

## NAN'S MADE-UP STORY.

BY ADELBERT F. CALDWELL.

"If you'll pay strict attention  
To every single word,  
I'll read the nicest story  
I'm sure you ever heard."

And Nan made room for pussy  
Beside her on the seat—  
I'm very sure she mew'd her "thanks"  
For having such a treat.

"Once on a time," the story read—  
Pussy did closer sit;  
The book was upside down, but then  
Nan couldn't read a bit—

"There lived a little Tabby,  
That's your surname, you see,  
Who had the strangest manners—  
As foreign as could be.

"She didn't wash her face and hands,  
When she sat down to eat,  
But only when she'd eaten up  
Her juicy bits of meat!

"Now don't you like that story?  
Every word is true—  
All cats have just such manners,  
And, pussy, you have, too."

## LESSON NOTES.

## SECOND QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF ACTS.

## LESSON IX. [May 31.]

THE LIFE-GIVING SPIRIT.

Rom. 8. 1-14. Memorize verse 1.

## GOLDEN TEXT.

For as many as are led by the Spirit  
of God, they are the sons of God.—Rom.  
8. 14.

## THE LESSON STORY.

We have learned that Paul, while he was at Corinth, sent a letter to the Christians at Rome by Phebe, a Christian lady, who was a deaconess. He had not yet visited Rome, but he knew many Christians who had gone there, and he longed to see them. He knew that they lived in a city that was called "the mistress of the world," and that there it might cost them their lives to confess Christ, for the Romans not only worshipped their gods, but their emperor, and Paul wanted them to have so much of the Spirit of God that all men could see that they worshipped a God who is Spirit and Truth. The Romans lived after the flesh, or all the things that pleased their senses, but he charged them to live after the Spirit. To be low-minded, he said, was death, but to be spiritually-minded was life and peace. He told them that as many as let

the Spirit of God lead them were the sons of God. Many of these Christians followed Paul's counsel and stood fast in their faith, even when the cruel emperor put them to death. They lived in the great underground tombs, called the catacombs, when the persecution drove them from their homes, but always and everywhere they showed that they were led by the Spirit of Christ.

## QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Were the Roman Christians Jews or Gentiles? Mostly Gentiles.

Had Paul lived in Rome? No.

Did he afterward live there? Yes.

Who lived at Rome? The emperor who ruled the Jews.

What kind of a man was he? A very bad man.

Could he help his people to be good? No.

Who could help them? The Lord, by his Holy Spirit.

What did Paul ask of the Christians? That they be led by the Spirit.

What did he say they would then be? Sons of God.

What would they have? Life and peace.

Were they afterward faithful? Yes.

What were many called to do? Die for their faith.

## LESSON X. [June 7.]

PAUL'S VOYAGE AND SHIPWRECK.

Acts 27. 33-44. Memorize vs. 41-44.

## GOLDEN TEXT.

Then they cry unto the Lord in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses.—Psa. 107. 28.

## THE LESSON STORY.

After waiting five days for a ship, Paul journeyed toward Rome. He took two friends with him—Aristarchus, of Macedonia, and Luke, "the beloved physician," who wrote the Acts of the Apostles. There were other prisoners also, and the centurion, Julius, who had them in charge, treated Paul with courtesy and kindness. It took a long time to make a journey then, as they had only slow sailing vessels, and as the winter was coming on, they thought to go into harbour. Paul said that would be best, but they went on, and a great wind rose that tossed the ship about many days and nights. Paul was sure he should not die, for God had said that he should witness for him at Rome, and he prayed that all might be saved with him. God answered him in a dream, and he comforted the men (there were nearly three hundred) by telling them that the angel of God had stood by him, and had said that they should all be saved, only they must first be cast upon an island. After fourteen days they drew near land. The ship had been tossed until it was ready to go to pieces, and as it ran aground, the hinder

part of the ship was broken by the breakers beating against it. The soldiers thought they ought to kill the prisoners, but the centurion, willing to save Paul, would not let them, and told all who could swim to throw themselves into the sea and get to land; the others, clinging to pieces of the ship, were cast ashore, and so all were saved.

## QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

How did Paul begin his journey to Rome? In a ship.

Who went with him? Luke and Aristarchus.

Who else? Many prisoners and soldiers.

What did they meet? A great wind-storm.

How long did it toss the ship? Fourteen days.

Was Paul afraid? No.

Why? God had said that he should go to Rome.

What did he say to the others? That they would all be saved.

What did they reach? An island.

What became of the ship? It broke in pieces.

Who told them to swim to the land? The centurion.

How many were saved? All.

## LOST TREASURES.

"Come, Mamie, darling," said Mrs. Peterson; "before you go into the land of dreams, you will kneel here at my knee and thank your Heavenly Father for what he has given you to-day."

Mamie came slowly toward her mother, and said: "I've been naughty, and can't pray, mamma."

"If you've been naughty, dear, that is the more reason that you need to pray."

"But, mamma, I don't think that God wants little girls to come to him when they are naughty."

"You are not trying to be naughty now, my dear, are you?"

"No, I am not naughty now."

"Well, then, come at once."

"What shall I say to God about it, mamma?"

"You can tell God how very sorry you are."

"What difference will that make?"

"When we have told God that we are sorry, he forgives us; then we are happy, but we cannot undo the mischief."

"But, mamma, even so, I can never be quite as rich as if I had not had a naughty hour to-day."

"Never, my dear; but the thought of what you have lost may help you to be careful in the future, and we will ask God to keep you from sinning again."

No one else can do the work you have been sent into the world to do; others may do some other work, but not your work.