

CREEPING UP THE STAIRS.

BY EUGENE FIELD.

In the softly falling twilight
Of a weary, weary day,
With a quiet step I entered
Where the children were at play;
I was brooding o'er some trouble
Which had met me unawares,
When a little voice came ringing,
"Me is creepin' up the stairs."

Ah! it touched the tenderest heart-strings
With a breath and force divine,
And such melodies awakened
As no wording can define!
And I turned to see our darling,
All forgetful of my cares,
When I saw the little creature
Slowly creeping up the stairs.

Step by step she bravely clambered,
On her little hands and knees,
Keeping up a constant chattering,
Like a magpie in the trees;
Till at last she reached the topmost,
When, o'er all her world's affairs,
She, delighted, stood a victor,
After creeping up the stairs!

Fainting heart, behold an image
Of man's brief and struggling life,
Whose best prizes must be captured
With a noble, earnest strife.
Onward, upward, reaching over,
Bending to the weight of cares;
Hoping, fearing, still expecting,
We go creeping up the stairs!

On their steps may be no carpet,
By their sides may be no rail;
Hands and knees may often pain us,
And the heart may almost fail,
Still, above, there is the glory,
Which no sinfulness impairs,
With its rest and joy for ever
After creeping up the stairs.

LESSON NOTES.

SECOND QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF ACTS.

LESSON VIII. [May 24.]

PAUL BEFORE AGRIPPA.

Acts 26. 11-29. Memorize vs. 27-29.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Having, therefore, obtained help of God, I continue unto this day.—Acts 26. 22.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

How long did Paul stay at Casarea? What was done with Felix? Who came in his place? What did the Jews seek to do about Paul? Why did they want him taken to Jerusalem? That they might kill him as he journeyed. What

did Festus say? What did Paul wish to do? Why could he choose? Because he was a Roman citizen. Why did he wait at Casarea? Who came while he was still there? Who was Agrippa? A grandson of Herod the Great. What did he ask of Festus? What did Paul tell him about? What did Festus say? What did Agrippa confess to Paul? Did they think him worthy of death or of bonds?

DAILY STEPS.

- Mon. Read the lesson verses. Acts 26. 19-32.
- Tues. Find what Festus said about Paul. Acts 25. 14-25.
- Wed. Read of Paul before Agrippa. Acts 25. 22-27.
- Thur. Find how Paul was proving the words of Jesus. Matt. 10. 16-18.
- Fri. Learn words of comfort for Paul and for us. Matt. 10. 32.
- Sat. Find what Agrippa proved to Paul. James 1. 23, 24.
- Sun. Learn what Paul thought of persecution. 2 Tim. 1. 12.

THREE LITTLE LESSONS.

We have learned—

1. That kings and governors are not always great.
2. That riches and power make men blind toward God.
3. That a poor prisoner may be a prince of God.

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.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

Had Paul been to Rome? Why did he write to the Roman Christians? He knew many of them. From what city did he write? By whom did he send the letter? Who was Phebe? What kind of a city was Rome? What did they worship? What did Paul want them to worship? How did the Romans live? How must a Christian live? What does a carnal or low mind bring? What does a spiritual mind bring? Who are sons of God? May children be led of the Spirit of God? Yes, for they are nearest to him.

DAILY STEPS.

- Mon. Read what Paul says to the Romans. Rom. 1. 7-13.
- Tues. Find who carried the letter. Rom. 16. 1, 2.
- Wed. Read the lesson verses. Rom. 8. 1-14.
- Thur. Learn the Golden Text.
- Fri. Find who dwells within us. 1 Cor. 16. 19, 20.
- Sat. Find how he speaks to us. Rom. 8. 16.
- Sun. Learn what the Lord Jesus said about it. John 14. 26.

THREE LITTLE LESSONS.

We have learned—

1. That to have the mind of flesh is death.
2. That to have the mind of the Spirit is life and peace.
3. That even a child may choose which he will have.

CARRIE'S TOOTH.

BY BERTHA E. BUSH.

Carrie ran every step of the way home, she was so frightened. For one little white tooth had come out in her fingers when she wriggled it back and forth, trying to see what could make it feel so peculiar.

Carrie had no brothers nor sisters, and scarcely any playmates. She had never heard that children's teeth must come out. She thought if she lost a tooth one day, she might lose any part of her body the next. She was crying hard when she reached the chicken-yard, where her father was mending the fence.

"Father, father!" she sobbed, "my tooth—my tooth came out!"

"Bless my heart!" laughed her father. "I didn't think you could be old enough." Then when he saw Carrie's tear-stained face, he put down the hammer and took his little girl in his arms.

"My darling!" he said. "What is the matter? Have you hurt yourself?"

"My—tooth—came out!" sobbed Carrie, with her head on the secure refuge of his shoulder.

"But, my little girl, that's nothing. All children's baby teeth come out, and then they get new ones." Then, as Carrie's face cleared, he began to understand.

"My dear little girl," he said, "did you think it was something that ought not to happen? Why! no. My teeth came out when I was a little boy, and so do every one's."

"Did you get new ones, certain, sure?" asked Carrie.

"Yes, of course," laughed her father.

"Oh," said Carrie, slipping down, "I thought if my tooth came out, next thing maybe my fingers would come off. Mr. Brown has a finger off."

"No, no," said her father. "This isn't the same thing at all. You would be very, very sorry when you were grown if your baby teeth had not come out. Now, run and play, little girl, and don't worry any more."

BROTHER AND SISTER.

A chubby little sister,
Was rubbing at a tub;
A chubby little brother
Came to help her rub.

The chubby little brother
Fell in with a cry;
The chubby little sister
Then hung him up to dry.