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As brave as a lion, as spry as a cat,
As bright as a sixpence, as weak as a rat.

As proud as a peacock, as sly as a fox,
As mad as a March hare, as strong as an ox
As fair as a lily, as empty as air,
As rich as was Croesus, as cross as a bear.

As pure as an angel, as neat as a pin,
As smart as a steel trap, as ugly as sin,
As dead as a door nail, as white as a sheet,
As flat as a pancake, as red as a beet.

As round as an apple, as black as your hat,
As brown as a berry, as blind as a bat.
As man as a miser, as full as a tick
As plump as a partridge, as sharp as a stick.

As clean as a penny, as dark as a pall,
As hard as a milestone, as bitter as gall,
As fine as a fiddle, as clear as a bell,
As dry as a herring, as deep as a well.

As light as a feather, as hard as a rock,
As stiff as a poker, as calm as a clock,
As green as a gosling, as brisk as a bee,
And now let me stop, lest you weary of me.

The Sabbath School.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON.

Second Quarter Lesson 2. April 14 1901

JESUS APPEARS TO MARY. —John 20 : 11 18

GOLDEN TEXT.—*Behold, I am alive for evermore.*—Rev. 1 : 18.

LEARN BY HEART.

Vs. 16-18 ; Rom. 6 : 8, 9.

HISTORICAL SETTING.

Time.—Sunday morning, April 9, A. D. 30. Immediately following the last lesson.

Place.—Next the garden where Jesus had risen from the dead.

Recapitulation. 1. Jesus rose from the dead early Sunday morning, April 9, A. D 30

2. A company of women, with spices, come to the tomb from various parts of the city.

3. They find the stone rolled away and the tomb empty.

4. Mary Magdalene, one of the company, immediately hastes away, and tells Peter first and then John.

5. The other women in the tomb see two bright angels, who tell them that Jesus has risen, and will meet his disciples in Galilee.

6. They, trembling and astonished with mingled fear and joy, flee from the tomb, and run to the city to tell the apostles.

7. Peter and John, having heard the news from Mary Magdalene, run swiftly to the tomb and find it empty, as reported. They return home. Peter wondering, and John believing.

MARY MAGDALENE. A CHARACTER SKETCH. Mary Magdalene is to be distinguished from the "woman who was a sinner," who anointed the feet of Jesus in the Pharisee's house (Luke 9 : 36-50), and from Mary, the sister of Martha.

Magdalene "doubtless indicates that she was a resident of Magdala, on the southwestern coast of the Sea of Galilee." There is no reason to suppose that Mary Magdalene was in less humble circumstances than most of our Lord's disciples.

She had, when she first knew Jesus, a terrible affliction. She was a demoniac. Just what the disease was we do not know, but it was allied to some of our worst forms of insanity. The descriptions given of demoniacs, in the New Testament, present a very sad picture. That her case was unusually severe is shown from the fact that she was possessed of seven demons (Luke 8 : 2).

Jesus had cured Mary Magdalene (Luke 8 : 2), and henceforth she was his most devoted follower. She was in her right mind, and was among those ministering women who devoted much of their property and time to the service of their Master. She is with them around the cross, and joins in preparing the spices, and among the earliest to the tomb.

Practical. 1. What a change Jesus wrought in this woman; from a disordered brain to a right and holy mind; from the possession of devils to the abiding presence of Christ and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

2. Jesus still works such changes in the souls of men. The wondrous changes of his grace can be seen by those who look, for multitudes are thus changed every year. There is hope for the worst.

THE MOVEMENTS OF MARY ON THE RESURRECTION MORNING. — The different accounts are naturally harmonized by the suggestion that the women did not all stay in one place in the city, nor did the apostles. The men were not so eager as the women. They started early, from different parts of the city, some, as Mary Magdalene, while it was yet dark (John 20 : 1), but all early. Mary Magdalene was among the first to arrive.

MARY AND THE ANGELS IN THE TOMB.—Vs. 11-13. *Mary stood* (was standing) *without at the sepulchre.* The story implies that she was standing for some time, *weeping* in sorrow over the great loss which was as yet pierced by no ray of hope. *And as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre.* Because she was anxious to see whether she might not, after all, be mistaken about the absence of the body. *And seeth two angels in white.* In white raiment. White signifying the purity of their character. *The one at the head, and the other at the feet.* The angels' presence showed the divine hand and care. They were ministering spirits to comfort those who were in such great sorrow and need ; and they gave explanations of what had been done, no one else being able to give them. *She saith unto them.* While the other women were terrified, Mary seems to have had no fear. *They have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him.* Her great anxiety was to find Jesus.

