought, they prayed ; so that soon the wall was half done.

Then the people began to get tired.

But Nehemiah said, "Remember God is with us, and



go on fighting for your city, and your wives and your little ones."

Every day the walls grew higher and higher. Everybody mended the holes nearest his own house, but they had to build with one hand, for in the other was a sword or spear to fight with. They worked very

hard from sunrise until the stars came out, and they slept close to their work, so that no harm could come to it in the night.

At last the wall was finished and, when the heathen saw it, they were much ashamed, for they knew that God was with His people and had answered their prayers.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What did Nehemiah do after he had prayed to God? Ans.—He told the King.
2. What did the king do? Ans.—He gave Nehemiah leave to go to Jerusalem and begin to mend the wall and build the city.
3. Who tried to stop the work? Ans.—Two heathen princes. 4. Which won? Ans.—Nehemiah and the Jews. 5. Why? Ans.—Because God was with them. 6. How did

they work? Ans.—With a sword in one hand and a tool in the other. 7. Did they take any holidays? Ans.—No; they worked all day and watched all night. 8. Was it easy? Ans.—No. The people were often ready to give up. 9. Who cheered them on? Ans.—Nehemiah. 10. What is the Golden Text? Ans.—"Watch and pray."

Katy's Prayer

"Oh, please mend the necklace," prayed poor little Katy on her knees by the sofa. Then she opened her eyes and looked round to see if the chain was mended. No; the gold beads lay scattered over the floor just where the string broke, and she prayed again and again. She looked round, but the necklace was broken as before.

Then the poor little girl prayed once more, "Oh, please mend it! If You don't mother will know I have been in her drawer again, after she told me not to. Please make it whole. Amen." Again she looked. But it was broken as before.

At that moment Katy's mother came into the room. "What ails my little girl?" she said. "Why, Katy, how did the necklace

come here?" "But I prayed about it," said Katy, sobbing. "I prayed three times. Why didn't God mend it? You said He would answer prayers."

"My dear child," said her mother, "we cannot expect God to do what we can do for ourselves, nor to cover up our wicked acts when we do wrong. Come, bring the work-basket, and while I thread this needle get down and pick up every bead on the carpet." When Katy had found them all she strung them on mother's thread, and though it took a very long time, the chain at last was almost as good as ever.

So Katy's prayer was answered, and she saw how naughty she had been to disobey her mother.

I HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY THAT

I Should Watch and Pray

Golden Text.—Watch and pray.—Matt. 26 : 41.

Catechism—57. What did the Holy Spirit do on the day of Pentecost? On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit led a great many people to see that they were sinners and to trust in Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Lesson Hymn

FIERCE may be the conflict,
Strong may be the foe,
But the King's own army
None can overthrow.
Round His standard ranging,
Victory is secure;
For His truth unchanging
Makes the triumph sure.

Amen.

—Hymn 254, Book of Praise.

PUBLIC READING OF THE SCRIPTURES

Lesson VIII.

Nehemiah 8 : 1-12—Memory Verses, 1-3

November 19, 1899

1 And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was before the water gate ; and they spake unto Ez'ra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Mo'ses, which the LORD had commanded to Is'rael.

2 And Ez'ra the priest brought the law before the congregation both of men and women, and all that could hear with understanding, upon the first day of the seventh month.

3 And he read therein before the street that was before the water gate from the morning until midday, before the men and the women, and those that could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive unto the book of the law.

4 And Ez'ra the scribe stood upon a pulpit of wood, which they had made for the purpose ; and beside him stood Mattithi'ah, and She'ma, and Anai'ah, and Uri'jah, and Hilki'ah, and Maasei'ah, on his right hand; and on his left hand, Pedai'ah, and Misha'el, and Malchi'ah, and Ha'shum, and Hashbada'na, Zechar'iah, and Meshul'lam.

5 And Ez'ra opened the book in the sight of all the people ; (for he was above all the people;) and when he opened it, all the people stood up :

6 And Ez'ra blessed the LORD, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands : and they

bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

7 Also Jesh'ua, and Ba'ni, and Sherebi'ah, Ja'min, Ak'kub, Shabbetha'i, Hodi'jah, Maasei'ah, Keli'ta, Azari'ah, Joz'abad, Hanan, Pelai'ah, and the Levi'tes, caused the people to understand the law : and the people stood in their place.

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 Nehemi'ah, which is the Tirsha'tha, add Ez'ra 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.

