

The Sunday-School.

FIRST QUARTER.
LESSON I.—January 3.

THE BOYHOOD OF JESUS.

LUKE 2: 40-52.

The lesson includes the whole story of the birth, childhood, and youth of Jesus, described in Luke 1 and 2 and Matt. 2.

GOLDEN TEXT.—*And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.*—Luke 2: 52.

HISTORICAL SITTING.—*Time.*—Jesus was born probably in the last part of B. C. 5, December, four years before the date of our Christian era.

Place.—Bethlehem of Judea, five or six miles south of Jerusalem. Jesus' childhood's home was at Nazareth in Galilee.

Rulers.—Augustus Cæsar, emperor of Rome, to whom Palestine was subject. Tiberius became emperor when Jesus was about eighteen years old. Herod the Great, king of Judea, under Augustus.

THE DIVINE-HUMAN ORIGIN OF JESUS.—From the first chapter of John, and many other passages, we learn that Jesus was both human and divine, the Son of God and the Son of man, with a divine ancestry and a human ancestry. He is the most perfect Saviour conceivable, able to declare the heart of God, able to sympathize with man.

THE BIRTH OF JESUS.—Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the city of his ancestors. He was of the royal line of David. His mother was the Virgin Mary.

THE IDEAL BOYHOOD CHARACTER OF JESUS.—*And the child grew,* he grew in knowledge and wisdom and grew in stature and strength, went through all the natural gradations of childish and youthful development. *In stature, and waxed strong.* Jesus was a strong, active boy. He used his strength and activity in pure and noble ways. He avoided everything that would weaken his body or injure his health.

Waxed strong in spirit. He grew strong in every part of his nature, body, mind and spirit. V. 52 says he *increased in wisdom.*

Jesus was wise in every direction,—in his common sense as applied to daily life, in mental studies and opinions, and in his moral decisions.

And the grace. Favor, loving-kindness. In this he *increased.* He grew more and more to be such a young man as was pleasing to God. The surest way to be in favor with man is to be in favor with God. Virtue makes men more attractive than does vice.

Jesus himself always found favor with men,—men of need, men who were not in conflict with him. And yet he had to encounter such hatred from wicked men as no other man has met.

THE CHILDHOOD AND YOUTH AT NAZARETH.—*His Training in a Religious Home.*—From the first days of his existence the child Jesus was surrounded by a most spiritual atmosphere, full of love and piety and good morals.

Study of the Bible.—His mother taught him all the marvelous stories of the Old Testament. The commandments of Jehovah, his promises, his warnings, were graven on his mind. Jesus' teaching shows that he was familiar with the Scriptures.

Lessons in Patriotism.—The Jewish

hopes of a Messiah-Redeemer, of a glorious national future, filled the very air he breathed. The Roman yoke was irksome and galling. When Jesus was about ten years old, the insurrection of Judas occurred in Galilee. (Acts 5: 37). All these things would stir the soul of the growing boy with patriotic impulses.

Manual Training.—Jesus learned and practised the carpenter's trade in his home. It is probable that Joseph died during the youth of Jesus, so that he may have had to support a widowed mother.

The hidden years at Nazareth, when Jesus was busy in the commonest employments and duties of life were a necessary part of his training for his life's work. Besides, the journeys of Jesus, year by year, to Jerusalem, were an education whose benefits can scarcely be estimated.

AN ERA IN THE CHILDHOOD OF JESUS.

—Vs. 41-45. *His parents went to Jerusalem every year.* Like wisely religious people they did not neglect the great religious meetings. *At the feast of the passover.* The greatest religious feast of the Jews. *Twelve years old.* A child of twelve was at that time in the east as well developed physically and intellectually as a child of fifteen in our western modern world. This was the age when, as a kind of turning point from childhood, a Jewish boy became a "son of the law" and joined with his elders in religious duties. *And when they had fulfilled the days.* The seven days of the Passover. *Knew not of it.* Showing the trust they had in their boy. In the company with whom they made the journey. *And they sought him.* When the caravan halted for the night he was first missed. *They turned back again, seeking him.* All the way to the city. *After three days.* Reckoned from the departure of the caravan from Jerusalem. *They found him in the temple, in one of the chambers of the temple area, and belonging to the temple. Sitting in the midst of the doctors.* The eminent rabbis who at this season would be discussing the great questions of the day. *Hearing them, and asking them questions.* He was not putting himself forward, but was doing what was natural and proper for any boy. *Astonished.* Amazed at his knowledge of the Scriptures, his insight into their true meaning, his penetration into the very spirit of the truth. *And when they (Joseph and Mary) saw him, they were amazed.* They had not dreamed of such honor to be given to their boy, or of such wisdom in him. *And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? Why did you not come directly here? Where else could I be than in this holy, blessed spot? Wist ye not. Knew ye not. That I must be about my Father's business?* Where should a child be found but in his Father's house?

