

THE LARKSPUR AND THE POPPY.

Larry Larkspur, Larry Larkspur,  
Wears a cap of purple gay;  
Trim and handy little dandy,  
Straight and smirk he stands away.

Larry Larkspur, Larry Larkspur,  
Saw the Poppy blooming fair;  
Loved her for her scarlet satin,  
Loved her for her fringed hair.

Sent a message by the night wind;  
"Wilt thou wed me, lady gay?  
For the heart of Larry Larkspur,  
Beats and burns for thee away."

When the morn began to brighten,  
Eager glanced he o'er the bed;  
Lo! the Poppy's leaves had fallen;  
Bare and brown her ugly head.

Sore amazed stood Larry Larkspur,  
And his heart with grief was big;  
"Woe is me! she was so lovely;  
Who could guess she wore a wig?"

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT, FROM  
ELIJAH TO ISAIAH.

LESSON VII.—NOVEMBER 13.

JOASH REPAIRS THE TEMPLE.

2 Kings 12, 4-15. Memorize verses 9-12.  
GOLDEN TEXT.  
We will not forsake the house of our  
God.—Neh. 10, 39.

THE LESSON STORY.

The beautiful temple that Solomon built could not last for ever unless it could be kept in repair, and it was more than a hundred years after it was finished that King Joash looked at it and said within himself that he would set men and money to work to put it in good order. He called the priests together and told them to use the gifts of money that were brought in to make the house of the Lord strong and beautiful. But the priests were very slow to do this work. Perhaps they thought it did not belong to them to do. Then Joash called Jehoiada, the high priest, and he undertook to set the temple in order. He had a strong chest made with a hole in the lid, and it was set beside the altar, and into it were put the gifts that the people brought when they came to worship. Then the high priest and the king's secretary counted the money, and gave it to those who had the oversight, and they gave to carpenters and builders, and to masons and hewers of stone, and to buy timber and stone to repair the Lord's house. It was all given to the workmen, and the king did not need

to reckon with the men who paid the workmen, "for they dealt faithfully." They must have loved the Lord and his holy temple.

After this Joash ruled over Judah wisely, and in the fear of the Lord many years. But after his friend and adviser, the high priest, Jehoiada, died, the king listened to other men and forsook God. Therefore, God forsook him also, and at last he was put to death by his enemies, who made his son Amaziah king in his place.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Who was the baby Joash hidden? In the temple.

How long did he live there? Six years. What then? He was made king.

Who had taught him to love God? Jehoiada, the high priest.

Later, what did he want to do? Repair the temple.

Who finally began the work? Jehoiada.

How did he get the money? The people gave it.

What did they put in it? A chest by the altar.

Who found workmen and material? The overseers.

Who paid them? The same men.

Were they reckoned with? No, they were faithful.

Who next repaired the temple? Josiah, another boy king.

LESSON VIII.—NOVEMBER 20.

ISAIAH'S MESSAGE TO JUDAH.

Isa. 1, 1-9, 16-20. Memorize verses 18-20.

GOLDEN TEXT.

"Cease to do evil; learn to do well.—  
Isa. 1, 16, 17.

THE LESSON STORY.

Isaiah was one of the greater prophets and lived to see four kings reign in Jerusalem over the kingdom of Judah. In the year that Uzziah, the first of the four, died, Isaiah was in the temple and saw a vision of the Lord high upon his throne, and there an angel touched his lips with a live coal from the altar, and there he heard the call of the Lord to give a message to the people, and said, "Here am I; send me." After that he did not fear, for he knew that the Lord had called him to be a prophet.

Isaiah was greatly troubled because his people were so far from the Lord. Only one of the four kings was a bad king, yet the people had lost the pure faith of their fathers. He saw the temple profaned while Ahaz was king, and even the priests were not deeply troubled. He had once seen the Lord, and had been touched with holy fire, and he could not bear evil. In the lesson of to-day the prophet tells the

people to listen, for the Lord has spoken. That he is a father mourning for children who do not think—whose hearts are turned away from him. He tells them that they are sick with sin, and if it were not for the fact that the Lord always keeps his word alive in some heart, they would become like Sodom and Gomorrah, which the Lord destroyed. Then he tells them what to do, and a part of it is in our Golden Text, "Come now, let us reason together, saith the Lord; Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land; But if ye refuse and rebel," that is, if you continue to be disobedient as you have been, "ye shall be decoured with the sword." You will be destroyed, "for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it."

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

What great prophet lived in Judah? Isaiah.

When? About seven hundred years before Christ.

How did the Lord call him? By a vision.

Where was he when he saw it? In the temple.

What did he say to the Lord? "Here am I; send me."

What burden did he bear? The sins of his people.

Why did he hate sin? Because he had seen a vision of holiness.

What did he say about the Lord? That he was a tender father.

And what about his people? That they were unloving children.

Is that just as true now? Yes.

What was the sickness of Judah? Sin.

What was the cure? A return to the Lord.

NAN'S THREE KITTENS.

When little Nan was four years old, her Uncle Will gave her as a birthday present three pretty white kittens. They lapped sweet creamy milk from Nan's pink fingers. At night they lay on Nan's blue-cushioned rocking-chair close by Nan's bed.

When she woke up, she found the three curled up in three little round balls down the coverlid right by her feet. It was their happy purring that woke her. Nan reached down after them, and they nestled up in her neck, and she laid her face on their soft fur.

After breakfast mamma said: "Come, little Nan, it is time you should begin to learn to read." Nan's mother could read when she was four years old. She thinks Nan ought to too; but Nan is a little play-girl and don't want to read. Do you know of any one who is like this little girl?