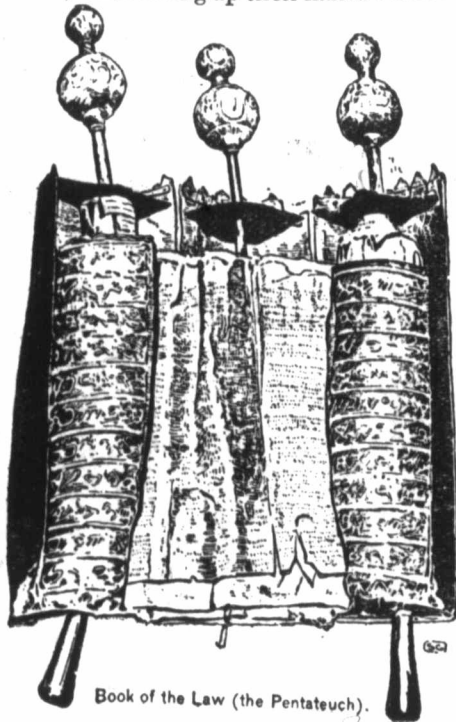
12 And all the people went their way to eat, and to drink, and to send portions, and to make great mirth, because they had understood the words that were declared unto them.

THE LESSON REVIEW

All the time the builders were mending the wall, Ezra the scribe was busy studying and copying out in writing the law given by God to Moses. His book, you will remember, was written on a large piece of parchment made of sheepskin and then rolled up.

At this time there were not many books, and very few persons could read, but everyone was anxious to hear what Ezra had written. So, the week after the wall was finished and when the people were well rested, Ezra invited them to meet early one morning in front of the Water gate to hear the word of the Lord. They built a high pulpit in the street, and Ezra stood up where everybody could see and hear him.

As soon as he unrolled the book, they all stood up, men and women and children. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, and the people shouted "Amen ! Amen !" and bowed their heads.



Book of the Law (the Pentateuch).

There were standing beside Ezra some priests and teachers who explained the hard words so that the children could understand what was meant. The people were very still and tried to catch every word.

When Ezra came to the Commandments, the people began to mourn and to weep, for they knew that they had not obeyed them as they should have done. But Nehemiah and Ezra, when they saw the people weeping,

said that God had forgiven their sins, and told them to stop crying and get ready for a great thanksgiving holiday.

Then Nehemiah showed them one way to be truly happy. He said, "Send some of your good things to those who have none;" and all the people went home to eat and to drink and to send presents, and to enjoy themselves, because they had understood what had been read from God's book.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Who was Ezra? Ans.—A scribe who wrote out God's law. 2. When did he read it to the people? Ans.—A week after the wall was finished. 3. Where did they make a pulpit? Ans.—In the street. 4. Who told the meaning of the hard words? Ans.—The priests and teachers. 5. How did the people listen? Ans.—Very quietly. 6. What happened when Ezra read the Commandments? Ans.—The people began to cry. 7. Why?

Ans.—They had disobeyed the Commandments. 8. What did Nehemiah and Ezra say to them? Ans.—To stop crying, for God had forgiven them. 9. What did Nehemiah say was one way of having a good time? Ans.—To help others to be happy. 10. What did they all do to show that they were glad? Ans.—They held a great thanksgiving holiday. 11. To whom did they send presents? Ans.—To those who had nothing.

Molly's Half Dollar

Molly's mother had been telling her about some poor children who lived in a dull and grimy city, and who had never even seen a green field. Molly lived in a beautiful farmhouse in the country, and it grieved her to think of those poor children.

She gave her new half dollar to her mother and asked her to send it to them.

Mother sent it, and two days later came a joyful surprise. The money had paid the

fare of one of the little city girls to come to Molly's home, and mother had invited her to stay at the farm for a month.

Was it not nice? Jennie soon grew rosy and plump, playing all day in the green fields and woods, and picking the sweet flowers and the wild berries; but I think Molly was the happier of the two, because, you know, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."



I HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY THAT

I Should be a Doer of God's Word



Golden Text—The ears of all the people were attentive unto the book of the law.—Neh. 8: 3.

Catechism—58. How may we get the Holy Spirit? Jesus says that God will give His Holy Spirit to us if we ask Him.

Lesson Hymn

FATHER of mercies, in Thy Word
What endless glory shines!
Forever be Thy name adored
For these celestial lines.

Amen.

—Hymn 118, Book of Praise.

WOES OF INTEMPERANCE

Lesson IX.

Proverbs 23 : 29-35—Memory Verses, 29-32 November 26, 1899

29 Who hath woe? who hath sorrow?
who hath contentions? who hath babbling?
who hath wounds without cause? who hath
redness of eyes?

30 They that tarry long at the wine; they
that go to seek mixed wine.

31 Look not thou upon the wine when it
is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup,
when it moveth itself aright

32 At the last it biteth like a serpent, and

stingeth like an adder.

33 Thine eyes shall behold strange women,
and thine heart shall utter perverse things.

34 Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth
down in the midst of the sea, or as he that
lieth upon the top of a mast.

35 They have stricken me, *shalt thou say,*
and, I was not sick; they have beaten me,
and I felt it not: when shall I awake? I will
seek it yet again.

