

Our Young Folks.

COUNTRY BOYS.

Up with the early singing birds,
Fresh for the busy day,
Driving the cows to pasture,
Tossing the new mown hay.

Hunting for eggs in the barnyard,
Riding the horse to mill,
Feeding the ducks and chickens,
Giving the pigs their swill.

Running of errands for mother,
Picking the early greens,
Hilling the corn and potatoes,
Shelling the peas and beans

Going to school in winter,
Learning to read and spell,
Working at home in summer,
Gathering knowledge as well.

Growing to useful manhood,
Far from the noisy town;
One of these country lads may yet
Be first in the world's renown.

IF I WERE YOU, MY BOY.

I wouldn't be ashamed to do right anywhere.
I would not do anything that I would not be willing for
everybody to know.
I wouldn't conclude that I knew more than my father be-
fore I had been fifty miles away from home.
I wouldn't go in the company of boys who used bad lan-
guage
I wouldn't get in the sulks and pout whenever I couldn't
have my own way about everything.
I wouldn't let any other boy get ahead of me in my
studies
I wouldn't abuse little boys who had no big brother for me
to be afraid of.
I would learn to be polite to everybody
I wouldn't cry for anything when mamma or papa told me
it was not good for me.
I would try to see if I couldn't get people to like me, by
being civil to everybody.
I would never make fun of children because they were not
dressed nice.
I would try to learn something useful every day, and
whenever I saw men making anything I would watch to see
how they did it.
I would keep my hands and face clean, and my hair
brushed without having to be told to.
I would be respectful to old people, and behave so that my
parents would not be ashamed of me.
I would be in earnest about everything. When I had to
work I would do it with all my might, I would study with all
my might, and I would play with all my might.
I would read books and papers that would make me want
to know something, and do something that would benefit
other people.
I would have as good a time as I could in this world, but
I wouldn't tell lies, nor steal, nor be mean to anybody.
I would say my prayers every day, and I would ask Jesus
to make me a good boy, and show me how to go to heaven.

HOW THE BELLS CONQUERED.

There is a very interesting narrative told of a small town
in one of the valleys in the Tyrol, near the seat of the long
war between France and Austria, in the early years of this
century. One Easter day, the population woke as usual; but,
to their dismay, those who looked forth saw that the heights
about the town were occupied by a large military force—30,
000 men, under General Dessaix. A hurried council of the
chief townsfolk was held, and all agreed that any defence was
impossible. Some advised that a deputation should go forth
to surrender the town into the hands of the enemy; but the
most part decided—"We can do nothing to defend ourselves
against so formidable a foe, so let us betake ourselves on this
Easter day, as at other times, to worship God." All the
church bells, therefore, rang out lustily, and, though with sor-
rowful hearts, the people betook themselves to the houses of
that God who is full of mercies. In the clear morning air the
sound of the joy-bells went up high amongst the hills, and the
French in their camp heard the sound of those Easter bells,
and saw through their telescopes the people betaking them-
selves to church; and from what they saw and heard, con-
cluded that during the past night an advanced corps of the
Austrians must have occupied the town, and under this im-
pression Dessaix at once withdrew his troops, and the little
town was saved from pillage and assault.

GOD'S EYES.

One beautiful autumn morning Sam Turner and Jim
Strong started out to wander off among the hills eight miles
from their homes in the city, in search of mischief. Each
carried a good sized bag in his hands, and they started
straight for Farmer Brown's apple orchard, for they knew
that the whole family were away, spending the day in the
city. They stole quietly into the orchard, after looking all
about to see if any one was watching them. No eyes were

in sight but God's, they thought; and for Him they did not
care.

At first they kept quiet, but, becoming more bold, they
shouted and pelted each other with apples, and after eating as
much of the fruit as they wished and filling their bags, they
started for town. Yes, God's eyes had seen them, and he told
Professor Mitchell in the observatory dome to turn his big
telescope in that direction as he was setting it for his hunt
after a new star that next night. And in looking through the
big telescope, he saw eight miles away, our two wicked boys
in the orchard stealing apples.

Prof. Mitchell, the good old white-haired astronomer,
went and informed the police of what he had seen. And
when Jim and Sam reached the city with their apples, they
were taken possession of, and immediately carried off to the
police station, and afterward sent to the house of correction.

God's eyes are not only more wonderful than the micro-
scope, but more powerful than the telescope, which brings
things near enough for us to see them when they are a great
many millions of miles from us. The Father in heaven sees
and cares for all that He has made, from the tiny atom of life
to the largest creature. And he also sees the bad we do and
say, as well as the good.

A KIND VOICE.

