

THE BIRD'S NEST.

What sort of a house has birdie,
 My birdie with russet vest?
 Oh, she has a house of sun-dried clay,
 Bound together with bark and hay,
 Hair lined within in a curious way,
 For a warm and cosy nest.

And what sort of eggs has birdie,
 My birdie of russet hue?
 Four days did she count them, one by one,
 Count and think, then she added one;
 Till one fair morning the sum was done,
 With four eggs of lovely blue.

Soon birdie will see her babies,
 With little brown jackets on;
 Then grubs and worms, the very best,
 Make them plump till they fill the nest,
 And to-morrow they'll all be gone.

Oh, happy and brave, and patient
 Are robins, red-breasted birds;
 They build and they brood, and wait so
 long,
 Work and watch with their love so strong,
 Then their full hearts o'erflow with song,
 Giving thanks, though not in words.

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

LESSON III. [July 20.]

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS—DUTIES
 TO MEN.

Exod. 20. 12-17. Memorize verses 12-17.
 GOLDEN TEXT.

Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.—Matt. 19. 19.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

What were the first four commandments about? Our duties to God. What are the last six about? Our duties to man. What are they for? For us to live by. What if all should keep them? Earth would become heaven. How would children act towards their parents? They would honour them. Would there be any war? No. How would people think? Purely and kindly. Would we need to lock our doors? No. Could we trust every one to tell the truth? Yes. How should we love our neighbour? As ourselves. How do we show that we love ourselves? By excusing our faults, and by putting the blame on others when we have done wrong. Where shall we in God's law? In his holy Word. How can we understand it? By letting the Holy Spirit into our hearts to make it plain to us.

DAILY STEPS.

Mon. Read the lesson verses. Ex. 20. 12-17.
 Tues. Read the ten Blessings. Matt. 5. 1-12.

Wed. What does Jesus teach about love to the neighbour? Matt. 5. 43-48.
 Thur. Learn the Golden Text.
 Fri. Learn how you can keep God's love. Rom. 13. 10.
 Sat. Read what Paul says of the law of love. 1 Cor. 13.
 Sun. Read a hymn of love. No. 712, Methodist Hymnal.

LESSON IV. [July 27.]

WORSHIPPING THE GOLDEN CALF.

Exod. 32. 1-6, 30-35. Memorize v. 30-32.
 GOLDEN TEXT.

Thou shalt have no other gods before me.—Exod. 20. 3.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

How long was Moses on the Mount? Forty days and forty nights. What were the people doing below? Waiting for him. What did they think? That he had left them without a leader. To whom did they take their complaints? To Moses' brother, Aaron. What did they want? A god like those of the Egyptians. Could Aaron make them do right? No. What did he do? Made them a golden calf. What was it made from? Their jewels. What did they do with it? They worshipped it. What did God tell Moses? To go down and speak to them. Was Moses troubled? Yes, so that he broke the tablets of stone. What did he do? Begged the Lord to forgive them. Did he do so? Yes.

DAILY STEPS.

Mon. Read how quickly Israel forgot God. Exod. 32. 1-8.
 Tues. Find what Moses saw when he came? Exod. 32. 15-19.
 Wed. Read about Aaron's poor excuse. Exod. 32. 21-24.
 Thur. See how Moses pleaded for the people. Exod. 32. 30-35.
 Fri. Find how useless are idols. Psa. 115. 2-8.
 Sat. Learn the Golden Text.
 Sun. Think: Do I worship God alone?

A GOOD DAY'S WORK.

Ray knocked at the half-open door, and, pushing it quite open, he saw Mrs. Lane sitting in the rocking-chair, her head laid back upon a pillow, her eyes closed, and the baby on the floor, crying to be taken up. "What is it, Mrs. Lane? are you ill?" "Oh, it's just one of my dreadful headaches; I was up with the baby half the night, he was so fretful." Ray said: "Is there anything I can get for you?" "No; nothing but sleep and rest will help me." Ray looked down at the white face a moment, and then said: "Go and lie down right away; I will stay with the baby." He helped her to her room, dropped the shades, closed the door, and returned to the crying baby, whom he

amused until he was quiet. He then cleared up the room and put things to rights, and fed the baby with bread and milk which he found in the pantry. So he spent the whole bright summer day doing what he could to help the tired, sick mother, who thanked him with grateful tears in her eyes. Ray told his mother that he had had a very happy day. Doing good to others always brings happiness.

THE WONDERFUL BEAR.

Jerry and Ida and the rest were sitting on the piazza of the cottage in the mountains when they heard a sing-song which sounded a little like this: "Rum, tarry, rum, tarry, rum, tarry, rum, tum-rum, tarry, rum, tarry, rum, tarry-rum!" The children followed the sound, and up the road, in front of the hotel, a black bear was doing tricks. His master, a dark-skinned Italian, was singing while the bear danced on his hind legs. "Blackie" was fastened to a rope and walked around and around the Italian.

"Taka da gun on-a da shoulder!" commanded the Italian, and the bear obeyed, with a few growls, to be sure, catching very neatly the broomstick thrown to him. Jerry spoke up very loudly to the Italian, saying, "Please, sir, do you ever ride upon the bear's back?" "No," answered the smiling man, "you want-a try, aha?"

"Well—I don't know," stammered Jerry, a little scared at the thought, but anxious to have a ride on the funny bear. At last he thought that he would not mind, and, while every one clapped and cheered, he was lifted on "Blackie's" back, and had a comfortable though rolling journey. "It's like sitting on our bearskin rug at home," he told the children. The last trick which the bear did was to climb a pole. The pole was not very thick, and the children all thought the roly-poly bear a wonderful athlete to be able to climb a slippery pole. His long claws were of great help to him. "Blackie" rested his paws on the top of the pole, panting but proud. I know two little boys who have been trying for over a week to climb a flagpole, but so far they have not been further up than six feet. So the bear was a clever fellow, and deserved a big dinner for his trouble.

It was a very hot day, and grandpa made repeated visits to the piazza to note the state of the thermometer. Little Helen always trudged along with him, and listened very attentively when grandpa explained to her about the thermometer. Late in the afternoon grandpa said: "Well, it has gone down; it is a little cooler." A few minutes later Helen said to grandma: "It's surprising, grandma, how cool it is since that thermometer went down."