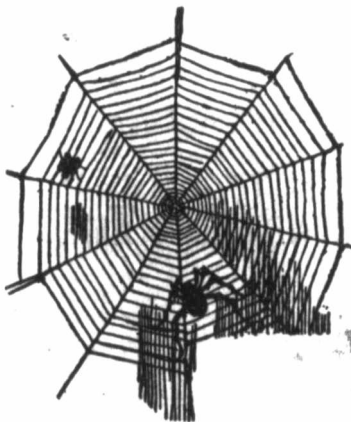
THE LESSON RETOLD

King Solomon was the wisest king that
ever lived.

For his friends he choose the wisest men
he could find, and people came from all over
the world to ask his advice and to get his
help when they were in trouble.

He was very rich, too, and could have
whatever he wanted to eat and drink and
wear.

King Solomon wished the boys and girls in
his kingdom to grow up to be as wise as he
was himself. He knew that soon he must



die and go away, so he wrote in a book some
rules for them to keep if they wanted to
grow strong and wise and to please God well.
His book is called "The Proverbs." A

proverb means a wise word that everybody
can understand. "The Proverbs" is a pic-
ture-book, too, and some of the pictures are
lovely to look at.

There is one very pretty picture near the
end of the book of a mother sitting in her
house spinning. She is making red cloth
out of wool to keep her children warm in the
winter. By-and-by some poor people come
along and she shakes hands with them and
gives them some food and part of the cloth
she has made.

But there are sad pictures too.

One of the saddest is of a poor, sick man.
He is all ragged and bleeding. His eyes are
red and he cannot walk straight. He has
no hat and you can hear him muttering cross
words to himself as he staggers along the
road. Once he was a nice little boy, but
now his own mother would hardly know
him. He is drunk—he has spent all his
money for strong drink, and people run away
when they see him. He does not know that
some one has beaten him. He is foolish
enough even to think he could sleep on the
top of a high mast or in the deep water.

Underneath this sad picture Solomon
wrote some words to keep everybody from
getting to be like the man in the dreadful
picture. He says, "Look not *thou* upon the
wine when it is red, for at the last it biteth
like a serpent and stingeth like an adder."

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Who was King Solomon? Ans.—He was the wisest king that ever lived. 2. Whom did he choose for his friends? Ans.—The wisest men he could find. 3. Is King Solomon alive now? Ans.—No, he has been dead a long time. 4. What book did he write? Ans.—“The Proverbs” was one of the books he wrote. 5. What is a proverb? Ans.—A wise saying that everyone can understand. 6. What kind of rules are in Solomon’s book? Ans.—Good rules for helping people to live well. 7. What was the matter with the man in the sad picture? Ans.—He was drunk. 8. Did he look happy? Ans.—No, he was ragged and sick. 9. How did he get into such a state? Ans.—By drinking wine. 10. Had he always been bad and wretched? Ans.—No. 11. How far does Solomon say to keep away from strong drink? Ans.—He says, do not even look at it. 12. What else does he say about it? Ans.—That it is nice to take at first, but that at last it biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder. 13. What is the Golden Text? Ans.—“Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging, and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.”

Solomon’s Wine Cup

Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. **At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.**



I HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY THAT

I Should Never Taste Strong Drink



Golden Text—Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.—Prov. 20 : 1.



Catechism—59. 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.

Lesson Hymn

LORD, make me, from this hour,
Thy loving child to be,
Kept by Thy power,
Kept by Thy power
From all that grieveth Thee :

Till in the snow-white dress
Of Thy redeemed I stand,
Faultless and stainless,
Faultless and stainless,
Safe in that happy land. Amen.
—Hymn 587, Book of Praise.

KEEPING THE SABBATH

Lesson X.

Nehemiah 13 : 15-22—Memory Verses, 15-17

December 3, 1899

15 In those days saw I in Ju'dah some treading wine presses on the sabbath, and bringing in sheaves, and lading asses; as also wine, grapes, and figs, and all manner of burdens, which they brought into Jeru'salem on the sabbath day: and I testified against them in the day wherein they sold victuals.

16 There dwelt men of Ty're also therein, which brought fish, and all manner of ware, and sold on the sabbath unto the children of Ju'dah, and in Jeru'salem.

17 Then I contended with the nobles of Ju'dah, and said unto them, What evil thing is this that ye do, and profane the sabbath day?

18 Did not your fathers thus, and did not our God bring all this evil upon us, and upon this city? yet ye bring more wrath upon Is'rael by profaning the sabbath.

19 And it came to pass, that when the gates of Jeru'salem began to be dark before

the sabbath, I commanded that the gates should be shut, and charged that they should not be opened till after the sabbath: and some of my servants set I at the gates, that there should no burden be brought in on the sabbath day.

20 So the merchants and sellers of all kind of ware lodged without Jeru'salem once or twice.

21 Then I testified against them, and said unto them, Why lodge ye about the wall? if ye do so again, I will lay hands on you. From that time forth came they no more on the sabbath.

