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Samily Reading.

The Song of the Sea.

Restless, mysterious heart of the ocean, Grandest of lyres ever swept by the wind, How does it answer each varied emotion That thrills .through the turbulent hear of mankind.

Hast thou not heard it, the song of the sea When the wide waters lie sunlit and calm? True to the might of a changeless decree, It girdles the earth with a jubilant psalm Wave-hidden treasure, it whispers your vanity;

Thunders of God where the rolling clouds

Tempest-tossed, echoes the cry of humanity, Wakened by passions as wild as the storm Wenderful voice, never still, never tiring, While to oblivion centuries sweep, Always the praise of Omnipotence quiring

the deep: Not until time hath attained its duration. Not till the end of the finite shall be,

Whose spirit first moved on the face o

Not until doom overtaketh creation, May sink into silence the song of the sea -Leisure Hour.

Rem Seleck Sevial. MRS. HURD'S NIECE:

Six Months of a Girl's Life.

CHAPTER III.

MIDNIGHT CALLERS.

It is midnight; but there is a noonday sound of carriages rattling to and tro. One of the handsomest of the sister, my aunt Theodosia?" lighted coaches rolls up the winding drive through the Hurd grounds, and man and three ladies alight. The ladies pass in. They hasten one after the other through the hall, and up the staircase,

'Take care, Oh, take care, Saidie! you have torn that lace flounce twice already to-night-a girl of sixteen is no more fit to wear lace than the man in the moon!'

Saidee laughs, but trips along as careless as before, her filmy bridesmaid's dress flowing down against baulster and carpet. She tosses gloves, and bouquet, and costly handkerchief down upon the first stand, and hurries along the olive silks, -very dark and fine indeed with her Spanish eyes and hair, and Spanish comb, and Spanish fan, and heavy black laces, walks quietly behind them. Sleepy as she is, the little bridesmaid with falling cloak, and stops at the door of the blue chamber. 'Ob, I wouldn't, Saidee!' says her mother. 'It's so late. Anyhow, don't for pity's sake wake her !'

dark fine daughter, follows Saidee in. Baby Theo, coming late into the family, is a special treasure to both her big sisters; she is accustomed to receive visits after she is in bed-indeed, it is not at all new, at unseasonable homecomings, for her to be waked with kisses, fed with bon-bons, and made wild with merriment.

Sister Saidee is astonished as she reaches the little tumbled couch—it is she should prove the right sort empty and cold.

'She must be with Sampson downstairs. How dare Sampson!'

through sitting room and dining room, down other stairs to the basement bedcapped head back on the pillows.

'It's the new relation, mum, as you sorry for her!' took in for Miss Theo's maid. She would have the child to sleep with her; and I couldn't interfere with a person as I couldn't tell whether 'twas company or whether 'twas help.'

'So the girl is here!' says Mrs. slipped my mind that she was to come to-night, but I think I had told Hannah where to put her. Poor misguided Theodosia-to see my sister's child in this situation! Still, the sooner we accustom ourselves to it the better, I suppose.'

see her. You know I have never seen thought that cousins were such a nice sort of relation—I have always envied Anna Francis and Nettie Stillman, But to have one in this shape-mamma it ought never to be! I fear I may not quite know what to do with a young lady that's part company and part belp, no more than that impertinent Sampson did.

· It cannot be avoided, as I see,' mamma replies. I cannot, of course, leave my only sister's child in a condition of want. I hope this sort of marriage, with a charity cousin cast opon another's hands as the end of it, may be a warning to my daughters!'

Saidee tosses her bright head. She goes up the steps and softly opens the door at the end of the corridor, and cautiously peeps in. 'Sound asleep, mamma-I think we could just step in.'

Saidee speaks in the lightest of whispers and shades the light with her hand. Both pairs of satin-shod feet tread noiselessly.

