

ILLUSTRATED LESSON PAPER

Volume XXV.

NOVEMBER 5, 1905.

Number 41.

PAPER HOUSES AND CLOAKS.

FROM the bark of shrubs and trees the Japanese make papers that are far ahead of ours. By the use of these papers the Japanese have solved the question of letting in the light and keeping out the cold. Their houses are wooden frames covered with thin oiled paper. As a cover for his load of tea when a rain storm overtakes him, the Japanese farmer spreads over it a tough, pliable cover of oiled paper, which is almost as waterproof as tarpaulin, and as light as gossamer. The "rikisha" coolies of the large cities wear rain mantles of this oiled paper, which cost less than eighteen cents and last for a year or more with constant use.

An oiled tissue paper, which is as tough as writing paper, can be had at the stationer's for wrapping up delicate articles. Grain and meal sacks are almost always made of bark paper in Japan, for it is not easily penetrated by weevils and other insects. But perhaps the most remarkable of all the papers which find a common use in the Japanese household are the leather papers of which the tobacco pouches and pipe cases are made. They are almost as tough as French kid, so translucent that one can nearly see through them, and as pliable and soft as calfskin. The material of which they are made is as thick as cardboard, but as flexible as kid.—*Our Times*.



COPYRIGHTED 1905 BY PROVIDENCE LITHOGRAPH CO.

ESTHER PLEADING FOR HER PEOPLE.

A LITTLE girl asked her mother, who had a withered hand, how it became so deformed. Her mother told her that her crib took fire, and in rescuing her she had burned herself. "It was for you, my child, that this poor hand suffered." But for this loving interposition the child would have been burned up. Then the mother told her of the exposure of her soul to sin and death, and that Christ came to her rescue. She added that when we get to heaven and behold the wounds of Christ and ask, "What are these wounds?" he will reply, "I was wounded for your transgressions; I was bruised for your iniquities."—*Selected*.

ILLUSTRATED LESSON PAPER.

THE TWO SIDES OF IT.

THERE was a girl who always said
Her fate was very hard;
From the one thing she wanted most
She always was debarred.
There always was a cloudy spot
Somewhere within her sky;
Nothing was ever quite just right,
She used to say, and sigh.
And yet her sister, strange to say,
Whose lot was quite the same,
Found something pleasant for herself
In every day that came.

Of course things tangled up sometimes
For just a little while;
But nothing ever stayed all wrong,
She used to say, and smile.
So one girl sighed and one girl smiled
Through all their lives together.
It didn't come from luck or fate,
From clear or cloudy weather.
The reason lay within their hearts,
And colored all outside;
One chose to hope and one to mope,
And so they smiled and sighed.

—Selected.

HE KNEW HOW.

ALL was quiet in the invalid's room until a step was heard coming up the stairs. Then a faint voice called: "Alfred, is it you?"
"No," answered another member of the family, looking in and approaching the bed. "But what is it you are wanting? Cannot I do it?"

"I only wanted to be lifted and turned a little," was the reply. "I think I'll wait a few minutes for Alfred to come. He knows just how."

Alfred was only a boy, a merry, healthy young fellow, full of his studies and outdoor pursuits, wanted on the cricket field with his young friends; but he was no stranger in that sick room. He had thought it worth while to learn "just how" to minister to the sufferer, and his strong, young arms were the chosen ones to lift grandmother's wasted, pain-racked form many times daily. Was not that tender little service the very crown of manliness? It was Bayard Taylor who wrote:

The bravest are the tenderest.

—*Children's Friend*.

IN THE DOMESTIC CALENDAR.

"Do you think it is right that I should always have to take my turn to dust on 'back-leg day?'" inquired Myrtle Ames indignantly of her mother.

"Of all the days in the calendar, which is 'back-leg day?'" said the bewildered mother.

"When vacation began, mother, and you told us girls we must dust the parlor every day," Myrtle explained breathlessly, "Ethel and Alice said we would dust the back legs of the furniture only once a week. I agreed to the plan, and now they always make me dust on 'back-leg day.' Is that fair?"

"No, not to me," replied Mrs. Ames, "but we will make it so, and henceforth every day will be 'back-leg day.'" — *Youth's Companion*.

LESSON VI.]

[NOVEMBER 5, 1905.

ESTHER PLEADING FOR HER PEOPLE.

ESTHER IV. 10-v. 3.

(Study Esther iv. 1-v. 3. Read the book of Esther.)