22 And I commanded the Le'vites that they should cleanse themselves, and that they should come and keep the gates, to sanctify the sabbath day. Remember me, O my God, concerning this also, and spare me according to the greatness of thy mercy.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Soon after the reading of the law the king of Persia sent for Nehemiah to come home.

Nehemiah stayed in Persia for five years, and when he came back to Jerusalem he found the people doing badly. Ezra was dead, and even the priests had forgotten to serve God. Nehemiah took a little walk

people were busy buying and selling, and counting out money. The gates of the city were open and the farmers were coming from the fields with loads of grain. Away over the wall Nehemiah could see men working in the vineyards making the grapes into wine. Then a man passed by crying,

"Fresh fish! Fresh fish!" for the people from the sea-coast were there with their fish to sell on the Sabbath.



around the city one Sabbath morning soon after he got back. Instead of meeting fathers and mothers going to the temple with their children, everybody was working as if it had been Saturday or Monday. He saw men loading asses with grapes and figs ready to send away. The shops were open too, and

this very thing, and that He would punish them, too.

The evening before the next Sabbath, when it was just beginning to get dark, Nehemiah said, "Close all the city gates, and do not open them until the morning after God's day"; and he sent some of his servants to

watch that nobody with anything to sell should come through during that time.

When the farmers and pedlars and fishermen came along with their goods and found the gates shut they sat down outside and waited. Nehemiah saw them sitting there. He said, "If you do this again I will have you

punished." When they saw that it was no use to wait, they went home and came no more on the Sabbath day.

Then Nehemiah set the Levites, who were helpers of the priests in the Temple, to watch the city gates on the Sabbath.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

1. When Nehemiah was away how did the Jews behave? Ans.—Wickedly. 2. What did Nehemiah find them doing the Sabbath after he came back? Ans.—Working as on other days. 3. What did he say to the rulers? Ans.—That God had punished their fathers for this and would punish them. 4. What plan did Nehemiah take to stop work on the Sabbath? Ans.—He ordered the city

gates to be closed all day. 5. What did he say to those who still came? Ans.—That he would have them punished. 6. Then, did Sabbath buying and selling stop? Ans.—Yes. 7. Who were set to watch the city gates on the Sabbath? Ans.—The Levites. 8. What is the Golden Text? Ans.—"Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy."

Why Bob Remembered

Bob and Marion were learning the Golden Text one Sunday after church. "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy," said mother, until they both knew it.

It was Bob's birthday and Uncle Tom had given him a beautiful air-gun as a present.

After dinner Marion went to find her gloves for Sunday School, but Bob slipped out through the back-door into the woods.

Just then the church-bell rang. "Remember!"—"Remember!"

"Bother that bell," said Bob. "What's it talking about anyway?"

Soon he saw a fine shot—a blackbird was sitting on a limb near by.

Bang! went the gun, but it missed aim. All at once the air seemed filled with birds of every kind, all screaming the same thing—

"Remember!" "Remember!"

Bob was so frightened that he dropped his gun and ran for home, but the birds followed, screaming louder and louder.

At the foot of the yard he met his old enemy, the turkey-gobbler. As soon as he saw Bob running, his face got very red. "Remember-the-Sabbath-day-to-keep-it-holy," he gabbled, in a very quick and angry voice.

But Bob was safe home now. Snatching his hat from the stand, he tore down the road towards the Sunday School. He was late, of course. His teacher was asking for the Golden Text. "What is it, Bob? Marion has forgotten it."

And do you know, Bob said it without a mistake.

I HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY THAT

I Should Keep the Sabbath Day Holy

Golden Text—Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.—Ex. 20 : 8.



Catechism—80. Where do all our good thoughts and desires come from? The Holy Spirit puts good thoughts and desires into our hearts.

Lesson Hymn

WE dare not trifle now
On this Thy holy day,
In silent awe we bow
On this Thy holy day.
Check every wandering thought,
And let us all be taught
To serve Thee as we ought
On this Thy holy day. Amen.
—Hymn 573, Book of Praise.

LESSONS IN GIVING

Lesson XI. Malachi 1 : 6-11 and 3 : 8-12—Memory Verses, Ch. 3 : 10 December 10, 1899

6 A son honoureth *his* father, and a servant his master : if then I *be* a father, where is mine honour? and if I *be* a master, where is my fear? saith the LORD of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name?

7 Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the LORD is contemptible.

8 And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts.

9 And now, I pray you, beseech God that he will be gracious unto us: this hath been by your means: will he regard your persons? saith the LORD of hosts.

10 Who is there even among you that would shut the doors for nought? neither do ye kindle fire on my altar for nought. I have no pleasure in you, saith the LORD of hosts, neither will I accept an offering at your hand.

11 For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name

shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name shall be great among the heathen, saith the LORD of hosts.

Ch. 3. 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 fruits before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.

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

THE LESSON RETOLD

Malachi was the last prophet God sent to the Jewish people before the time of Jesus Christ.