Well, I must say that one of the family has acknowledged the relationship-do see our darling little democrat! But one person always was as good as another to Theo when she took a fancy. Mercy-bow very plain she is! Mamma, can she look like your

They are bending over the couch, Saidee carefully shading the wax light stops at a side door. A portly gentle, she holds. Rosy Theo. in her embroidered cambrics, sleeps upon the cousin's shoulder her arm around the slender neck, The cousin-well, compared with the gay young beauty who bends over her, she is plain. The forehead is higher, colder, clearer; the brows are but delicately penciled, and the closed lids are so calm and grave that Saidee stands fancying what position she and mamma would be in should the eyes acove those pale cheeks suddenly open. Still, the mouth is beautifully cut, the chin dainty and delicate; and, 'she has nice long hair,' broad corridor with a yawn, followed Saidee admits. The brown plenteous by the stately mother. Her elder tresses do seem interminable, wound sister, tall, dark and fine in trailing about her head and flowing down her

Saidee draws back and regards her 'as a whole' a long moment. ' Mamma, she whispers, she is not so plain. Her head is a beautiful shape. Do you know she reminds me of the pictures flowers dropping from her flowing hair, of Fanny Forrester-the last, Mrs. Judson, you remember—the shape of her head I think. She looks like a teacher, or a writer, some one with a missiondon't you think so, mamma? And not But she herself, together with the at all like one of us trifling, fashionable girls. I will confess, now, that I was afraid she would prove to be some bouncing country lassie that we should all be ashamed of!'

Mrs. Hurd does not make a direct

'She looks, it strikes me, as if she might have a will of her own; but we will trust not. I hope she does possess good sense and some education. If person to have the charge of Theo it will be a burden off my mind; we shall know at once what to do with her, and Saidee and mother go down-stairs, it will not be such a bad thing that she in the most wistful of tones.

Saidee turns away. She has all rooms, where Sampson is summarily along heard her mother's plans, but she wakened; for a glance shows that Miss has not cared so much 'till now, since Theo isn't there either. Sampson she has seen her cousin. "Right sort stares stupidly a moment; when she of a person'-O, mamma, do not speak does comprehend she lays her night- of her in that way! One can see she is not of Sampson's class. I am so

'I don't see the need. Her troubles are at an end. It is not every homeless girl that has such a refuge.'

'I know it, mamma, I know it very well-but, oh, I would much rather be utterly friendless and independent than Hurd as they go back. 'It had really to be discussed as we are discussing

Still shading the light, the two glance about the room at Lois' belongings. Upon the table is a cheap willow travelling basket, a cheap comb and brush, an ancient silken *housewife displaying the thrifty Lois' needles and Elizabeth has waited at the top of pins, threads and buttons. Near the staircase. Now she turns aside it lies a Bible, - a small cheap into her own apartment. Her cousin's Bible, - plainly bound, worn at the arrival evidently doesn't interest her. corners, the bright newness gone. mother. 'Do let's peep in, mamma- wonder if she isn't one of those demure a sigh.

will you? I don't suppose she would little Sunday-school women like Miss mind, and I have such a curiosity to Barker. She looks like it.' She thinks this not unkindly,-Casting a any of our relatives, and I have always thoughtful glance back at the pale sleeping face.

Mrs. Hurd, meantime, with just the air of a forewoman in a 'ready made they take a world of comfort together! emporium, has taken up the little gray gown and the plain white skirts. She glances down at the cheap boots. None of the articles, to tell the truth, are sufficiently nice to be worn by Miss Theo's maid. But she is not thinking of this. In a low tone she speaks to Saidee. 'I am much surprised and pleased. She is a very good seamstress -for, of course, she cannot have hired her sewing. It does one good to see the fine stitches set so regularly. Saidee, I should like you to see the precision of these buttonholes and bindings.'

The fashionable Saidee is womanly enough to appreciate what her mother is pointing out; and it is quite a tableau, as the two, all lace and flowers and jewels, with their white party cloaks falling about them in soft tasseled folds, stand touching and turning Lois' humble raiment. Some absurdity of the situation at last strikes Mrs. Hurd-her cheek colors, and she sighs. ' Poor misguided Theodosia, has it come to

'They must have been as poor as church mice,' whispers Saidee. 'Think of travelling in a gown like this! Mamma, she dosen't dress as well our Hannah. What a cousin for Elizabeth and me, to be sure! Poor girl-it wouldn't seem so bard if she were just an old maid-but to be sixteen and have nothing nice to wear!'

Sweetly regretful and tender the pretty butterfly looks! How much rests with the mother now. If she only says the right thing to Saidee, she can render the life of 'poor misguided Theodosia's 'daughter as sunny as her own children's lot. And Mrs. Hurd is quite able to afford it. Let us believe the worldly woman really has a faint impulse towards speaking these

However, she does not speak them. Come, my dear, you know the Whitneys are coming to dinner. I suppose we may as well leave Theo.'

