

MY PLAYTIME.

BY ANNA PIERPONT SIVITER.

When mother went over the ocean

She took me along, for she knew
I couldn't be happy on this side

With my mother on that, would you?

But, oh, it was so very lonesome!

Whv, in that strange, far-away land,
Not one thing the children were doing
Or saying could I understand.

And I used to watch them and wonder

At their words, and their looks, and
their play.And I'd wonder if mother would love me
If I looked as funny as they!

One day as I sat at the window,

I saw coming down the long street
A dear little girl and her kitty;

They both looked so cunning and sweet,

I jumped up and ran straight to meet
them.For I said to myself, It must be,
A child who can love a dear kitty
I am sure cannot help loving me.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

WORDS AND WORKS OF JESUS AS RECORDED
IN THE BIBLE.

LESSON II.—JANUARY 14.

THE WISE MEN FIND JESUS.

Matt. 2. 1-12. Memorize verse 11.

GOLDEN TEXT.

My son, give me thine heart.—Prov.
23. 26.

THE LESSON STORY.

A strange thing happened one day a long time ago in the city of Jerusalem. Some wise men came there looking for a baby King of the Jews. There was already a king named Herod, who ruled over the people, and he was a very wicked man. You can believe that it troubled him to hear that men from far away were looking for a new king. These wise men said that they had seen the star of the baby King in the east, and had come to worship him.

Herod sent for the priests who knew the Old Testament Scriptures to come and tell where Christ was to be born. They said that the prophet had foretold that he would be born in Bethlehem. Then Herod told the wise men to go there and find the new king and come back and tell him so he could worship him too. He means so that he could go and kill him.

When the wise men started to go to Bethlehem the star went ahead of them

and stopped over the stable where the young child lay. The wise men gave him presents of gold, and frankincense, and myrrh, and worshipped him. But God told them in a dream not to go back and tell Herod, and so they went home by another way, and Herod was disappointed in his evil plans.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

1. Who came to Jerusalem long ago?
2. For whom were they looking?
3. What had they seen in the east?
4. Who had sent them to look for Jesus? The great God.
5. Who was king at this time?
6. Why was he troubled?
7. What did he ask the priests to do?
8. What did they say?
9. Where did they go to find out?
10. What did Herod tell the wise men to do?
11. What did he mean in his heart?
12. How did the wise men find the place in Bethlehem?
13. What gifts did they offer to the young child?
14. Why did they offer gifts to him? Because he was a king?
15. Why did they not go back and tell Herod?
16. What gifts may we offer to our King?

LESSON III.—JANUARY 21.

THE BOY JESUS.

Lukc 2. 40-52. Memory verses 49-52.

GOLDEN TEXT.

"Jesus increased in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man."—Lukc 2. 52.

THE LESSON STORY.

The boyhood of Jesus was spent in the town of Nazareth. There he mingled with other children and was like any other child. He grew naturally and was in every respect a human child. He played at the same games as did other boys, and went to the same school with them. He worked in Joseph's carpenter shop, and no doubt he met with the same hurts that come to any boy using tools.

When Jesus was twelve years old his parents went to Jerusalem, as was their custom, at the time of the Passover. After the festival was over they started for home and had gone a full day's journey before they missed their child. Of course they were quite anxious and hurried back to the city, where they found him in the Temple listening to the learned doctors and asking them questions which showed he was a boy deeply interested in spiritual matters. When reproved by his mother his reply was a strange one, "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" Even as a boy of twelve Jesus had some knowledge of the purpose of his life, and his knowledge grew with the years.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

1. Was Jesus like other children? Yes, he was a real boy.
2. Did he have the same joys and sorrows? Exactly the same.
3. How old was he when he went to Jerusalem? Twelve years.
4. What happened him there? He tarried with the rabbis.
5. What did he do? Asked them questions.
6. What did he reply to his mother who came to seek him? "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?"
7. Did he return with her? Yes, and was obedient to her.

A BACKSLIDER.

The minister's little girl and her playmates were talking of serious things.

"Do you know what a backslider is?" she questioned.

"Yes. It's a person that used to be a Christian, and isn't," said the playmate promptly.

"But what do you suppose makes them call them backsliders?"

"O, that's easy. You see when people are good they go to church and sit up in front. When they get a little tired of being good, they slip back a seat, and keep on till they get clear back to the door. After a while they slip clear out, and never come to church at all."

JESUS, A FRIEND.

"What do you do without a mother to tell all your troubles to?" asked a child who had a mother of one who had none.

"Mother told me whom to go to before she died," answered the little orphan. "I go to the Lord Jesus. He was my mother's friend, and he's mine."

"Jesus Christ is in the sky. He is away off, and he has a great many things to attend to in heaven. It is not likely that he can stop to mind you."

"I do not know anything about that," said the orphan; "all I know is that he says he will, and that is enough for me."

GOD KNOWETH.

Men send their ships, the eager things,
To try their luck at sea;
But none can tell by note or count
How many there may be.
One turneth east, another south,
They never come again;
And then we know they must have sunk,
But neither how nor when.

God sends his happy birds abroad;
"They're less than ships," say we.
No moment passes but he knows
How many there should be,
One buildeth high, another low,
With just a bird's light care;
If only one, perchance, doth fall,
God knoweth when and where.