Men like Daniel and Ezra and Nehemiah

had warned the people before, and over and over again, of what they must do to please God, but still they disobeyed. So at last God sent Malachi to give them another chance to change their ways.

The strange part of it all was that the people did not think they had done anything wrong. They said, "What have we done?"

So Malachi had to show them.

Now one of God's commandments was that they should give back to Him part of what they had—some of their sheep, part of their money and their wine and their oil and their fruit. To do this was just one way of saying "Thank you" to God for all His goodness.

But the people were mean and wicked, and picked out the blind sheep, and the lame and sick cows, and the smallest, sourest fruit and sent these off to the Temple, and kept all that was good for themselves. They gave none of their money to the priests, so that, instead of being able to teach the people in God's house, these men had to leave their work to earn a living some other way.



But very soon the crops got poor and thin. Locusts flew over the fields and ate the wheat. The fruit grew wormy and mouldy upon the trees. The leaves dropped off the vines, for there was no rain.

Malachi said, "It is because of your meanness to God. Come now and bring good presents to His house and He will bless you. He will open His sky-windows and let

the rain fall on your fields, so that your barns will be too small to hold the crops, and your land will again be a lovely and beautiful place, instead of this wilderness."

Malachi had a promise, too, for those who were not Jews, that God would soon show to the heathen the same kindness as to His own people, and some day the whole earth would be filled with His glory.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Who was Malachi? Ans.—One of God's prophets. 2. What did God send him for? Ans.—To warn the Jews against their sins. 3. What had they done? Ans.—They had cheated God. 4. How? Ans.—By not giving Him the best they had. 5. What had they done with their best fruits and beasts? Ans.—Kept them for themselves. 6. Why

should they give anything to God? Ans.—To show their thanks for His goodness. 7. How were the people punished? Ans.—By bad crops. 8. How did Malachi say they would get God's blessing? Ans.—By honoring Him and giving Him what they ought to give. 9. What is the Golden Text? Ans.—"God loveth a cheerful giver."

Which Gave the Most?

Three children brought gifts one day to the Hospital for Sick Children.

Percy Wilson brought a splendid rocking-horse, for which his rich father had paid. It had a lovely mane and a long tail, and there were beautiful reins and a comfortable saddle. Every one said, "How kind, how generous, of dear little Percy!" And the matron thanked and praised him for his expensive gift.

Elsie Payne brought a doll, a musical top, a tea set, a toy organ, a farm-yard, and a

dolls' house. She had cleared out an old cupboard, and picked up for the poor children a number of toys she did not care for and would not miss.

Willie Bloom was a poor boy himself. He had saved two pennies in his money box to buy himself a little plant, but he made up his mind to go without the flower himself; and he carried the little pot to the hospital, and left it there for a crippled child.

Which gave the most?



I HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY THAT

God Loveth a Cheerful Giver



Golden Text—God loveth a cheerful giver.—2 Cor. 9: 7.

Catechism—61. In what other ways is the Holy Spirit our Helper? The Holy Spirit helps us in our study of the Bible and in prayer.

Lesson Hymn

JESUS, Lord, we humbly
pray,
Take our gifts on this Thy day:
Gladly, gratefully, we give,
Of Thy grace do Thou receive:
With our store we worship Thee,
As we seek Thy favor free. Amen.
—Hymn 426, Book of Praise.

FRUITS OF RIGHT AND WRONG DOING

Lesson XII.

Malachi 3 ; 13—4 : 6—Memory Verses, 16-18 December 17, 1899

13 Your words have been stout against me, saith the Lord. Yet ye say, What have we spoken so much against thee?

14 Ye have said, It is vain to serve God : and what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the Lord of hosts?

15 And now we call the proud happy ; yea, they that work wickedness are set up ; yea, they that tempt God are even delivered.

16 Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another : and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name.

17 And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels ; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

18 Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

Ch. 4. 1 For, behold, the day cometh,

that shall burn as an oven ; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble : and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

2 But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings ; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

3 And ye shall tread down the wicked ; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts.

4 Remember ye the law of Mo'ses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Ho'reb for all Is'rael, with the statutes and judgments.

5 Behold, I will send you Eli'jah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.

6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

THE LESSON RETOLD

The people listened to what Malachi had



said about giving to God, and God sent the rain and the fruits and the harvests again.

Then they said, "We will give Him larger presents still ; for the more we give Him the more He will bless us."

But they soon found out that they could not buy anything from God. He did not prosper them. They grew angry and said, "It's no use to give gifts to God, or to try to please Him. Look at the people that don't try. They seem happy."

But God had still some true friends among them—some that remembered His goodness and feared His name.

These people knew one another well and they often talked about God and how good He was, and often when they were alone they would think of God's promises.

Because they really loved and honored Him, God kept all their names written a book to remember them by, and He sent them a beautiful message by Malachi—"They shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up My jewels."

Malachi was told to write this promise on the last page of his book—the last book in the

Old Testament. (Let us turn it up and see).

