

"LUCK."

The boy who's always wishing
That this or that might be,
But never tries his mettle,
Is the boy that's bound to see
His plans all come to failure,
His hopes end in defeat;
For that's what comes when wishing
And working fail to meet.

The boy who wishes this thing
Or that thing with a will
That spurs him on to action,
And keeps him trying still
When efforts meet with failure,
Will some day surely win;
For he works out what he wishes,
And that's where "luck" comes in.

The "luck" that I believe in
Is that which comes with work,
And no one ever finds it
Who's content to wish and shirk.
The men the world calls lucky
Will tell you, every one,
That success comes not by wishing,
But by hard work bravely done.

—Selected.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF ACTS.

LESSON X. [March 8.]

PAUL AT EPHESUS.

Acts 19. 13-20. Memorize verses 18-20.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.—Acts 19. 17.

THE LESSON STORY.

Paul had been preaching in Ephesus more than two years, and there was a good number of Christians there. You may remember that Athens was a city of learning, and Corinth a city of gaiety; but Ephesus was a city of witchcraft and idolatry, and their chief idol was the goddess Diana. There were unfaithful Jews there who pretended to cast out evil spirits, and when they saw that Paul had power to do so they tried to do the same in the name of Jesus, "whom Paul preacheth." There were seven brothers who did so, and the evil spirit turned upon them, saying, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are ye?" and it attacked the men, so that they ran away naked and wounded.

This showed the people that Paul taught the religion of the true God, and many more believed in the name of Jesus. Some who had costly books on magic brought them together and burned them before the people. It is thought that the cost of these books had been many thousands of dollars, for books in that age of the world were very

costly, being printed letter by letter with the hand. It was a time of great growth in the church of Ephesus, and it is not strange that Paul stayed a long time to establish and strengthen it.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Where was Paul preaching? In Ephesus.

Where was Ephesus? In Syria.

What did the Ephesians worship? A Greek idol.

What did they call it? Diana of the Ephesians.

What were some of the people? Magicians.

What did they try to do? Deceive the people.

Why? To get money.

What name did they begin to use? The name of Jesus.

Why? Because by it Paul had cured some people.

What happened to them? The evil spirits turned upon them.

What did the magicians do? Burned their books of magic.

Did many begin to believe in Jesus? Yes.

LESSON XI. [March 15.]

THE RIOT AT EPHESUS.

Acts 19. 29-41. Memorize verses 29-31.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The Lord preserveth the faithful.—Psa. 31. 23.

THE LESSON STORY.

It was strange that Paul was allowed to preach so long in the great city of Ephesus, for then Diana was worshipped at a beautiful great temple more than four hundred feet long and two hundred feet wide, with one hundred and twenty-seven columns sixty feet in height, beautifully carved from precious marble, and every one the gift of a king. Little silver models of this temple were made by the silversmiths of Ephesus, and sold to strangers from every country who came to worship Diana. One man named Demetrius had grown rich making these shrines, but after Paul came there was not such a call for them, and he called the silversmiths together, and told them that if Paul stayed in Ephesus there would soon be no more work for them to do, as the people were going after him. Then they began to cry, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!" and seizing two of Paul's helpers, they rushed to the theatre, and there kept up the tumult. But God protected the men, and when after two hours of uproar the town-clerk spoke to them they listened to him, and because his words seemed to them reasonable they went away quietly.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

What great temple was in Ephesus? The temple of Diana.

What was Diana? An idol.

What did the Ephesian silversmiths make? Images of the temple and idol.

What were they called? Silver shrines.

Who bought them? Strangers who came to worship.

What silversmith found fault with Paul? Demetrius.

Why? He was taking away the trade in shrines.

How? By preaching against idol worship.

What did Demetrius do? Set the people to praising Diana.

What did they do besides? Arrested Paul's helpers.

What followed? A riot at the theatre.

Who finally made peace? The town-clerk.

SPIDERS.

"Oh, mamma!" screamed Ethel. "Oh! oh!"

"What is the matter?" said mamma, running towards Ethel, who was still screaming loudly.

"A spider! a spider!" cried Ethel.

Mamma brushed the spider from Ethel's dress, and taking her in her lap wiped away her tears, saying:

"My little girl should not be afraid of a spider. Most of them are quite harmless, and very likely they are afraid of you."

Ethel was still sobbing and mamma continued to hold her.

"Did you ever watch a spider spinning his web?" asked she.

"Oh, yes, mamma. He runs up and down, up and down," said Ethel.

"Yes, my dear; the spider can spin a beautiful silk rope of over four thousand threads in a very short time. Would you not think it a great thing to be able to make a rope in a minute any time you wanted it?"

"Yes; mamma."

"And he has eight eyes," said mamma. "Perhaps he wonders how you can get along with only two."

"Some spiders are affected by changes in the weather," continued mamma. "There was once a man shut up in prison who noticed that at the approach of rain all the spiders in his cell disappeared and that as soon as they appeared again the rain ceased. You must not think the spiders caused the rain. They were affected by the state of the atmosphere."

"This man also observed the actions of the spiders at the approach of cold, and once, when the armies of his country were about to surrender because the ice on the rivers was breaking up, he knew by the conduct of the spiders that more cold was coming and sent word to the commander to hold out a little longer and he would be able to cross the rivers on the ice. He did so, and was enabled to conquer the enemy."