

"COME AND SCRATCH."

Said the first little chicken,
With a queer little squirm :
"O I wish I could find
A fat little worm."

Said the next little chicken,
With an odd little shrug :
"O, I wish I could find
A fat little bug."

Said the third little chicken,
With a sharp little squeal :
"O, I wish I could find
Some nice yellow meal."

Said the fourth little chicken,
With a sigh of grief :
"O, I wish I could find
A green little leaf."

"Now see here," said the mother,
From the green garden patch ;
"If you want any breakfast,
You just come and scratch."

—Selected.

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

LESSON I.—OCTOBER 4.

DAVID BRINGS UP THE ARK.

2 Sam. 6. 1-12. Memorize verses 11, 12.
GOLDEN TEXT.

Blessed are they that dwell in thy throne.—Psa. 84. 4.

THE LESSON STORY.

David was now king over all Israel, for Ish-bosheth and his chief captain, Abner, had been killed, and all the tribes came to David at Hebron and made a covenant with him, and he was anointed the third time king over all Israel. Soon after he took the stronghold of the Jebusites, which was on a high, rocky hill, and made it his own city, and it has been called Jerusalem, the city of David, ever since. Then David wanted the ark of God to rest there. It was at one time taken by the Philistines and kept for seven months, but they were afraid to keep it longer and took it to the land of Israel again. It had been placed in the house of Abinadab, where it had long rested, and now it was set upon a new cart, and in the presence of thirty thousand of the chosen of Israel it was to be brought into the city of David. There was a time of great joy, and David and many others went before the ark playing upon instruments of music, while the priests went with it. Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, guided the cart, and when the oxen

stumbled Uzzah put forth his hand to steady the ark. He had been taught the law that only priests could touch the ark, for it was the holy thing that God had set in their midst for their guidance, but he was careless, and he died by the ark of God, as a lesson, perhaps, to others. David had the ark carried to the house of Obbedom, where it was a blessing for three months, and then it was brought up to Jerusalem with great gladness.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Of what was the ark a sign ? That God was with his people.

What was in it ? The Ten Commandments.

Where was it made ? In the wilderness.

Who carried it away ? The Philistines.

Was it now in Israel ? Yes.

Where did David wish to carry it ? To Jerusalem.

Who went to carry it ? David and all Israel.

What was it on ? A new cart, drawn by oxen.

Who steadied the ark ? Uzzah.

What happened ? He died.

Who should touch the ark ? The priests only.

Where was it then placed ? In the house of Obbedom.

LESSON II.—OCTOBER 11.

GOD'S COVENANT WITH DAVID.

2 Sam. 7. 4-16. Memorize verses 8, 9.
GOLDEN TEXT.

Thy throne shall be established forever.—2 Sam. 7. 16.

THE LESSON STORY.

David had brought the ark into Jerusalem and had placed it in the tabernacle that he had set up there, and there was great joy. But as he went into his own house, built of precious cedar wood, he began to think, and said to Nathan, the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains."

And Nathan told him to do all that was in his heart to do, for the Lord was with him.

That night Nathan heard the voice of the Lord, who told him what to say to David. God knew what David was thinking, but he had not asked before to have a house built to him, for the time had not come. The tabernacle was all they were able to build for worship; but now he told Nathan to say that the Lord, who took David from the sheepcote and following the sheep to be ruler over Israel, was about to establish a throne for David which should be planted safely, and where enemies should not come, and as he had been with his people through the wilderness

and among enemies, so would he be with them in Jerusalem and in peace. He also said that when David slept with his fathers his son should be king, and build a temple to his name. "Thy house and thy kingdom shall be established forever," he said, and so it has been, for of his family the Lord Jesus Christ was born, whose kingdom is over all the world.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Where was David's house of cedar ? In Jerusalem.

What was the ark of the Lord in ? A tent.

What did David think ? That it was not good enough.

To whom did he speak ? To Nathan, the prophet.

What did he say ? That the Lord ought to have a house.

Who spoke to Nathan that night ? The Lord.

What did he say ? That he would build a house for David.

Did he want David to build a temple ? No.

Why ? It was for his son Solomon to build.

What did he say he would keep safe ? David's throne.

Who was of the family of David ? The Lord Jesus.

Where does he reign ? Over all the earth.

THREE SHIPS.

BY HARRIET F. BLODGETT.

Three ships there be a-sailing
Betwixt the earth and sky;
And one is Now, and one is Then,
And one is By and by.

The first little ship is all for you—
Its masts are gold, its sails are blue,
And this is the cargo it brings:
Joyful days with sunlight glowing;
Nights where dreams like stars are glowing;
Take them, Sweet, or they'll be going!
For they ev'ry one have wings.

The second ship is all for me—
A-sailing on a misty sea,
And out across the twilight grey.
What it brought of gift and blessing
Would not stay for my caressing—
Was too dear for my possessing—
So it sails and sails away.

The last ship, riding fair and high
Upon the sea, is By and by,
Oh, wind, be kind, and gently blow!
Not too swiftly hasten hither,
When she turns, Sweet, you'll go with her—
Sailing, floating, hither, thither,
To what port I may not know.