He was to write underneath it that God would punish the wicked, and that a day was coming when they should be burned up, and that before that dreadful day, He would

send a messenger to give warning. "Listen to him," God said, and so be safe. So Malachi finished his book, and though it was written so long ago, it is just as true now as the day it was written.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. How did some of the Jews expect to get God's favor? Ans.—They thought they could buy it. 2. How? Ans.—With fine presents. 3. Was God pleased with their presents? Ans.—No. 4. Why? Ans.—Because they did not really love Him. 5. Were all the people bad? Ans.—No. 6. Who were true to God? Ans.—Malachi and some others. 7. How did they remember God? Ans.—They often met and talked

of His goodness and mercy. 8. Did God take notice? Ans.—Yes, He wrote all their names in His book. 9. What message did He send them? Ans.—"They shall be mine when I make up my jewels." 10. What did He say about the wicked? Ans.—They shall be burned up. 11. Did God offer to give these people another chance to be good? Ans.—Yes. 12. Whom did he promise to send? Ans.—His messenger.

Flowers and Weeds

Muriel and Grant were staying at Aunt Jane's until father and mother came back from the seaside.

"Let us surprise them," said Muriel. "Let's make a flower garden behind the potato-patch."

"All right," said Grant. "We'll start to-morrow."

"I'm going to begin mine this afternoon."

"Oh don't hurry," said Grant. "They won't come for ever'n and ever'n so long." And he ran to chase the hens off the pump. The next day Muriel's bed was nicely smoothed, except for some crooked lines on top, and there was a white stone at each

corner.

"Mine's done," said the little girl. "So's mine," said Grant, and he drew his heel all round a bare place near by.

"But you haven't planted anything."

"I will to-morrow—no hurry."

Next day was the picnic. All next week it rained. Then came mud, and it was two weeks before the children saw their gardens, and father and mother were home again.

What do you think they found when they went out to show them the flower gardens? What would you expect? Grant had sowed nothing, and his garden bed was crammed with weeds. Muriel's had little rows of green, which would be flowers by-and-by.

I HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY THAT

God is Just and Good

Golden Text—Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.—Gal. 6 : 7.

Catechism.—62. What warning is given us in the Bible about the Holy Spirit? The Bible tells us not to grieve the Holy Spirit.

63. How may we grieve the Holy Spirit? All sinful thoughts, words or actions grieve the Holy Spirit.

Lesson Hymn

WHEN He cometh, when He
cometh,
To make up His jewels,
All His jewels, precious jewels,
His loved and His own,
Little children, little children,
Who love their Redeemer,
Are the jewels, precious jewels,
His loved and His own. Amen.
—Hymn 591, Book of Praise.

CHRIST'S COMING FORETOLD

Lesson XIII.

Isaiah 9 : 2-7—Memory Verses, 6, 7

December 24, 1899

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 Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

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 LORD of hosts will perform this.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Long ago, before the first Christmas day, there lived a man called Isaiah.

He was one of the prophets, and God showed him many things that were to happen long afterward.

Isaiah was so busy writing and speaking God's messages that he had no time to talk much about himself, and nobody knows exactly the name of his mother, or if he had a brother or sister, only that his father's name was Amoz.

When Isaiah was not writing in his book or listening to God's messages, he spent his time warning the Jews against their sins and encouraging them to be holy.

Every day Isaiah saw God's people praying to idols. They believed, too, in ghosts and

fortune-telling, and fought with their health neighbors.

At last they were so badly beaten by these enemies, and were so afraid of the harm they might yet do them that Isaiah called their country, "The land of the shadow of death."

The people themselves were so wicked that now they hardly knew the difference between right and wrong; so Isaiah said, "You are blind and sitting in great darkness." "But God has sent you a message," said the prophet, "that shall cure your blindness and scatter your enemies."

Then he told the Jews of the glad Christmas day that would sometime come, and of Jesus the little babe, who should be born to save people from their sins.

Now the Jews always gave their babies names with a special meaning.

Isaiah told the people five of the names that would be given to Jesus.

His name should be called *Wonderful*, to show that he is both God and man; *Counsellor*—because there is none so wise as He; *The Mighty God*—because of His power to make the world and keep everybody alive; *The Everlasting Father*—because He came to show the love of the Heavenly Father to His children.

But the name that the Jews liked best was one that meant no more war or fighting, but happiness and joy and quiet rest. It was *The Prince of Peace*.



