

It is not here, it is not there,  
It is not anywhere.

Oh! baby eyes, in future years,  
The same blank look will cloud your blue,  
As, spite of hopes and spite of tears,  
The chosen bubble you pursue  
Eludes and disappears.

You will have learned then not to cry;  
Have learned the art that grown folks  
know,

When pretty bubbles burst and die  
Of smiling grimly as they go,  
As they go sadly by:

But, though they smile, and though they  
joke,  
And though they would have deemed it  
shame

To whimper when the bubble broke,  
They do not like it, all the same,  
These mighty grown up folk!

### LESSON NOTES.

B.C. 7.] LESSON I. [Jan. 2.  
ZACHARIAS AND ELISABETH; or, Righteous Before God.  
*Luke. 1. 5-17. Commit to memory verses 13-16.*

#### GOLDEN TEXT.

And they were both righteous before God,  
walking in all the commandments and ordi-  
nances of the Lord blameless. *Luke 1. 6.*

#### OUTLINE.

1. The Holy Pair, v. 5-7.
2. The Hour of Prayer, v. 8-10.
3. The Heavenly Prophecy, v. 11-17.

#### QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

1. *The Holy Pair*, v. 5-7.—Who were the pair here mentioned? Zacharias and Elisabeth. What was Zacharias? A priest of God's house. When did he live? A little while before Christ was born. Where was his home? Near Hebron, in the mountains of Judea. What is said of Zacharias and his wife? [Repeat Golden Text.] What is it to be righteous before God? To try to obey God in all things. What are the ordinances of the Lord? All his laws.

2. *The Hour of Prayer*, v. 8-10.—What was the duty of Zacharias as a priest? To offer incense. Where did he offer incense? In the temple at Jerusalem. How was the incense offered? It was burned on the altar. Where were the people at this time? In the court

outside the temple. What were the people doing while the incense was offered? They were praying to God. Do you try to pray while you are in the church with God's people?

3. *The Heavenly Prophecy*, v. 11-17.—Who appeared to Zacharias in the temple? An angel of God. How did Zacharias feel when he saw the angel? He was afraid. What did the angel say to him? "Fear not." What good news did the angel bring to Zacharias? That God had heard his prayers. What promise did the angel give? That he should have a son. What was to be the name of this son? John.

B.C. 7.] LESSON II. [Jan. 9.  
THE SONG OF MARY; or, Rejoicing in God.

*Luke 1. 46-55.*

*Commit to memory verses 51-55.*

#### GOLDEN TEXT.

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. *Luke 1. 46, 47.*

#### OUTLINE.

1. The Singer, v. 46.
2. The Song, v. 46-55.

#### QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

1. *The Singer*, v. 46.—Who was the singer? A young woman named Mary. Where did Mary live? At Nazareth, in Galilee. How was she related to Elisabeth, the wife of Zacharias? She was her cousin. What was the character of Mary? She loved and served God. Who once came to her? An angel of God. What did the angel tell her? That she should be the mother of Christ. What did she say to this message? "Be it according to thy word." Where did Mary go after the angel's visit? To visit her cousin Elisabeth. How long was the journey? About a hundred miles. When did Mary speak the words of this song? When she met Elisabeth.

2. *The Song*, v. 46-55.—What was Mary's song about? The might and the mercy of God. What did her song show? Her thanks to God. For what did she thank God? For the great honour God had given her. How had God given her honour? By choosing her as the mother of the Saviour. How did she begin her song? [Repeat Golden Text.] What words showed her gratitude? "He that is mighty hath done to me great things." How should we receive all God's mercies to us? We should be grateful, and praise his name. What did Mary say about God's power? "He hath showed strength with his arm." How did God show his power in the coming of his Son? By overcoming the plans of the wicked. What did Mary say of God's grace to the needy. "He hath filled the hungry with good things."