

but the Fixed Stars, which are very far off, have light of their own, and are supposed to be other great Suns.

Q. Are the Stars as large as the Moon?

A. Many of them are in reality much larger than the Moon, but they all appear smaller because they are much farther off.

Q. How long does it take the Earth to turn once round?

A. About 24 hours; giving us on an average about 12 hours of day and 12 hours of night.

CONVERSATION II.

Sketch of Time and its Divisions.

1. Most boys and girls know what is the meaning of *day* and *night*. Each day and night form part of a week, a week forms part of a month, and a month forms part of a year.

2. Every year begins on the first day of January. There are 365, or rather 365½, days in a year. To make up for the quarter-day, one whole day is added to the February of every fourth year, and this is called "leap-year." The 365 days are divided into 12 months, of nearly 30½ days each on an average.

3. The 12 months are divided into what are called four Seasons. Thus March, April, and May are called *Spring*; June, July, and August, *Summer*; September, October, and November, *Autumn*, or "the Fall,"—for in these months the leaves fall; and December, January, and February, *Winter*.

4. We all welcome the Spring; for during this Season the grass and the flowers *spring* up in the earth, the leaves bud on the trees and plants, and the migratory birds come from the warm South to build their nests and to sing their merry songs. The farmer, too, is busy in ploughing, sowing, and planting.

5. The Summer, when not too hot, is very pleasant. The days then are the longest of the year, and boys and girls can play and enjoy themselves to their hearts' content. The flowers are fragrant and beautiful, and all nature seems alive.

6. The Autumn brings with it the rich reward of the farmer's industry. Fruit, grain, and vegetables are generally gathered in rich abundance, reminding us of God's goodness in

bountifully supplying our daily wants. The Autumn also reminds us of the close of life; for now the leaves wither and fall from the trees, and the birds take their flight to lands whose summer is just commencing.

7. Winter comes; and with it frost, snow, and storms. We seek warmth and protection from the cold; and cattle seek shelter. Then is the time for skating and sleigh-riding. The long winter evenings, too, bring with them time to prepare for school, as well as to enjoy the reading of pleasant books from the school or the home library; for good boys and girls read and study, as well as play.

8. The regularity with which these Seasons come round, should remind us of God's faithful promise to Noah (of which the beautiful rainbow is the token), that he would never again destroy the World and its inhabitants with water; but that "while the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night, shall not cease."—Genesis viii. 22.

EXAMINATION LESSON II.

Time and its Divisions.

Q. Name the principal divisions of time.

A. Seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, and years.

Q. Can you repeat the time-table?

A. Yes: 60 seconds make 1 minute.
60 minutes " 1 hour.
24 hours " 1 day.
7 days " 1 week.
4 weeks " 1 lunar* month.
13 lunar months, or }
12 calendar months, } make 1 civil year.

Q. How many days and weeks are in a year?

A. 365½ days, or 52 weeks.

Q. How many days are there in each month?

A. Thirty days hath September,
April, June, and November;
February hath twenty-eight alone,
And all the rest have thirty-one;
But leap-year coming once in four,
February then hath one day more.

Q. Into how many seasons is the year divided?

A. Into four, called Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter.

* From the Latin word *Luna*, the Moon.