JESUS APPEARS TO MARY —Vs. 14-15. *She turned herself back.* She was outside the cave, looking in, and now she turned, perhaps hearing footsteps. We can imagine also that she became conscious of another Presence, as we often feel the approach of a visitor without distinctly seeing or hearing them. *And saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus.* Why did she not recognize him at first? (1) She had her eyes dimmed with tears, and (2) her mind occupied and excited with other thoughts ; besides, (3) she was not at all expecting to see him alive; (4) his garments must certainly have been changed, as the soldiers had those he was accustomed to wear, probably the simple dress of a gardener ; (5) she may not have looked up to his face, perhaps hardly looked at all. *She, supposing him to be the gardener,* a servant of Joseph of Arimathea, and, of course, friendly. No other person would be likely to be there at so early an hour. *And I will take him away.* See that it is done. *Jesus saith unto her, Mary.* This word, in the old familiar tones, led her instantly to recognize him. *She ....saith unto him, Rabboni.* Hebrew for my master or teacher. Thus to Mary Magdalene, first of all, Jesus showed himself after his resurrection.

JESUS SENDS A MESSAGE TO THE APOSTLES BY MARY.—Vs. 17, 18 *Touch me not* Do not stop to embrace me, but hasten on with my message. It could not be that he objected to her touching him, for he let Thomas do it. *For I am not yet ascended to my Father.* This is the reason given why Mary should not cling to Jesus at this time. How is it a reason? (1) Since he has not yet as ended, there will be time enough for expression of affection. (2) You need not touch me to learn whether it is really myself in the flesh, for I am the same as ever. *But go to my brethren.* Here, for the first time, Jesus speaks of his disciples as brethren. The disciples were his true brethren in love, and service, being sons of the same Father. *I ascend.* The next step in the work of redemption, the completion of his earthly intercourse with them, was at hand. *My Father, and your Father.* The same good Father would watch over them and work in them, who had watched over him and worked in him.

The Great Message. This message was one of hope and power. It meant that Lord was not a dead Christ, but triumphant, the Son of God, sitting on the right hand of God, yet ever present with his people, to defend, to guide, a leader who would make his kingdom rule the world. It was a blessed message for Mary to carry. *Mary....told the disciples,* but they were unable to believe ; her words "appeared in their sight as idle talk."

JESUS APPEARS TO THE OTHER WOMEN —Matt. 28 : 9, 10. While the women were returning to Jerusalem, Jesus met them, and saluted them with "All hail!" Rejoice, the usual salutation. They recognized him, and clasped his feet in their gladness, and worshipped him in Galilee, as he had commanded them before he died.

LESSONS FROM THE FIRST TWO APPEARANCES OF JESUS.—1. Jesus appeared first to those who loved most ; whose love made them go first and earliest to the places where he had been.

2. It was typical of the changed position which the gospel was to bestow upon woman. Much as the gospel has done for man, it has done still more for woman.

3. Women are among the chosen messengers of Jesus, to bear his message of hope and comfort to the church, and to all those who are without the gospel, and its temporal and spiritual blessings. The more perfectly the gospel prevails, the larger will be the work of women in the churches. The Woman's Missions and the W. C. T. U. show what women can do.

A Chick and a Child.

BY REV. J. W. WEDDELL.

It was just a bit of a chick, and when they put it into my hand it seemed to be lifeless. There it lay, a soft piece of down, perfectly motionless, on my palm. The children had brought it in from the rear, where they had found it put away in a paste pot that had been used some time during the day. The maid was just about to dump pot and all into the suds, when she discovered the little heap in the bottom, stuck fast in the remnants of paste there. The poor little thing had gotten in, and struggled hard doubtless, peeping shrilly at first, but sinking down deeper and deeper in the ooze, and, growing chilled at last by the exposure, it lay now perfectly chilled and voiceless.

But there was a faintly discernible quiver at the heart. While there is life there is hope, some one said. So warm water was brought and the effort made to start the currents of life to flowing again. Then it was taken in the two hands, and one closed above the other, and, so held, my warm breath was blown upon it through the aperture at the thumbs. We were trying to brood it back to life.

And you should have seen the little thing. First it slowly lifted its diminished head and opened its bill, but no sound came forth. Then a tiny wing fluttered, one leg straightened itself out, then the other. What a struggle it was back into being, like life out of death! Presently from the hollow of my hand a faint peep! peep! It had gotten voice, and a half hour later it could just stand, and I put it, snuggling close under the mother wing.

Then came a call at my door. A little sick girl down on the back street wants you. She keeps crying for the pastor. It was very late, after 10 o'clock. Will it do to come early in the morning? She has been asking for you all the afternoon, and seems out of her mind now, but keeps calling for you. Of course I went. With such an appeal, if possible, you and I would go to the ends of the earth.