See Pen out

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Whom did God send to teach the Jews before the time of Jesus? Ans.—The prophets. 2. Name some of the prophets. Ans.—Daniel, Ezekiel, Malachi, Isaiah. 3. Which of these spoke most about the Saviour? Ans.—Isaiah. 4. What did Isaiah see the Jews doing? Ans.—Praying to idols and fighting. 5. What did he call their country? Ans.—The land of the shadow of death. 6. What did he say about the people? Ans.—You are blind and in great darkness. 7. Did Isaiah mean that their eyes were blind? Ans.—No, he meant their

hearts were sinful. 8. How did the prophet say that Christ should come? Ans.—As a little babe. 9. What was He coming for? Ans.—To save His people from their sins. 10. Did Isaiah's message come true? Ans.—Yes. 11. When? Ans.—When Jesus was born in Bethlehem. 12. How many names did Isaiah give Jesus in one of his verses? Ans.—Five. 13. Name the one the Jews liked best. Ans.—The Prince of Peace. 14. What is the Golden Text? Ans.—“Unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

A Merry Christmas.

A merry Christmas, children all,
Rich and poor, large and small,
To north, to south, to east, to west,
In every land where Christ is guest,
A merry, merry Christmas!

Now may we love our neighbours more,
And may we give from out our store,
That all may have a happy heart,

And take a gladsome, joyous part
In our merry, merry Christmas!

For when dear Christmas eve draws nigh,
Be it the time when you and I
Shall put away all wrong and sin,
And bid the holy Christ-Child in,
To bless our merry Christmas!



I HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY THAT

Jesus is My Saviour



Golden Text—Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.—Luke 2: 11.

Catechism—64. How may we please the Holy Spirit? We may please the Holy Spirit by doing what he puts into our hearts.

Lesson Hymn

THERE came a little child to earth
Long ago;
And the angels of God proclaimed His birth,—
High and low.
Out in the night, so calm and still,
Their song was heard;
For they knew that the Child on Bethle-
hem's hill
Was Christ the Lord. Amen.
—Hymn 520, Book of Praise.

Lesson XIV.

REVIEW—Fourth Quarter

December 24, 1899

Golden Text—Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.—Ps. 103 : 2.
Catechism—Questions 49-64.

Lesson Hymn

CAN a little child like me
 Thank the Father fittingly?
 Yes, oh yes! be good and true,
 Patient, kind in all you do;
 Love the Lord, and do your part;
 Learn to say, with all your heart,
 Father, we thank Thee!
 Father in heaven, we thank Thee!

For our comrades and our plays,
 And our happy holidays,
 For the joyful work and true
 That a little child may do,
 For our lives but just begun,
 For the great gift of Thy Son,
 Father, we thank Thee!
 Father in heaven, we thank Thee! Amen.

—Hymn 518, Book of Praise.



I HAVE LEARNED
 TO-DAY THAT

I Should Thank the Lord for all His Benefits

Lesson Title	Golden Text
LESSON I. Joy in God's House.	I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into house of the Lord.—Ps. 122 : 1.
LESSON II. Haman's Plot against the Jews.	If God be with us, who can be against us?—Rom. 8 : 31.
LESSON III. Esther Pleading for Her People.	Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.—Ps. 37 : 5.
LESSON IV. Ezra's Journey to Jerusalem.	The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him.—Ezra 8 : 22.
LESSON V. Psalms of Deliverance.	They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.—Ps. 126 : 5.
LESSON VI. Nehemiah's Prayer.	Prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day.—Neh. 1 : 11.
LESSON VII. Rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem.	Watch and pray.—Matt. 26 : 41.
LESSON VIII. Public Reading of the Scriptures.	The ears of all the people were attentive unto the book of the law.—Neh. 8 : 3.
LESSON IX. Woes of Intemperance.	Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.—Prov. 20 : 1.
LESSON X. Keeping the Sabbath.	Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.—Ex. 20 : 8.
LESSON XI. Lessons in Giving.	God loveth a cheerful giver.—2 Cor. 9 : 7.
LESSON XII. Fruits of Right and Wrong Doing.	Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap.—Gal. 6 : 7.
LESSON XIII. Christ's Coming Foretold.	Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.—Luke 2 : 11.
LESSON XIV. Review.	Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.—Ps. 103 : 2.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

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

LESSON I. Joy in God's House.	LESSON VII. Rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem.
LESSON II. Haman's Plot against the Jews.	LESSON VIII. Public Reading of the Scriptures.
LESSON III. Esther Pleading for Her People.	LESSON IX. Woes of Intemperance.
LESSON IV. Ezra's Journey to Jerusalem.	LESSON X. Keeping the Sabbath.
LESSON V. Psalms of Deliverance.	LESSON XI. Lessons in Giving.
LESSON VI. Nehemiah's Prayer.	LESSON XII. The Fruits of Right and Wrong Doing.
LESSON XIII. Christ's Coming Foretold.	

AN ORDER OF SERVICE

For Primary Classes, Fourth Quarter, 1899

I. AT SIGNAL, RISE, AND REPEAT SOFTLY—

We thank Thee for the Sabbath day,
For home and school and friends so dear,
For life and food and clothes to wear,
And all that tells us God is near.

II. OPENING HYMN.

III. RESPONSIVE EXERCISE —

TEACHER—Bless the LORD, O my soul.

CLASS—And all that is within me, bless His holy name.

