

## COUNTRY BOYS.

Up with the early song-birds,  
Fresh for the busy day,  
Driving the cows to pasture,  
Tossing the new-mown hay.

Hunting for eggs in the barnyard,  
Riding the horse to mill,  
Feeding the ducks and chickens,  
Giving the pigs their swill.

Running of errands for mother,  
Picking the early greens,  
Hilling the corn and potatoes,  
Shelling the peas and beans.

Going to school in winter,  
Learning to read and spell,  
Working at home in summer,  
Gathering knowledge as well.

Growing to useful manhood,  
Far from the noisy town,  
One of these country lads may yet  
Be first in the world's renown.

## LESSON NOTES.

## SECOND QUARTER.

WORDS AND WORKS OF JESUS AS RECORDED  
IN THE GOSPELS.

## LESSON I.—APRIL 1.

THE TWO FOUNDATIONS.

Matthew 7. 15-24. Memorize vs. 24, 25.

## GOLDEN TEXT.

Be ye doers of the Word, and not  
hearers only.—James 1. 22.

## THE LESSON STORY.

If we would only do all the things Jesus tells us to do in his wonderful Sermon on the Mount we would be good Christians. It is exactly what he did himself, for he was full of love and charity to all men, and even his bitterest enemies he tried to help. Of course he preached against the evils of his day, and denounced those who did wrong. Two of the great sins of his time were "greed" and "hypocrisy." These words mean, first, a love of getting more than one's neighbor or of coveting what he has, and the other word means pretending to be good when secretly one is not. Hypocrisy is a dreadful sin, for it is so false.

Christ likens people who know how to be good and have heard the right way to live to either the wise or foolish man. If he does the things he knows to be right he is like the man whose house is on the rock. Neither floods nor storms can make it fall. His character is strong. But if he does not do what he knows to be right his character has no foundation, and like the

house on the sands can be easily swept away.

It is most important to build our lives on Christ's teachings and promises.

## QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

1. To what is a Christian's life likened? To a tree.
2. What do trees produce? Fruit.
3. How shall we know a Christian? By the fruits, or character, of his life.
4. What is hypocrisy? Pretending to be good when one's heart is bad.
5. How does God judge? By the motives of the heart.

## LESSON II.—APRIL 8.

JESUS AND THE SABBATH.

Matt. 12. 1-14. Memorize verses 7, 8.

## GOLDEN TEXT.

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.—Exodus 20. 8.

## THE LESSON STORY.

One way of knowing hypocrites is to note how they watch other people to try to find them in a fault. That was the habit of the Pharisees. They loved to find fault with others, especially with Jesus himself. One Sabbath morning he and his disciples went through a corn-field and because they were hungry they picked and ate the grain. This the Pharisees said was a sin, for they had made many hard and foolish laws about the Sabbath. Jesus rebuked them by showing them it is a much better way to keep the Sabbath by being merciful and helping others. They also blamed him for healing a poor man with a helpless hand. Jesus tried to explain to them how if a sheep fell into a pit it would be right to get it out on the Sabbath day, and that a man was of more importance than a sheep. So he declared it was lawful to do good to others on the Sabbath day. Because they were such sticklers about the law this angered the Pharisees and they talked over plans to destroy him.

## QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

1. Who were the Pharisees? Those who pretended to be good.
2. What did they most care about? Keeping certain laws.
3. Were they right and kind at heart? No.
4. What were they fond of doing? Finding fault with others.
5. What did Jesus teach them? To be merciful is better than to make sacrifices.

## TELL MAMMA.

What was the matter with little Molly, the sunshine of the kindergarten?

"I want to run home and tell mamma I'm sorry," she sobbed. "I can't be happy, because I ran away from her with Effie Gray while she was getting ready to bring me to kindergarten."

So Miss Alice tied on Molly's little

white bonnet and sent the maid home with her.

"I saw you with Effie, dear, so I didn't worry," said Molly's mamma; "but you did wrong, and I'm glad you came to tell your mamma about it."

When Molly came back she was the dear little sunshine of the kindergarten again. It's always best to tell mamma, isn't it?

## A GOLDEN CHAIN.

One Review Sunday Miss Alice had a golden chain for fourteen of her scholars. Each link in the chain was made of cardboard covered with gilt paper and had the first word of a Golden Text on it, except when the first word was "the," then there were two words given on the link. When they were all in line, they read like this:

"I," "If," "Commit," "The hand," "They," "Prosper," "Watch," "The cars," "Wine," "Remember," "God," "Whatsoever," "Unto," "Bless."

"Now," said Miss Alice, "I want fourteen scholars who think they know the Golden Texts for this quarter, to come up here and form my chain. Who will try?" A great many hands went up, and from them the teachers chose fourteen. Each scholar took hold of a link in the chain and looked at the word on his or her link. Some of the children could not read; but when it came their turn to recite, one of the teachers whispered to them what the word was.

Two little girls who had the first and second verses recited them nicely, but the little boy who stood next could get no farther than "Commit," which he kept saying over and over.

"Ah!" said Miss Alice, "my chain is broken. Who will come and take this little boy's place and mend this link?"

Ten scholars raised their hands, and Miss Alice chose one. After that, all went well until they came to the word "Watch." The little girl who held it shook her head; she could not think of another word to put with it. The others thought it was funny that she should miss the text which had only three words in it. She went to her seat and another came in her place. In this way the chain was made perfect.

Then all the little links changed places and tried other verses, and then more of them had to sit down, and it took a good while to get a chain of fourteen scholars who could recite from any link that was given to them; but they found them. When the bell rang the little golden chain marched into the large Sunday-school room and recited their verses for the pastor and superintendent. Then the pastor gave each little link a lovely book that had all the Golden Texts in it for the next year.