'It is a queer place.' says Saidee, hesitating in the door. 'Pretty pet, if I should kiss her, I suppose I should wake them both, and that would be slightly awkward, wouldn't it. She might take us for burglars.'

'I'll let her stay. I think,' says Mrs. Hurd. 'Indeed, I shall not be displeased if the child has already taken a tancy to her. If the girl is like poor sister, I shall be able to trust her with the child, and that will be a great relief after five months of Sampson-'

In her mother's room. Saidee sits unbuttoning her satin shoes. There a musing look upon her face. 'From your own account, mamma, Aunt Theodosia seems to have been an excellent sort of woman.'

'Oh, yes. She had impracticable ideas about worldly matters; but when you came to other things, I suppose she was what is called 'a pattern Christian.'

'I should think you would have loved such a sister dearly, mammayour only sister, too,' This she said

· I did, of course, my daughter. But we were in very different circumstances. You already have seen enough of the world to know that that would naturally separate us. She married a poor farmer against our wishes, and they remained poor. I visited them once when you were a little girl, Saidee, merry, as if this was the chief end of but the experience was too painful to life. It is a great "downward step"; repeat. And, of course, in her circumstances it would have been equally painful for her to have visited Our ways led apart naturally; and had not heard from her for many years until that short letter written just before her death. It is all very sad, far too sad to talk about, -so very sad to realize that now I shall never see her until we meet in Heaven.

Saidee looks up, looks at her mother with a gleam of satire in her great blue eyes. 'And there, mamma, I suppose it will be very different. How thankful you must feel that there are no 'worldly circumstances' there, to embarrass you and poor auntie.'

Mrs. Hurd for the least moment feels uncomfortable. But she cannot suspect her of an intention to rebuke her; for the daughter is old enough to know as well as she that 'worldly frivolity and mirth give? circumstances ' are something that, in this world at least, cannot be got over

The Christian Messenger.

Bible Lessons for 1884. FOURTH QUARTER.

Lesson XI.-DECEMBER 14, 1884. VANITY OF WORLDLY PLEASURE

COMMIT TO MEMORY: Vs. 10, 11.

GOLDEN TEXT. - "Wisdom excelleth folly, as far as light excelleth darkness.' Ecclesiastes ii. 13.

DAILY HOME READINGS. M. The Lesson.

Godless Mirth Interrupted. Dan. v. 1-9. W. The Folly of Seeking Pleasure in Wine Prov. xxx. 29-35.

Nebuchadnezzar's Boast of the Baby lon be had Built. Dan. iv. 30 33 The Folly of Trusting in Riches Luke xii. 16-21.

The Vanity of Earthly Things. Ecc. i. 13-18. Wisdom the Principal Thing. Prov. iv. 5-9.

ANALYSIS.- I. Satisfaction Sought in Mirth and Wine, Vs. 1-3. II. Satisfaction Sought in Wealth and Greatness, Vs. 4-10. III. Wisdom and Folly Compared, Vs. 11-13.

Questions .-- By whom was Ecclesiastes written? What is its purpose?

Vs. 1-3.-Where, first as mentioned in this lesson, did Solomon seek happiness? With what success? What is his verdict as to laughter and mirth? Where next did he seek? To what extent did he give himself up to wine? Is it wrong to be joyous? What is the true source of joy? Phil iv. 4. What is the difference between the wo ling's mirth and the Christian's?

Vs. 4-10. - What great works did Solomon build? What is his confession as to his motive? What is meant here by orchards? What arrangements had he for perpetual bloom in his gardens? What does he say about his slaves? iv. 23). Silver and gold. For a hint What about his cattle? What next did he try? What texts give a hint of his

Vs. 11-13.—What testimony does he give of the nothingness of mere worldly good? What question does Jesus ask in comparing worldly gain with the soul? Mark viii. 36.

Lesson Provings .- Where, in this lesson, do we find-1. The folly of putting off worldly good before Christ? 2. That the soul's food is God himself, and nothing else can satisfy it? 3. That the world's best gifts are but "broken cisterns, that hold no water "?