It was down on the edge of the ravine. You went as far as the street would conduct you, then struck off into a narrow lane on the slanting side of a hill, feeling your way along by a hedgerow, a wholly new and untravelled path to you You will find the house just before you get to the edge of the ravine, I looked over and shuddered, still feeling my way along in the dark night. It must be off at the side here somewhere. Sure enough, the shadow of a house, a faint light at the rear and down below. A knock brought a welcome glow to the front, and an I'm glad you've come from the mother. And there inside a young girl tossing on her bed. She was not such a child after all. And what did she want? Simply to tell her pastor that she had wandered away from God, but wanted to come back. She needed the re-assurance of a verse of Scripture and a word of song and a prayer ; they were given, and she lay back quiet and rested.

As I put my head down upon my pillow at midnight they kept rising before me, the two of them, the chick that had gotten away and lost its mother, and the child of God that had wandered away from the Shepherd and lost peace and rest. And there they were both, let us hope, safe folded. One pastor slept well that night.—Good Work.

The Drugging Evil.

We cannot with good grace dismiss the general practitioner and his requirements without speaking in plain language in condemnation of the drugging habit, of which he is still guilty to a remarkable degree. Cabalistic prescriptions are still as thick as flies in the summer, and the majority of our patients pay willingly and handsomely for our wisdom transmitted to them in the shape of nauseating mixtures from the time honored shelves of the apothecary shop.

I know from personal observation that our cousins across the water do not prescribe or swallow one-fourth as much medicine as we do in our country. With but few exceptions, the entire vegetable and mineral kingdoms have given us little of specific value ; but still, up to the present day the bulk of our books on materia medica is made up of a description of many valuable drugs and preparations. Is it not to be deplored that valuable time should be wasted in our student days by cramming into our heads a lot of therapeutic ballast?

If our professors of materia medica in the undergraduate colleges are reticent in advancing the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, then it is time for us to tell them that they are to a large degree responsible for the desire on the part of the many practitioners to prescribe frequently, and without good cause, an unnecessary quantity of useless drugs. Every few weeks new drugs and combinations of medicaments are forced upon physicians with the claim that they are specifics in the treatment of disease; and the physician, in his anxiety to alleviate his patients' sufferings, because the simpler and more reliable agents have failed him, is gulled into trying the newly extolled remedy, only to find that it is still less efficacious than the old one.

The common-sense practitioner knows by experience that the constant, frequent prescribing of innumerable drugs only ends in detriment to his patients. A working knowledge of hygiene and dietetics, climato, hydro, and mechano therapeutics, simple medication, and few drugs are the successful agents in internal medicine ; and the sooner the physician will condense his pharmacopœia and materia medica to a vest pocket edition, the more readily will his efforts meet with success in the practice of his profession, and the sooner will the "Christian Science" delusion disappear.—From "The Relation of the Family Doctor to Recent Progress in Medical Science," by Augustus Caille, in the American Monthly Review of Reviews for April

My Penny.

A little boy proposed to put a penny into the box for missions. His sister teased him as to the uselessness of so small a gift, and said : It would never be noticed among the large sums given by others He gave his penny, however, and when the collector reported 6 pounds 5 shillings and 1 penny, he whispered to his sister, Hear that! that's my penny, you said it was so small it would never be noticed, and the gentleman has told the whole congregation. The most famous gift ever made was two mites. And in the Church to-day there are those whose gifts can be only pennies, which though not told to the congregation, have the Divine commendation as surely as had the two mites of the poor widow of old.

Boy Character.

It is the greatest delusion in the world for a boy to get the idea that his life is of no consequence, and that the character of it will not be noticed. A manly, truthful boy will shine like a star in any community. A boy may possess as much of noble character as a man. He may so speak and live the truth that there shall be no discount on his word. And there are such noble Christian boys ; and wider and deeper than they are apt to think is their influence. They are the king-boys among their fellows, having an immense influence for good, and loved and respected because of the simple fact of living the truth.

Dear boys, do be truthful. Keep your word as absolutely sacred. Be known for your fidelity to church and Sunday-school. Be true in every friendship. Help others to be and do good.

Resolutions.

Here are resolutions adopted by a family of children. Perhaps some other children would like to adopt them :

1. That we won't quarrel this year.

2. That we will share our things, and not be selfish.

3. That we will keep our eyes open, and try to do something for somebody else every day.

4. That we won't complain when mamma asks us to do errands, and will try to help her more than we did last year.

5. That we will have better lessons in school and not annoy the teacher.

6 That we will spend fewer pennies for candy, and put more into the mission box.

There are two little words in our language which I always admired —try and trust. You know not what you can or cannot effect until you try ; and if you make your trials in the exercise of trust in God, mountains of imaginary difficulties will vanish as you approach them, and facilities will be afforded which you never anticipated. — Samuel Smiles.

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