

A SONG OF CLOTHES-PINS.

BY MARY WHITE.

Sing a song of clothes-pins,
Out upon the line,
Holding fast the flapping clothes
In the bright sunshine!

Heads together nodding,
Eager every face,
Whispering, while slender feet
Hold the clothes in place.

Sing a song of clothes-pins,
Dropping one by one
In the clothes-pin basket
When their work is done.

Do you think, when Mary
Drops them there, they stay
Dozing in the basket
Till next washing day?

Sing a song of clothes-pins,
Standing stiff and straight;
While we make their wigs and gowns,
They can hardly wait!

Then we play the whole week through—
Theatre, dinner, ball,
Going to wooden weddings
Is the greatest fun of all!

Sing a song of clothes-pins
Monday morn asleep;
Not because they're stupid—
'Tis the hours they keep.

Wake them gently whispering,
Soon upon the line,
See, they hold the clothes again
In the bright sunshine!

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF JESUS.

LESSON VI. [Feb. 10.]

PARABLE OF THE TALENTS.

Matt. 25. 14-30. Memory verses, 20, 21.

GOLDEN TEXT.

So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.—Rom. 14. 12.

THE LESSON STORY.

Another parable Jesus taught his disciples was about the talents. He said the kingdom of heaven is like a man going away to a far country. But first he called his servants and gave them pieces of money called talents to trade with while he was gone. One had five given to him, and he used them so wisely and carefully that he earned five more. The servant who had two also doubled his money. But the servant who had one did not try to use it at all, but hid it in the ground so that it was of no use to anybody.

After awhile the master came home and asked his servants what they had done with his money. He was pleased with the two who had done what they could, but he was displeased with the man who had not even tried to see what he could do. He took away his one talent, and gave it to the man who had ten, and then he sent the careless servant away from him.

There is another kind of talent than money which God gives to each one. Yours may be small, but it is something you can do. Are you trying to do it?

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Where did a certain man go? To a far country.

What did he give his servants. Money to use for him.

What were these pieces of money called? Talents.

How many did he give them? To one five, to one two, and to another one.

What did he do after awhile? He came home.

What did he ask his servants? To give an account.

What had the first done? Gained five talents.

What had the second done? Doubled his money.

What had the third done? Nothing at all.

What did the master do? He sent him away.

What was done with his talent? It was taken from him.

What does this lesson teach us? To use our gifts for God.

LESSON VII. [Feb. 17.]

THE LORD'S SUPPER.

Matt. 26. 17-30. Memory verses, 26-28.

GOLDEN TEXT.

This do in remembrance of me.—Luke 22. 19.

THE LESSON STORY.

Do you remember the passover story? You may find it in the Bible, Exod. 12. 3-11. Read it carefully before you read the lesson verses. It will show you what the disciples had to do "to make ready the passover."

Try to imagine Jesus and the disciples in a large upper room, with tables and couches all ready for a meal. A large jar of water, a basin, and a towel were there also. These were to use in bathing tired, dusty feet. When they sat at the table and Jesus said, "One of you shall betray me," can you not see how they would look at one another with sorrow and surprise? If you had seen Judas leave the table that night, and go to betray Jesus, how sad you would have felt!

Now Jesus was alone with the eleven, and he gave them something to do that night which should help them to remember him. It was to show other people, too, that they were his disciples. This was the keeping of the Lord's supper,

or, as it is often called, the Holy Communion.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

On what day was Jesus crucified? On Friday.

What did the disciples ask Thursday morning? Where to eat the passover.

Where did Jesus tell them to go? Into the city.

What did they find ready for them? An upper room.

Who made ready the supper? Peter and John.

When did Jesus and the others come? In the evening.

How many were at the table? Jesus and the twelve.

What did Jesus say? That one would betray him.

Who was the guilty one? Judas.

What did Jesus bless? The bread and the wine.

What do we call this supper? The Lord's supper.

Of what is it a sign? That we remember Jesus.

SOME LONG DAYS.

It is quite important, when speaking of the longest day in the year, to say what part of the world we are talking about. Christmas, for instance, at the equator is very different from Christmas at Tornea, Finland, where the day is less than three hours in length.

At Stockholm, Sweden, the longest day is eighteen and one-half hours.

At Spitzbergen the longest day is three and one half months.

At London, England, and Bremen, Prussia, the longest day has sixteen and one-half hours.

At Hamberg in Germany, and Dantzic in Prussia, the longest day has seventeen hours.

At Wardbury, Norway, the longest day lasts from May twenty-first to June twenty-second without interruption.

At St. Petersburg, Russia, and Tobolsk, Siberia, the longest day is nineteen hours, and the shortest five hours.

At Tornea, Finland, June twenty-first brings a day nearly twenty-two hours long.

At New York the longest day is about fifteen hours, and at Montreal, Canada, it is sixteen hours.

FOR A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Suppose we think little about number one, Suppose we all help some one else to have fun;

Suppose we ne'er speak of the faults of a friend,

Suppose we are ready our own to amend; Suppose we laugh *with* and not *at* other folk,

And never hurt any one "just for a joke;"

Suppose we hide trouble and show only cheer—

'Tis likely we'll have quite a happy New Year.