The Book from which this lesson and the succeeding one are taken, derives its name from the title which the writer to himself, Koheleth, which is translated Ecclesiastes, or preacher. See i. 1, 12. In the first verse of the book, he calls himself "the son of David, king in Jerusalem," which would seem suf ciently to indicate Solomon as Ab author. It was probably written in the later years of his life. It is the confession of a man of wide experience who is looking back upon his life, and upon the disorders and calamities which surround him. He has sought satisfaction for the soul in the various channels the world in which men usually think it is to be found, and under exceptionally favorable circumstances; but his efforts have ended with failure. His verdict is: "All is vanity." This lesson is record of a portion of his search. "This book," says Robertson, "is not written as a calm and wise Christian would write, but as a heart would write which was fevered with disappointment, jaded with passionate attempts in the pursuit of blessedness, and forced to God as the last resort."

Notes .- Vs. 1, 2 .- Go to now. Rather, Come, now. I will prove thee with mirth. Chapter first records the search of the writer for satisfaction of soul in the realms of science and learning, and his failure. Not discouraged, he turns into new fields. He says to his heart, I will try worldly pleasure. He strives to follow in the ways of the gay and thoughtless throng who laugh, and make but he knows by experience the empti ness of worldly knowledge, and the pleasure-loving multitude seem to have found happiness. Behold, also, this is vanity. It didn't take long to sound this resource to its depths; for he found it very shallow. A life of pleasure is a very hollow life I said of laughter . mirth. Laughter and mirth stand for godless pleasure; that which is found in scenes of dissipation, or mere worldly pursuits. Mad. Festus called the Apostle Paul mad, because he clung to

with wisdom. Like one who ventures into the sea, yet with a rope around his body, that he may be draw in if he gets beyond his depth or strength, he gives himself to wine. He would test the joys of wine, without yielding himself to it as its slave. The inference is that he found these, also, vanity.

Vs. 4-6.—He next entered upon large business operations, erecting great works, or palaces, costly and splendid buildings, where he could give exercise to architectural and artistic taste. He planted about the variety of vines, the care of them, and their yield. He made himself gardens, and orchards, literally, paradises-parks, or pleasure grounds; planted trees in them of all kinds of sorption in, this work, which would fully test its power to give him contentment of mind and rest of soul. Pools of water. These artificial reservoirs were indispensable in that hot and often rainless region, in order to water the trees and vegetation in his parks and garden. Some pools of Solomon, not far from Bethlehem, are still shown to

is, I bought servants, or slaves. He became a great lord, owning slaves to the till there seemed to be none left. work for him, and having them born in his house—the children of slave women following the condition of their mothers. He also had great possessions of great and small cattle; i. e., of oxen and sheep, like the owners of the large ranches in our Western country. An idea of Solomon's wealth in this respect, may be gained by reference to the hecatombs of cattle which he sacrificed at the dedication of the Temple (1 Kings viii. 63), and to the enormous daily supply for the royal kitchen (1 Kings of his riches, see 1 Kings x. 23, 27. The peculiar treasure of Kings. This may refer to rare and costly things which are presented to kings. Anything of superior value would naturally find its way to the king. Provinces. The twelve taxable districts into which the country was divided. Men singers . women singers. He had the delights of music while he feasted.

Vs. 9, 10.-My wisdom remained with me. Notwithstanding his wealth, exalted position, and a worldly greatness which surpassed all that were before him, he took all with a philosophical spirit, and was not so carried away with these things that he could not properly weigh and estimate them. Verse 10 relates that he had everything that this world could bestow-whatever his eyes desired, every joy, its riches and its honors, and health to enjoy them.

Vs. 11-13.—The result of his search under such favorable circumstances, was vanity and vexation of spirit. A calm review brought the verdict, no profit under the sun. None of these things could fill and satisfy the longings of the soul. Turned to behold wisdom, and madness, and folly. He began to compare true wisdom with the pursuit for pleasure in which he had been foolishly engaged. What can the man do, etc. No one could have such opportunities to make a thorough test of the world's means of enjoyment as could this king; for all the world's resources were at his command. Any other search must end in the same way. Wisdom excelleth folly, etc. This is the deliberate decision of Solomon, after a fair trial both wisdom and folly. Even the wisdom of the world is superior to sensual delights. How infinitely superior heavenly wisdom!

SUGGESTED LESSONS,

This lesson gives a true view of the attempts of men to fill their empty hearts with something besides Christ. All such efforts must end in failure; for Christ only is the bread of life, and the only meat for the soul.

All these pursuits may be delightful service, if God is first, and all is done for Jesus' sake.