TEACHER—Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.

IV. COLLECTION.

V. BIRTHDAY OFFERING AND PRAYER.

VI. SUPPLEMENTAL LESSON—Recite Golden Texts for the Quarter, as far as learned; also Psalm 145 : 15, 16.

VII. GESTURE HYMN ; followed by PRAYER HYMN.

VIII. THE LESSON for the Day, with Golden Text, Lesson Hymn, and Catechism

IX. SING LESSON Hymn for Quarter, 513, Book of Praise—

Poor and needy though I be,
God Almighty cares for me ;
Gives me clothing, shelter, food,
Gives me all I have of good.
Then to Him I tune my song,
Happy as the day is long ;
This my joy for ever be,
God Almighty cares for me. Amen.

X. SILENT PRAYER, closing with a few sentences repeated in concert after teacher.

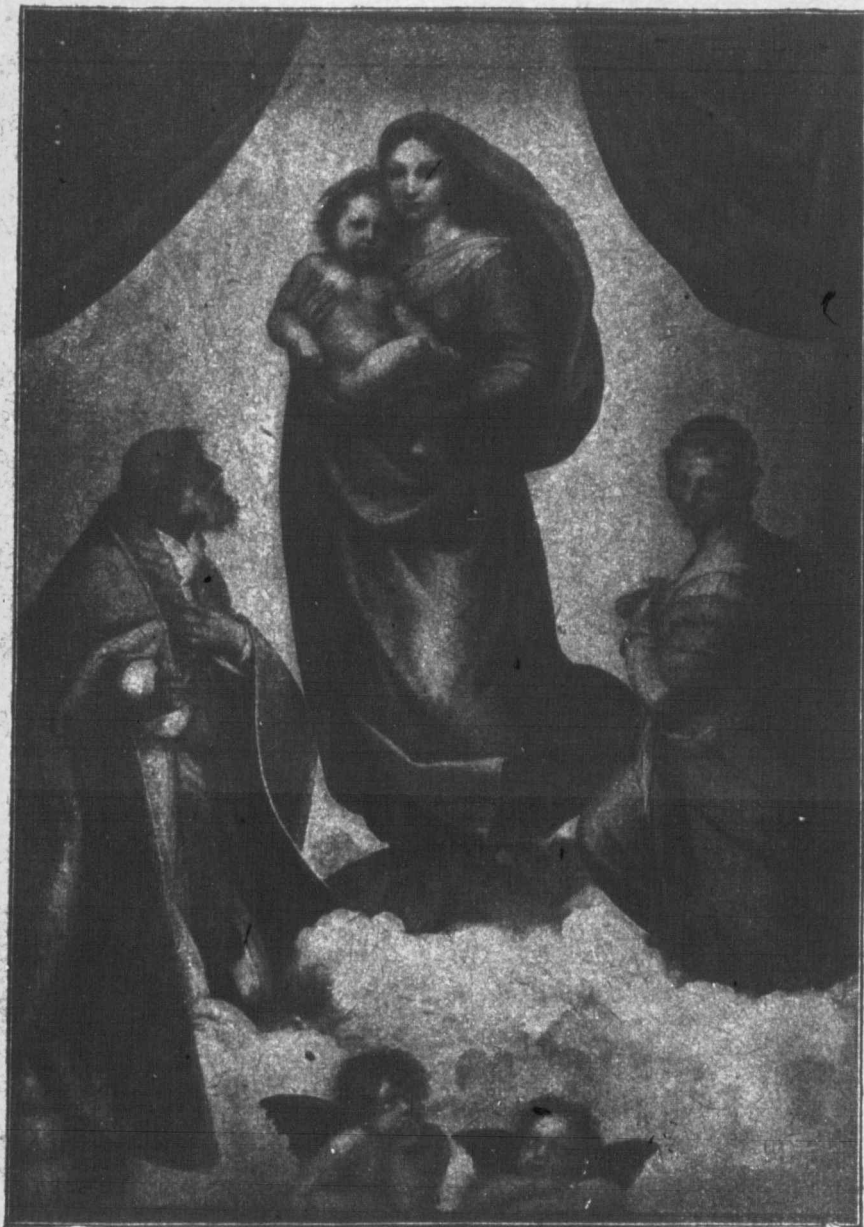
XI. DISMISSAL HYMN.

XII. MIZPAH BLESSING (in concert), "The LORD watch between me and thee when we are absent one from another."

Let papers be distributed as the children pass out.

[No provision is made for Roll Call. The assistant should mark the book as the children enter. Order of service may be simplified by omitting Nos. V., VI., and VII.]

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| 1 Freesia, | 1 Easter Lily, |

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| 6 Single and Double Tulips, mixed, | 3 Freesia Refracta Alba, |
| 3 Sparaxis, mixed, | 1 Brodiaea, |
| 1 Narcissus, Paper White, | 2 Lilium Harrisii, |
| 1 Calochortus, | |

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