

A QUEER RACE.

I saw the queerest race to-day
Out at the county fair,
The riders all were tiny tots;
The racers all were rare.

I saw a little winsome maid,
With flying yellow hair,
Hold fast and ride around the ring,
Upon a big brown bear.

Another one laughed loud in glee,
And raced around the track,
And she was seated fearlessly
Upon a lion's back.

And one rode on a tiger fierce,
Another on a deer,
While others rode on prancing steeds,
Without a sign of fear.

And round and round the track they rode,
All at a rapid pace,
And no one beat, though all tried hard
To win the funny race.

At last the racers came to rest,
The music ceased to sound,
And all the little tots went home,
And left the merry-go-round.

—*Youth's Companion.*

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

LESSON V.—NOVEMBER 1.

DAVID AND ABSALOM.

2 Sam. 15. 1-12. Memorize verses 4-6.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.—Exod. 20. 12.

THE LESSON STORY.

King David had the love of his people and was feared by all the nations around him; but he also had some great sorrows, greater even than when he was hunted by Saul from cave to cave in the wilderness. He had a son named Absalom, who was a handsome boy, and as he grew older he began to think it would be a very fine thing to be king himself. His heart must have been very much like one of those apples that are smooth and bright-coloured outside and are rotten inside. He had the kindest of fathers, but he had no real love in his heart. He stole the hearts of many of the people by asking them about their troubles, and saying that if he were only judge he would do them justice, and sometimes he would kiss them. Then he tried to act like a king by having

horses and chariots and fifty men to run before him when he went out.

After a while he asked the king to let him go to Hebron to pay a vow to the Lord; so the king said, "Go in peace." He took two hundred men with him who did not know what he had planned, and sent out spies to every tribe, so that at the sound of the trumpet he could be called the king, and he hoped that all the people would follow him.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Who was Absalom? The son of King David.

What was he noted for? His beauty.

What did he like to do? Show himself to the people.

How did he try to act? Like a king.

What did he wish to be? King of Israel.

How did he begin? By flattering the people.

What did they think? That he was their friend.

What did he ask of the king? That he might go to Hebron.

Why? To pay a vow to the Lord.

Whom did he take with him? Two hundred men.

What did he intend to do? Call himself the king.

What did he hope? That the people would follow him.

LESSON VI.—NOVEMBER 8.

DAVID'S GRIEF OVER ABSALOM.

2 Sam. 18. 24-33. Memorize verses 31-33.

GOLDEN TEXT.

A foolish son is a grief to his father.—Prov. 17. 25.

THE LESSON STORY.

Absalom had talked so much and so well to the people that many thought he would do more for them than David had done, and so they listened to Absalom's spies and went to Hebron until he had an army around him. He thought he surely would be king, and David thought so too when he heard how many men had gone to his son. It made him very unhappy, because it hurt his heart to know that his own son could turn against him, and he left the palace and went over the Mount of Olives, weeping, and the men who were with him wept also. The trouble had made David's faith in God weak perhaps.

But the Lord would never help Absalom against his servant David, and David's men drove Absalom and his men into a wood, and Absalom, who was riding fast upon a mule, was caught by his thick, long hair in the branches of an oak, and hung there until he was slain by David's men.

David was waiting by the gate of Mahanaim to hear the news of the battle, and his first question was, when a messenger

came, "Is the young man Absalom safe?" There was a little chamber over the city gate, and up to that went David, weeping for his lost boy. He did not think of him as an enemy, but said, "Would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!"

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST

What had Absalom done in Jerusalem? Talked deceitfully to the people.

What did they think? That he loved them.

What else did he do? Sent spies to all the tribes.

Where did he gather them? At Hebron. What did he expect to do? Take Jerusalem.

What did David do? He went away weeping.

What hurt him most? The unkindness of his son.

What was then going on? A great battle.

Which side conquered? The king's men.

What happened to Absalom? He was caught on an oak.

By whom was he killed? By Joab.

How did David bear it? He wept bitterly for his son.

PATSY'S WATER-WITCH.

"Please, Nora, tell us a story," begged the children.

"Sure, and did I ever tell you about my brother Patsy's water-witch?"

"No, indeed, you didn't. Do tell us now."

"Well, it was when I was no bigger than Miss Jeannie, and Patsy was just about as big as Master Fred, and baby Mary was going on two. We never had water come into our houses through pipes, as you do in this country, but we had to bring it from a lake a long way off. So the men folks used to keep a big barrel full of water near the house.

"Patsy was the funny boy. He believed in fairies and bogies, and such. One day, when he and the baby and I were playing by the water barrel, Patsy climbed up and looked in. 'Oh,' says he, 'here is a water-witch. I——' and over he tumbled into the water; and all I could see was his two feet. I hollered so loud that mother came running. She hollered too; but she pulled him out. As soon as he could speak, he said: 'The wicked water-witch pulled me in. I saw her two eyes a-glaring at me!'"

"Was it a witch?" asked Jeannie.

"No, Miss Jeannie. 'Twas his own face he saw in the water."

Never let a day pass without doing something for Jesus.