10 Again Es'ther spake unto Ha'tach, and gave him commandment unto Mor'de-cai:

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

12 And they told to Mor'de-cai Es'ther's words.

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

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

15 Then Es'ther bade them return Mor'de-cai *this answer,*

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

17 So Mor'de-cai went his way, and did according to all that Es'ther had commanded him.

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

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

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

LESSON OUTLINE.

THERE is a book in the Bible which in many ways is different from the others. It tells the story of Esther, a Jewish maiden who became the queen of Persia. The king is called by the Jewish writer Ahasuerus, but in the school histories he is called Xerxes. He was a very boastful king. He said that he would conquer Greece and then the whole world. There is a fine story of how a little Grecian band of three hundred defended a narrow pass against his great army. But in the Bible story the king was in his palace at Shushan. The wicked Haman was his chief favorite. But one man sat in the king's gate who would not bow to the ground before Haman. He did not think it was right. He was Mordecai, the Jew, the queen's cousin. Just this one man's refusing to bow before him made Haman angry and miserable. He took advantage of being the king's favorite, and with his consent appointed a day—about a year distant—when the Jews in all the king's dominions were to be slain. Queen Esther knew nothing of all this, but it was told her that Mordecai was clothed in sackcloth and weeping before the palace gate. The messenger she sent to him brought her word of the trouble, with a command from Mordecai to plead with the king for her people. The young queen was in great distress. Whoever went into the king's presence unbidden suffered death, unless the king should hold out his golden scepter. For thirty days she had received no summons. But Mordecai sent another message. "Who knoweth," he said, "whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" The messenger came again with the queen's message. Esther asked that Mordecai gather all of their people who were in the city, and for three days fast and pray to God. She and her maidens too would fast and pray. Then she would take no thought for her life, but would go in unto the king. On the third day Queen Esther put on her royal robes and went into the inner court. The king saw her standing in her beauty. He knew that for some great purpose she was risking her life. God touched his heart. He held out his golden scepter, and Esther came near and touched it. Then the king said: "What wilt thou, queen Esther? and what is thy request? It shall be given thee even to the half of the kingdom."

GOLDEN TEXT.

"The Lord preserveth all them that love him." (Ps. cxlv. 20.)

MEMORY VERSES, 13, 14.



READINGS FOR THE WEEK.

The King's Feast.....	Esther i. 1-11
Queen Vashti Deposed	i. 12-22
Esther Made Queen	ii. 1-23
Haman's Promotion	iii. 1-6
Haman's Plot	iii. 7-15
Mordecai's Intervention.....	iv. 1-9
Esther's Pleading	iv. 10-v. 3

QUESTIONS.

1. What Jewish maiden became queen of Persia? **Esther.**
2. For what did Haman gain the king's consent? **That on a certain day all the Jews should be slain.**
3. Why was he angry with all the Jews? **Because Mordecai would not bow to the ground when he passed.**
4. What request did Mordecai send the queen? **That she would speak to the king in behalf of her people.**
5. Why was Esther afraid to go in to the king? **He had not sent for her for thirty days.**
6. Why did Esther wait three days to go in to the king? **That she and her people might fast and pray.**
7. What did God give her? **Favor in the king's sight.**
8. Does God help all those who trust him? **Yes.**
9. Repeat the Golden Text.

JESUS.

"Come to me," saith One, "and coming,
Be at rest."

If it were not for Queen Esther and her brave plea for her people, the name of King Ahasuerus would not have been in the Bible. He thought himself a very great king, but to be cruel and proud is not to be great. We have a King who is not cruel, and who said of himself: "I am meek and lowly in heart." He is King of kings; all power is given unto him in heaven and in earth, but we do not think of him as holding a scepter in his hand. He draws near to every one who needs him. He lays his hand upon us and cures our diseases. When we need help in any way, he says: "Come unto me." Our King's name is ——. The Bible calls him by many names. Write in the blank space below all that you can remember, and then those that father and mother can help you to remember.

.....

.....

.....

THE LESSON HYMN.

Who in the Lord confide,
And feel his sprinkled blood,
In storms and hurricanes abide
Firm as the mount of God:

Steadfast and fixed and sure,
His Sion cannot move;
His faithful people stand secure
In Jesus' guardian love.

CATECHISM LESSON.

Question 10. What does God know?

Ans. God knows all things.

Ques. 11. Does God care for us?

Ans. God cares for us and for all his creatures.

We blame others for slight things and overlook greater in ourselves.