

AT SCHOOL.

We are all at school in this world of ours,
And our lessons lie plain before us;
But we will not learn, and the flying hours
And the days and the years pass o'er us.

And then we grumble and mourn, and say
That our school is so tiresome and weary,
And we ask for a long bright holiday
That will banish our lessons dreary.

But what is it God is trying to teach?
Is it patience, or faith, or kindness?
Is the lesson really beyond our reach,
Or made hard through our wilful blindness.

If we were in earnest, and tried to learn,
If our listless study we mended,
Who knows but our holiday we would earn,
And our schooldays be gladly ended?

Who knows but we make our lessons long,
And hinder their meaning from reaching
The hearts that would be full of joyous song
If we knew what our God was teaching?

Then let us study his will while we may,
There's a warning for us in the rule,
That the scholar who will not learn all day
Is the one that is kept after school.

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

LESSON VII. [Nov. 12.]

REBUILDING THE WALLS OF JERUSALEM.
Neh. 4. 7-18. Memory verses, 15-18.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Watch and pray.—Matt. 26. 41.

DO YOU KNOW?

What did king Artaxerxes allow Nehemiah to do? To go back to Jerusalem. How long a journey was it? What did the people do when he came to Jerusalem? Heard what he said. What were they ready to do right away? To build the walls. Who tried to hinder and oppose them. Their enemies. What did their enemies do at first? Laughed at them. What made them angry after awhile? To see that the work was going on. What did they do then? They came to fight the builders. What did Nehemiah do when he heard this? He first prayed to God. What did he do next? He set a watch. How did the men work? With sword in hand. What are we told to do? "Watch, and fight, and pray."

DAILY HELPS.

- Mon. Read the lesson verses carefully. Neh. 4. 7-18.
- Tues. Find what Nehemiah did one night. Neh. 2. 11-16
- Wed. Read about enemies to Nehemiah. Neh. 2. 19-20
- Thur. Learn how God cares for his people. Psalm 33. 10-12.
- Fri. Read about the wise and the foolish builders. Matt. 7. 24-29.
- Sat. Learn how God can protect his people. Zech. 2. 5.
- Sun. Learn how to stand in time of danger. Eph. 6. 13, 18.

LESSON VIII. [Nov. 19.]

PUBLIC READING OF THE SCRIPTURES.

Neh. 8. 1-12. Memory verses, 1-3.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The ears of the people were attentive unto the book of the law.—Neh. 8. 3.

DO YOU KNOW?

How long did it take to build the walls of Jerusalem? Fifty-two days. What did the people want to do then? Have a kind of thanksgiving feast. Where was the meeting held? What was Ezra asked to bring? Who came to hear him read? How long did he read? What did Ezra do besides reading the law? He explained it. Where did Ezra stand? Why did some of the people weep as the law was read? Perhaps they thought how they had broken it, and were sorry. Who helped Ezra to explain the laws? The Levites. What did the Levites tell the people to do? To be glad, and not sorry. What did Nehemiah say was their strength? "The joy of the Lord."

DAILY HELPS.

- Mon. Read the lesson verses from your Bible. Neh. 8. 1-12.
- Tues. Read the law that was first given. Exod. 20. 1-17.
- Wed. Find what Jesus said about the law. Matt. 5. 17-20.
- Thur. Learn how the people obeyed the word of God. Neh. 8. 13-18.
- Fri. Learn a prayer, and offer it. Psalm 119. 13.
- Sat. See if you can trulysay this text. Psalm 119. 113.
- Sun. Find out how good the law of God is. Psalm. 19. 7-14.

DON'T TOUCH IT.

"What's that?" asked Johnny pointing to a queer-looking thing that he had never seen before.
"That's a rat trap," said his mother.
"Don't touch it."
"What's it for?" inquired Johnny.
"To catch rats," replied his mother.
"How?" asked Johnny.
"I put this cheese in for bait, and when Mr. Rat comes prying about in the cellar.

he smells it, and says to himself 'Well, what's all this somebody has been getting ready for me? Very kind of somebody. So he puts his nose in this little hole, and says 'Ah' that smells good.' He puts his nose in a little farther, and takes a good nibble; but just as poor Mr. Rat is making up his mind that it tastes as good as it looks and smells, pop goes the spring."

"And then what?" asked Johnny.

"Then he never finds his way into the collar again to gnaw bread and pies."

His mother carried the trap into the cellar, and set it down, saying again: "Don't touch it."

Johnny stood and watched it for a little while, hoping that Mr. Rat would come and try the cheese, so that he could see the trap pop; but as Mr. Rat seemed in no hurry, Johnny began to wonder what made it pop. He put his small finger a little way in the hole. Yes, there was the cheese, all ready for Mr. Rat. How tiresome of him not to come! Johnny wondered more and more where the pop was. Perhaps he could feel it. A little farther in his finger went. Snap went the trap.

"O! och! let go!" went Johnny. He had found the pop.

If rat traps had any sense, that trap would have known that it was a soft little finger, and not a rat, that it had hold of, but we all know that traps have no sense, and so that one held Johnny's finger with a cruel grip of its sharp teeth.

"O! O mamma!" screamed Johnny.

If he had kept still, he would not have been badly hurt, but he tried to drag his finger out, and it was sadly cut and scratched before his mother ran and let the poor little rat out.

"I don't like rat traps," said Johnny, with sobs and whimpers, as mamma carefully bound up the poor finger.

"Rat traps never hurt little boys," said mamma.

"That one hurt me," said Johnny.

"Not until you turned it into a little boy trap," said mamma.

"FOLLOW ME."

I was but a little lamb,
From the Shepherd straying,
When I heard within my heart
Some one softly saying:
"Follow me, follow me;
I will safely guide thee
Through the stormy ways of life,
Walking close beside thee."

Early to his loving care
Shall my heart be given,
For each step I take with him
Bring me nearer heaven,
"Follow me, follow me,"
Is the saviour saying
Unto every little lamb
Who from him is straying.

Habit is a cable; we weave a thread of it every day, and at last we cannot break it.