

BIRDS AND BOYS.

Down in the meadow the little brown thrushes

Build them a nest in the barberry bushes;
And when it is finished all cozy and neat,
Three speckled eggs make their pleasure complete.

"Twit—ter—ee twitter!" they chirp to each other,
"Building a nest is no end of a bother;
But oh, when our dear little birdies we see,
How happy we'll be! How happy we'll be!"

Up at the cottage where children are growing,

The young mother patiently sits at her sewing.

It's something to work for small hobble-dshoys

That will tear their trousers and make such a noise;

"And one must admit," says the dear little mother,

"That bringing up boys is no end of a bother;

But oh, when they kiss me, and climb on my knee,

It's sweetness for me, it's sweetness for me!"

MARY BRADLEY.

WOULDN'T KISS THE QUEEN.

CHILDREN sometimes get very queer ideas in their little heads, and act upon them in a surprising way. The loyal little Scotchman in the following paragraph would accept no overtures from even a royal enemy:

Upward of twenty years ago Sir Noel Paton was residing at Windsor with his family, painting a series of pictures for the Queen. On one occasion Her Majesty, while in the studio, noticed one of Sir Noel's sons—a boy of about six years of age—and on asking him to kiss her, the little fellow firmly declined.

"Why not?" said the Queen.

"Because you killed our Queen Mary."

"O, no," Her Majesty replied, "the Queen who killed your Queen Mary lived about three hundred years ago."

"No," said the juvenile, "you are the Queen of England, and the Queen of England killed our Queen Mary."

A few days afterward, when Her Majesty made a similar request, it was forthwith complied with.

"Why to-day?" said the Queen.

In the most consequential tone the young hopeful replied, "It has all been explained!"

LESSON NOTES.

SECOND QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

B.C. 1491.] LESSON XI. [June 12.

THE COMMANDMENTS.

Exod. 20. 1-11.

Commit to memory vs. 3-11.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart. Matt. 22. 37.

OUTLINE.

1. Our God.
2. Our Duty to God.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

Who spoke to the children of Israel from Mount Sinai? The Lord God of Israel.

Of what did he remind them? Of their deliverance from the land of Egypt.

How had he shown his power over all the earth? By the mighty miracles he had done.

What was his first Commandment to them? "Thou shalt have no other gods before me."

Why did he so command them? Because he alone was worthy to be first in their hearts.

What was his second Commandment? (Recite ver. 4, 5, and 6.)

Why did God give them this command? To save them from the sin and unhappiness of idolatry.

What was his third Commandment? (Recite ver. 7.)

What is it to take God's name in vain? To speak it carelessly, lightly, irreverently, or profanely.

What was his fourth Commandment? (Recite vs. 8, 9, 10, 11.)

Who kept the first Sabbath? God himself, when he rested from his work on the seventh day.

What Commandment spoken by Christ includes these first four Commandments spoken by God. (Repeat GOLDEN TEXT.)

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

If you trust father, or mother, or friend more than God, you break the first Commandment.

If you love fine clothes, or money, or worldly things better than God, you break the second Commandment.

If you think more of your name than of God's name, you do not keep the third Commandment.

If you prefer the six days of work to the day set apart for God, you cannot keep the fourth Commandment.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Love to God.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

What is sin? Sin is not obeying the commands of God.

B.C 1491.] LESSON XII. [June 19.

THE COMMANDMENTS.

Exod. 20. 12-21.

Commit to memory vs. 12-17.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Matt. 22. 39.

OUTLINE.

1. Man's Duty to Man.
2. Man's Fear of God.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

What is the fifth Commandment? (Recite ver. 12.)

What is it to honour your parents? To love, obey, and care for them.

What is the sixth Commandment? "Thou shalt not kill."

What does Jesus call murder? Hate in the heart.

Why? Because it is the spirit of murder.

What is the seventh Commandment? (Recite ver. 14.)

What is the eighth Commandment? "Thou shalt not steal."

What are we doing when we refuse to give God our hearts? Stealing.

Why? Because we are keeping what belongs to another.

What is the ninth Commandment? (Recite ver. 16.)

What is the tenth Commandment? (Recite ver. 17.)

What command of Christ includes the last six of the law? (Repeat the GOLDEN TEXT.)

What accompanied the giving of the law to Moses? Darkness and thunders and lightnings and smoke.

Of what were these a sign? Of the awful majesty of God.

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

"The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul."

"The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes."

"The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart."

"The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever."

"Blessed are they that do his commandments."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Love to man.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

What command did God give to our first parents in the garden of Eden? He commanded them not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.