

THE SUGAR-PLUM TREE.

BY EUGENE FIELD.

Have you ever heard of the Sugar-Plum Tree?

'Tis a marvel of great renown!  
It blooms on the shores of the Lollipop Sea,

In the garden of Shut-Eye Town;  
The fruit that it bears is so wondrously sweet

(As those who have tasted it say)  
That good little children have only to eat,  
Of that fruit to be happy next day.

When you've got to the tree, you would  
have a hard time

To capture the fruit which I sing;  
The tree is so tall that no person could climb

To the boughs where the sugar-plums swing!

But up in that tree sits a chocolate cat,  
And a gingerbread dog prowls below—  
And this is the way you contrive to get at  
Those sugar-plums tempting you so:

You say but the word to that gingerbread dog

And he barks with such terrible zest  
That the chocolate cat is at once all agog,  
As her swelling proportions attest.  
And the chocolate cat goes cavorting around

From this leafy limb unto that,  
And the sugar-plums tumble, of course, to  
the ground—

Hurrah for the chocolate cat!

There are marshmallows, gumdrops, and  
peppermint canes,

With stripings of scarlet and gold,  
And you carry away of the treasure that rains

As much as your apron can hold!

So come, little child, cuddle closer to me,  
In your dainty white nightcap and gown,

And I'll rock you away to that Sugar-Plum Tree

In the garden of Shut-Eye Town.

WHERE TO GO WHEN IN TROUBLE.

When we are in trouble of any sort we should always go to God in prayer about it, and ask him to show us just what to do.

Some people only go to God when they have some great trouble, but the best way is to go just as soon as anything goes wrong. If we go to God with our little troubles, it will often keep us from getting into larger ones.

The story is told of a great king who employed many people to weave for him. The silk and the wool and the patterns were all given by the king, who told the people when any difficulty arose to send for him and he would help them.

Among the many men and women who

were busy at their weaving was a little child, who laboured cheerfully and patiently all the time. One day when the men and women were distressed at the sight of their own failures, for their silks were tangled and the weaving was unlike the pattern, they gathered around the child and said: "Tell us how it is you are always so happy in your work. We are so often in difficulties."

"Why do you not send to the king, when you are in difficulty?" said the little girl. "He told us, we might do so."

"We do send night and morning," was the answer. "Ah," said the child, "but I send as often as I have even a little tangle."

HOW JAMIE WAS CAUGHT.

BY ANNA M. TALCOTT.

Jamie was very fond of candy, so fond of it that he could never see a piece without putting it at once into his mouth, whether it belonged to him or not. There was little use in hiding it away. If there was any in the house Jamie was sure to find it, and just as sure to eat it.

"I declare," said his mother, "that child is as bad as a mouse. I wish I could set a trap for him!"

"I'll set a trap and catch him, too," said his big brother Ned, who felt particularly angry because Jamie had just eaten a quantity of very nice candy he had hidden away.

"It is too bad," said his mother with a sigh, "I have tried in every way to teach him not to touch what does not belong to him; but there seems no way of doing it."

"Well, I will teach him, see if I don't," said Ned, as he left the room.

The next morning Jamie was alone in Ned's room. The top drawer of the bureau was open a little way, and for want of something better to do he peeped in. There lay six beautiful pink lozenges. Surely they must taste as good as they looked. Jamie longed for them, but he hesitated for a moment. Still there were only six, and he did not believe Ned would care very much.

Just as he took them in his hand he thought he heard some one coming. Quick as a flash he popped all six of them in his mouth. Then how sorry he was! They were full of the strongest kind of red pepper, and in an instant began to sting and burn so that he screamed with the pain.

Some one laughed; and, looking up, he saw Ned standing at the door.

"How do you like that kind of candy?" he asked. Jamie was suffering too much to answer, and his mother, who came at the sound of his screams, was afraid the punishment had been too severe.

It was a long time before the burning stopped, and Jamie learned a lesson he never forgot. He took no candy after that unless it was given to him.—*Our Little Folks.*

LESSON NOTES.

SECOND QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF THE ACTS.

LESSON XII. [June 22.]

TEMPERANCE LESSON.

Rom. 13. 8-14. Memorize verses 12-14.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.—Rom. 13. 12.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

To whom did Paul write a letter? To the Christians at Rome. What was Rome? A great, wicked city. What did the people worship? Many idols. What did Paul teach them about debts? "Owe no man anything but love." What did he say that love does? It fulfils the law. How? Because one who truly loves cannot break God's law. Why did he tell them to awake? Because the world's night was over. What did he mean by sleep? Thoughtlessness about God. And what by night? The state of sin and ignorance. Why was the day at hand? The Lord's kingdom had come. What is he? The Light of the world. What did he tell them to put away? Drunkenness and wrong living. What did he tell them to put on? The Lord Jesus Christ. How can we "put on" the Lord Jesus Christ? By trying to think and to do as he did.

DAILY STEPS.

- Mon. Read the lesson verses. Rom. 13. 8-14.
- Tues. Read Paul's beautiful words about love. 1 Cor. 13.
- Wed. Read John's words about love. 1 John 3. 18-24.
- Thur. What is a good debt to owe? Verse 8.
- Fri. Read what comes of a pure life. Gal. 5. 22, 23.
- Sat. Find what self-will brings. Gal. 5. 19-21.
- Sun. See what God thinks about drunkards. 1 Cor. 6. 10.

LESSON XIII. [June 29.]

Review.

GOLDEN TEXT.

A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.—Luke 2. 32.

Titles and Golden Texts should be thoroughly studied.

- 1. S. of T. C. . . . . Repent ye there—
- 2. P. E. and D. . . . . Jesus Christ maketh
- 3. P. and C. . . . . God is no—
- 4. G. R. C. . . . . Whosoever believeth
- 5. T. C. & A. in S. . . . The hand of the—
- 6. P. D. from P. . . . The angel of the—
- 7. The E. C. M. . . . Go ye therefore—
- 8. P. at A. in P. . . . Through this man—
- 9. P. at L. . . . . Thou therefore—
- 10. The C. at J. . . . Stand fast therefore
- 11. P. C. to E. . . . Thou shalt be—
- 12. T. L. . . . . Let us therefore—