Christianity is not a foe to pleasure, It offers the highest joys, the purest delights, and puts its consecrating touch upon the commonest pursuits.

The Lesson for the younger Ones.

Select with care a beautiful rosy apple, but which you are sure has a worm hidden at the core. Tell the old story of the rich king visited by a Christ; but the supreme point of mad- friend. They feasted on the most deliness is to sport through life, like the cate food, from dishes of gold and silver. butterfly in the sunshine, with no All around was beauty and riches. The thought of the great beyond. What friend said: "I have never seen such doeth it? What of character for this magnificence as this in my own land," life, or of hope for the life to come, can and praised all he saw, and thought the king must be the happiest of men. The Vs. 3.—I sought to give myself unto king took an apple from a golden dish. But Saidee goes along with her Saidee's eyes fasten upon that. 'I or ignored. She makes answer with joined by thousands whom wine has handed it to his friend, and said: "It destroyed. Yet acquainting my heart lay upon a golden dish, and is lovely to

look upon." The friend took it, cut it through (do the same); but, alas! at its core a worm! The stranger looked at the king, who looked down and sighed. Do you know what the king meant? He wanted to show his friend that, though everything about him looked so beautiful, there were troubles he could not see that spoiled it all.

Tell about just such a king. Question from previous lessons on Solomon's learning and riches. Add to what the children tell you such descriptions of vineyards, doubtless interesting himself his gardens, fountains, dress, feasts, and splendor, as will make it all vivid to them, and make them understand that whatever he saw or thought of, that he wanted, he got. (V. 10.). Ask whether and these upon an extensive scale. He they think he was happy. Most of them will say, " Yes." Tell them, " No!" All fruits, showing a devotion to, and ab- the king's splendor was like this apple. beautiful to look at, but with a worm at the core, eating the enjoyment out of everything. He was miserable and unhappy; everything tired nim; nothing really pleased him.

Solomon wanted glory, so that men would praise himself. Was Solomon always so miserable? No; there used to be a time when his heart had something else in it. What was it? LOVE OF GOD. Vs. 7, 8.—I got me servants. That Then he was happy; but he let self crowd out the love of God, little by lit-

Solomon himself tells us, in the Golden Text, that wisdom is as much better a light is better than darkness

Rich people are happy with Jesus; poor people are unhappy without him. -Abridged from the Baptist Teacher.

ID we to Bouths Aspartment.

Original and Selected: Bible Enigma.

Badly feel the printers, When the types they first; But the blunder oft will happen, Though in printing they be versed

Come, my second," said the father, To his only boy Put away your slate and pencil, And a boat-ride we'll enjoy."

Within the Holy Bible, This river's name is found; It helped to water Paradise, That well-known holy ground.

CURIOUS QUESTIONS.

No. 340. In each of these sentences find the ame of a precious stone mentioned in

Do not dare stop a zebra. Is not the shrubbery lovely? 3. The horse could not drag a team

4. Why dost thou tame thy steers? 5. The man said I am on duty to-night.

No. 341. Find in the Bible the story of six women going on a journey which result-

ed in a wedding. Who were the bride and bridegroom? No. 342. Find a date of which the first is a

quarter of the last, and the last a quarter of the centrals. What is the quotient of a division of the last into the first No. 343.

A literary Enigma. Five men in conversation sat ; The first one said amidst their chat: "Were I to cease my lengthened reign, There never would be WAR again." The second said: "If my breath cease, The world will never more have PEACE." The third continued: "SIN would die Were I amongst the dead to lie." The fourth exclaimed: "If I should go, The earth would no more sorrow know.' While from the fifth the statement fell. "If I amongst you cease to dwell, Mankind must then forever be From ANGUISH and from SUFFERING free. ay, if you can, who are these men, You've seen them oft and will again.

No. 344. Form a word equare of To rest against. 2. What is given by such rest. 3. A female. 4. To want.

Find answers to the above-write them down -and see how they agree with the answers to be given next week.

Answer to Bible Enigme. No. 306. Mute, bent, bone, nut, bun, boon.

MOUNT NEBO. ANSWERS TO CURIOUS QUESTIONS. No. 337.

SIMON SILAS NOTNAY No. 338. 1. REGAL 2. LAGER

No. 339. Charade.-Bay leaves.

Tha The Gar And

Pea To I