

A LITTLE BOY'S TROUBLES.

I thought when I'd learned my letters,
That all my troubles were done;
But I find myself mistaken—
They have only just begun.
Learning to read was awful,
But nothing like learning to write,
I'd be sorry to have you to tell it,
But my copy-book is a sight.

The ink gets over my fingers,
The pen cuts all sorts of shins;
And won't do at all as I bid it,
The letters won't stay on the lines,
But go up and down and all over,
As though they were dancing a jig—
They are there in all shapes and sizes,
Medium, little and big.

There'd be some comfort in learning
If one could get through; instead
Of that, there are books awaiting,
Quite enough to craze my head,
There's the multiplication table,
And grammar, and—oh, dear me!
There's no good place for stopping,
When one has begun, I see.

My teacher says, little by little
To the mountain top we climb,
It isn't done in a minute,
But only a step at a time;
She says that all the scholars,
And all the wise and learned men,
Had each to begin as I do;
If that's so, where's my pen!

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

LESSON V. [July 30.]

DANIEL IN THE DEN OF LIONS.

Dan. 6. 10-23. Memory verses, 21-23.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The Lord is thy keeper.—Psalm 121. 5.

A LESSON TALK.

The first of the chapter in which the lesson is found shows in what honour Daniel was held. The new king, Darius, made him the first of the three presidents who were placed over the one hundred and twenty princes of the whole kingdom. It tells, too, how his high character and position caused jealousies to rise, and led to a plot to overthrow him. Notice in verse 16 how the king expected that the God of Daniel would deliver him! He looked for this, because he knew that Daniel would trust his God. If we have a real faith in God the people about us will look for him to deliver us in time of trouble. God did not save Daniel from going into the den of lions, but he was there to shut the mouths of the lions. The children of God sometimes have to go into

temptation, but they may be sure, if they trust the mighty God, that he will be close to them to "shut the mouths of the lions."

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Who was the king of Babylon now? Darius.
What was Daniel? An officer of the king.
Who were jealous of him? Some wicked men.
What did they get the king to do? To make a bad law.
What was it? That no one should pray for thirty days, except to the king.
What did they know? That Daniel would break the law.
Who was a higher king than Darius? God.
What does he tell his children to do? To pray to him every day.
What did Daniel do? He kept on praying.
Where was he thrown for this? Into the den of lions.
Why could the lions not hurt him? God shut their mouths.
What did the king command his people to do after this? To fear Daniel's God.

LESSON VI. [Aug. 6.]

THE NEW HEART.

Ezek. 36. 25-36. Memory verses, 25-27.

GOLDEN TEXT.

A new heart also will I give thee.—Ezek. 36. 26.

A LESSON TALK.

Ezekiel was one of the prophets of the Old Testament time. You may learn who he was in Ezekiel 1. 3. Perhaps you wonder how the prophet knew that he was called to prophesy. If you read Ezekiel 2. 1-8 you will find that God talked with him and made it very plain that he wanted him to do this kind of work. It is a good lesson to us to see how ready this man was to do just what he was told to do. Do not forget that the "roll" which was given to Ezekiel to eat may stand for a symbol of the word of God. He wants us to take it into our minds and hearts to make us strong and well, as we take food into our bodies to build us up. The promises of this lesson are full of comfort to those who feel that they have not always done what is pleasing to God. Nothing can make us right and keep us right but the "new heart" which God will give to each child of his who really wants it. Are you one who wants it?

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Who was Ezekiel? A prophet of the Lord.
What did the Lord send him to do? To speak to the people.
What did he tell them? The words of God.
From what did he say the Lord could cleanse them? From all their sin.

What did he offer to give them? A new heart.

What becomes of the old sinful heart? God takes it away.

What does he want to put into us? His own Spirit.

Are these promises for us? Yes, for each one of us.

For whose sake does God do all these good things? For Jesus' sake.

Can we ever repay his love for us? Only by loving him back.

What will love lead us to do? Love God and all people.

Why should we love bad people? Because God loved us when we were sinners.

A LITTLE GENTLEMAN.

BY SIDNEY DAYRE.

"Come and play croquet with Ruthie and me, Harry," said his sister Nellie.

"Oh, I can't. I want to go and sail my ship. You come with me and see how she'll slide over the water."

"Oh, please play with us, Harry."

"Well, I'll play after we sail the ship for a while," said Harry. "Folks ought to give up to each other about their play; Mother says so."

"But why should Ruthie and I give up more than you?" said Nellie.

"Let's go and ask mother who should give up," said Harry. So they went to mother.

"Mother," said Nellie, "Ruthie and I want to play croquet with Harry, and Harry wants to sail his boat."

"Then some one must give up surely," said mother smiling. "Of course you all want to be kind and loving. But Harry is a boy, and if a boy is a gentleman he will give up."

"Well," said Harry, good-naturedly, "I do want to be a gentleman, so we'll play croquet first."

Don't you think that was a good way to settle it?

ON HAND.

I saw a boy sitting on the edge of the wharf fishing, and said to him, "Well, my boy, you don't seem to have caught any fish."

"No," said he, "but I think I shall I'm expecting a shoal of fish in at any time now. I've been fishing here three days, but had no luck, but I'm quite sure the fish will be in soon. They came in about this time last year."

"Why not wait till they come, and then do your fishing?" asked I.

"O sir!" said the plucky little fellow, "I'd rather be here when they come."

I left him and walked on down to the end of the wharf, and in about an hour returned. As I came near where the boys were fishing, I saw that he was landing the speckled beauties on the wharf in true Izaak Walton style. The fish had come in! The persevering lad had taught me a useful lesson.