

But very soon the crops got poor and thin. Locusts flew over the fields and ate the wheat. The fruit grew wormy and mouldy upon the trees. The leaves dropped off the vines, for there was no rain.

Malachi said, "It is because of your meanness to God. Come now and bring good presents to His house and He will bless you. He will open His sky-windows and let

the rain fall on your fields, so that your barns will be too small to hold the crops, and your land will again be a lovely and beautiful place, instead of this wilderness."

Malachi had a promise, too, for those who were not Jews, that God would soon show to the heathen the same kindness as to His own people, and some day the whole earth would be filled with His glory.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Who was Malachi? Ans.—One of God's prophets. 2. What did God send him for? Ans.—To warn the Jews against their sins. 3. What had they done? Ans.—They had cheated God. 4. How? Ans.—By not giving Him the best they had. 5. What had they done with their best fruits and beasts? Ans.—Kept them for themselves. 6. Why

should they give anything to God? Ans.—To show their thanks for His goodness. 7. How were the people punished? Ans.—By bad crops. 8. How did Malachi say they would get God's blessing? Ans.—By honoring Him and giving Him what they ought to give. 9. What is the Golden Text? Ans.—"God loveth a cheerful giver."

Which Gave the Most?

Three children brought gifts one day to the Hospital for Sick Children.

Percy Wilson brought a splendid rocking-horse, for which his rich father had paid. It had a lovely mane and a long tail, and there were beautiful reins and a comfortable saddle. Every one said, "How kind, how generous, of dear little Percy!" And the matron thanked and praised him for his expensive gift.

Elsie Payne brought a doll, a musical top, a tea set, a toy organ, a farm-yard, and a

dolls' house. She had cleared out an old cupboard, and picked up for the poor children a number of toys she did not care for and would not miss.

Willie Bloom was a poor boy himself. He had saved two pennies in his money box to buy himself a little plant, but he made up his mind to go without the flower himself; and he carried the little pot to the hospital, and left it there for a crippled child.

Which gave the most?



I HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY THAT

God Loveth a Cheerful Giver



Golden Text—God loveth a cheerful giver.—2 Cor. 9: 7.

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Catechism—61. In what other ways is the Holy Spirit our Helper? The Holy Spirit helps us in our study of the Bible and in prayer.

Lesson Hymn

JESUS, Lord, we humbly
pray,
Take our gifts on this Thy day:
Gladly, gratefully, we give,
Of Thy grace do Thou receive:
With our store we worship Thee,
As we seek Thy favor free. Amen.
—Hymn 426, Book of Praise.