The Child in His Father's House.—Very early the child should be trained to go into his Father's house. There should always be something in the ordinary church service attractive to the young. The great subjects always contain something for children. *The Child About His Father's Business.*—The child should early consecrate himself to God. To study the Word is part of his business. His Father's business for him is to live everywhere a pure, unselfish life. *And they understood not.* It was very

hard to believe that a little boy, however good, was the greatest being in the world. *Came to Nazareth.* Where he remained for eighteen years, till the time came, at thirty years of age, to enter upon his great mission. *And was subject unto them.* To his mother as well as to Joseph, he was obedient, helpful, reverent, ready to do all he could for them.

THE HEART OF THE LESSON.

1. The Son of God came to earth in order to save us and the world from sin, and to a holy, heavenly, perfect life.
2. He lived as a child in a common home, and went through all the varied experiences of childhood and youth.
3. He was the perfect, ideal child—an example, and inspiration, and hope.
4. He not only shows us what we ought to be, but inspires us with new motives, brings to us the forgiving love of God the Father, and aids us in every way.

The friends of the INTELLIGENCER and the cause it represents, can help it much by quick payments. This is the time.

THE BOY JOHN WESLEY.

Of the nineteen children born to Samuel and Susanna Wesley, only ten survived the period of infancy, and of these only three were sons. John was thirteen years younger than Samuel and six years older than Charles. Of his early boyhood only one incident is recorded. On a February night in 1709 the rectory was burned. The family, hurrying out in terror, left the boy John sleeping in his attic chamber, and he was taken out through a window only an instant before the blazing roof fell in upon his bed. Wesley always retained a vivid recollection of the scene, and more than half a century later, when, thinking himself near death, he composed his epitaph, he describes himself as "a brand plucked from the burning."

His mother deemed his rescue a providential indication that her son was reserved for some great work, and resolved, as she says, "to be more particularly careful of the soul of this child that Thou hast so mercifully provided for." There is, however, no evidence of anything precocious in the religious development of the boy, but only a certain staid over-deliberateness, which he got from his mother, but which to the more mercurial temperament of the father seemed, in a lad not yet in his teens, half amusing and half vexatious.

Sniffeling and Sneezing Colds.

Can be stopped in a few minutes and permanently cured in one hour by inhaling fragrant healing Catarrhose. No remedy compares with Catarrhose for cold in the head and nasal catarrh. It soothes and heals the inflamed mucous membranes, prevents sneezing and coughing, clears away the "stuffed up" feeling in the forehead. If you haven't used Catarrhose get it to-day and try it on your next cold. You'll be surprised at the efficiency of this delightful inhaler treatment which pleases everyone because it cures so quickly. Complete outfit, \$1; trial size 25c.

God never comes to destroy anything that is essentially true, but to lift it higher into fulfillment and light.—Campbell Morgan.

Loss of Flesh, cough, and pain on the chest may not mean consumption, but are bad signs. Allen's Lung Balsam loosens the cough and heals inflamed air passages. Not a grain of opium in it.

Ayer's

You can hardly find a home without its Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. Parents know what it does for children: break

Cherry Pectoral

up a cold in a single night wards off bronchitis, prevents pneumonia. Physicians advise parents to keep it on hand

"The best cough medicine money can buy is Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. For the cure of children nothing could possibly be better."

JACOB S. BULL, Searsville, N.Y.

Throat, Lungs

Ayer's Pills greatly aid the Cherry Pectoral in breaking up a cold

"A friend loveth at all times and is a brother born for adversity. Faithful are the wounds of a friend. Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart, so doth the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel. Thine own friend and thy father's friend forsake not."

Passed Blood.—Mrs. Traviss, Fennells P. O., Ont., writes: "My husband was so bad with diarrhoea that he passed blood and could get nothing to cure him until he tried Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry. He says it saved his life."

Known to Thousands.—Parmelee's Vegetable Pills regulate the action of the secretions, purify the blood and keep the stomach and bowels free from deleterious matter. Taken according to direction they will overcome dyspepsia, eradicate biliousness, and leave the digestive organs healthy and strong to perform their functions. Their merits are well-known to thousands who know by experience how beneficial they are in giving tone to the system.

He who gives pleasure, meets with it; kindness is the bond of friendship and the hook of love; he who sows not, reaps not.—Selected.

For the Little Ones Painkiller comes with quick relief. The bumps and the bruises, the pains from green apples are quickly cured by its use. Avoid substitutes. There is but one Painkiller, Perry Davis'.

Some one has well said that while many Christians express thankfulness for things, not so many ever thank the Lord for people. People are among the best blessings of life, when they are good. Even for bad people we should perhaps thank the Lord—that we have a chance to make them better. Be sure and include among your mercies confessed on Thanksgiving day a song of praise for the good people whom you know and love, and who help you to be better every day.

For all kinds of coughs and colds, bronchitis, croup, asthma, and whooping cough, there is no remedy equal in curative properties to Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup.