

AN AMBITIOUS ARTIST.

BY E. H. H.

What are you painting, under the trees,
Where the grasses wave in the soft spring
breeze?

Such a big jar! Dear me, I'm afraid
You'll have to give up, my quaint little
maid,

Trying to paint it, for truly I doubt
If your brush and your colours will ever
hold out.

It is so large, and you are so small
You'll never be able to paint it all!
Better to choose—don't you think so, too—
Something that isn't as big as you,
And do it well, than to daub away
With your tiny brush on such widths of
clay!

It isn't always wise to try
The very biggest thing you spy,
Begin with little—and then, you know,
You can do the big things when you grow.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL BY JOHN.

LESSON IV. [Jan. 22.]

CHRIST AND NICODEMUS.

John 3. 1-16. Memory verses, 14-16.

GOLDEN TEXT.

For God so loved the world that he gave
his only begotten Son, that whosoever
believeth in him should not perish, but
have everlasting life.—John 3. 16.

DO YOU KNOW?

Who was Nicodemus? What did a
Pharisee think? That his good works
would save him. What only can save a
man? Faith in Jesus. When did Nico-
demus go to Jesus? Why did he not go
in the daytime? What did he think of
Jesus? [Verse 2.] What strange thing
did Jesus tell him? What did he mean
by being "born again"? Having a new
heart and a new inner life. What had
God said long before this? Read Wednes-
day's Help.] What does the old heart
love? The things that please self. What
does the new heart love? The things that
please God. How can we be "born again"?
Only by letting the Spirit of God come
into our hearts. What wonderful picture
of faith was given long before? [See
Thursday's Help.] Who has been "lifted
up" for our salvation?

DAILY HELPS.

- Mon.* Read the lesson verses very care-
fully. John 3. 1-16.
Tues. Learn what is true of each one of
us. Verse 7.
Wed. Find what God said a great while
before. Ezek. 36. 26-28.
Thur. Read the story of the brazen ser-
pent. Num. 21. 6-9.

- Fri.* Learn the beautiful Golden Text.
Sat. Learn two verses which tell a won-
derful truth. Verses 14, 15.
Sun. Learn a beautiful invitation to this
new life. Rev. 22. 17.

LESSON V. [Jan. 29.]

CHRIST AT JACOB'S WELL.

John 4. 5-15. Memory verses, 13-15.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Whosoever drinketh of the water that I
shall give him shall never thirst.—John 4. 14.

DO YOU KNOW?

Where was Jesus going now? What
country lay between Judea and Galilee?
Where did Jesus sit down to rest? Near
what town was Jacob's well? Why was
the well called by Jacob's name? Who
were the Samaritans? What do you
know about their temple? Why did the
Jews look down upon the Samaritans?
The Jews thought themselves the only
good people in the world. Who came to
draw water at the well? A Samaritan
woman. Why was she surprised when
Jesus spoke to her? Because she saw
that he was a Jew. Was she a good
woman? No; she was a very wicked
woman. What did Jesus offer to give
her? What did he mean by living water?
Who may have the Holy Spirit in the
heart? Those who want him. To whom
does Jesus most gladly offer his gifts? To
those who need them most.

DAILY HELPS.

- Mon.* Read the lesson verses from your
Bible. John 4. 5-15.
Tues. Read about Jacob in Gen. 33.
Wed. Find a beautiful invitation to take
God's gift. Isa. 55. 1.
Thur. Learn the Golden Text.
Fri. Learn how we may get the water
of life. Rev. 22. 17.
Sat. Find a blessing pronounced upon
the thirsty ones. Matt. 5. 6.
Sun. Read what Jesus said about true
worship. John 4. 23, 24.

JOHNNY'S FARMING.

Johnny thought it must be a fine thing
to be a farmer, so when he went to visit
grandma on her farm, he told her he was
going to farm the whole time he was there.
"May I, grandma?" said he.

"Certainly," said grandma, laughing;
"farm as much as you please, but I think
you will learn that farming is a whole year's
work and not a vacation play."

"Never mind," said Johnny, "I'll be a
farmer while I'm here."

So Johnny went to work on the farm;
not very hard work as he thought. He
stood around and saw the men pile the
hay, he walked in the garden and helped
to gather the vegetables. Sometimes
he filled his wheelbarrow with pota-
toes and carrots, and wheeled the load
around to the kitchen door. But best of

all he liked the orchard and the field where
the melons grew. Every morning he came
in with several fine watermelons and cantel-
oupes, and he thought it was great fun to
hold the watermelon on an old stump near
the house while grandma cut it, and, to
tell the truth, Johnny did not think it a
hard task to eat a big slice of the melon.

So, with peaches, pears, apples, melons
and plums, Johnny was very busy with
his farming in the daytime; at night he
was busy dreaming.

One night he dreamed that a whole
swarm of insects flew at him with sticks
and knives, and although they had wings,
they had legs like men. Johnny screamed
so loud in his sleep that grandma got up
and ran to his bed to see what was the
matter.

When it was time to return home, and
Johnny asked grandma if he had been a
good farmer, she laughed.

I daresay you would make just such a
farmer as Johnny. Now, do you not think
so yourself?

WHAT MARY GAVE.

She gave an hour of patient care to her
little baby sister, who was cutting teeth.
She gave a string and a crooked pin and
a great deal of good advice to the three-
year-old brother who wanted to play at
fishing. She gave Ellen, the maid, a pre-
cious hour to go and visit her sick baby at
home, for Ellen was a widow, and left her
child with its grandmother, while she
worked to get bread for both. She could
not have seen them very often if Mary had
not offered to attend the door while she
was away.

But this is not all that Mary gave. She
dressed herself so neatly, and looked so
bright and kind and obliging, that she
gave her mother a thrill of pleasure when-
ever she caught sight of the young,
pleasant face. She wrote a letter to her
father, who was absent on business. She
gave patient attention to a long story by
her grandmother, and when it was ended,
made the old lady happy by a good-night
kiss.

Thus she had given valuable presents to
six people in one day, and yet she had not
a cent in the world. She was as good as
gold, and she gave something of herself
to all those who were so happy as to meet
her.

NOT FOR SALE.

I have read a story of a poor woman
who looked longingly at the flowers in the
king's garden, wishing to buy some for her
sick daughter. She was angrily repelled
by the king's gardener, who rudely told
her, "The king's flowers are not for sale!"
But the king, chancing to pass, plucked a
bouquet and gave it to the wistful woman,
saying, "The king does not sell his flowers;
he gives them away." Our King, the
Lord Jesus Christ, does not sell the precious
flower of eternal life, but he will freely
give it to all who will receive it at his
hands.