There is no power of love so hard to get and keep, writes
Elihu Burrito, as a kind voice. A kind hand is dead and
dumb. It may be rough in flesh and blood, yet do the work
of a soft heart, and do it with a soft touch. But there is no
one thing which love so much needs as a sweet voice, to tell
what it means and feels; and it is hard to get and keep in the
right tone. One must start in youth, and be on the watch
night and day, at work and at play, to get and keep a voice
which shall speak at all times the thoughts of a kind heart.
It is often in youth that one gets a voice or tone which is
sharp, and it sticks to him through life, and it stirs up ill will,
and falls like a drop of gall upon the sweet joys of home.
Watch the voice day by day as a pearl of great price, for it
will be worth more to you in the days to come than the best
pearl hid in the sea. A kind voice is to the heart what light
is to the eye. It is a light which sings as well as shines.

HASSAN AND THE THREE YOUNG MEN.

The wise old Hassan sat in his door, when three young
men pressed eagerly by.
"Are ye following after any one, my sons?" he said.
"I follow after Pleasure," said the oldest.
"And I after Riches," said the second. "Pleasure is only
to be found with Riches."
"And you, my little one?" he asked of the third.
"I follow after Duty," he modestly said.
And each went his way.
The aged Hassan in his journey came upon three men.
"My son," he said to the eldest, "methinks thou wert the
youth who was following after Pleasure. Did'st thou over-
take her?"
"No, father," answered the man. "Pleasure is but a
phantom that flies as one approaches."
"Thou did'st not follow the right way, my son."
"How did'st thou fare?" he asked of the second.
"Pleasure is not with Riches," he answered.
"And thou?" continued Hassan, addressing the youngest.
"As I walked with Duty," he replied, "Pleasure walked
ever by my side."
"It is always thus," said the old man. "Pleasure pursued
is not overtaken. Only her shadow is caught by him who
pursues. She herself goes hand in hand with Duty, and they
who make Duty their companion have also the companion-
ship of Pleasure."

Sabbath School Teacher.

INTERNATIONAL LESSONS.

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REVIEW.

{ Acts of Apostles
Ch. i. viii.

THE ASCENSION OF CHRIST.—The Acts of the Apostles, like
the third Gospel was written by Luke the Evangelist, and dedicated
to Theophilus. The Gospel details Christ's life and teaching; the
Acts record the planting of the Christian Church. The latter takes
up the historical narrative where the former leaves off. The final
counsels of our Lord to His apostles were given on the Mount of
Olives. They were told to await in Jerusalem the fulfilment of the
promise of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The apostles asked Him
concerning the restoration of the kingdom to Israel, and he replied
that it was not for them to know the times and the seasons, but they
were under the Holy Spirit's guidance, to be His witnesses in the
world. Jesus was then parted from His disciples and a cloud received
Him out of their sight. Two angels then told them that He should
come again in like manner as they had seen him depart.—Acts i. 1-12.

THE DESCENT OF THE SPIRIT.—In obedience to the Lord's
command, the apostles and the other believers in Christ waited day
after day in prayer and fellowship for the outpouring of the Spirit.
It came accompanied by visible and audible manifestations. A sound
as of a rushing, mighty wind was heard, and appearances, like parted
tongues of flame, were seen to rest on each one present. The assem-
bled Christians began to speak other languages. When the people
learned this—large numbers from many lands were at the time pre-
sent at Jerusalem—they were astonished because they heard their
respective languages spoken by men and women who had never
learned them by ordinary process. This manifestation created a deep
impression and aroused general attention.—Acts ii. 1-12.

THE FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH.—Peter, immediately after the
descent of the Holy Spirit, began to preach Christ's truth with un-
compromising boldness. People were aroused and asked what they

were to do. He told them that repentance and faith in Christ were
necessary for their salvation, and held out God's promises to them.
The result was that about three thousand professed their faith in
Christ and were baptized. The new Church was animated by a
sincere desire to glorify God, and promote the well-being of each
other. Many of them sold their property so that all might be main-
tained, "as every man had need." It was a happy and a joyous
time in the first church. Their conduct produced a favourable im-
pression on those without, and their numbers steadily increased. As
the Revised Version says "The Lord added to them day by day those
that were being saved."—Acts ii. 37-47.

THE LAME MAN HEALED.—At the hour of evening prayer,
Peter and John were going up to the Temple. At the gate called
Beautiful, a lame man sat begging. He asked alms of them. Peter,
fixing the man's attention on them, said, "In the name of Jesus of
Nazareth rise up and walk." The man was cured and went joyfully
praising God into the Temple courts with the apostles. A great
commotion was raised. Peter and John led the vast crowd into
Solomon's Porch, and there preached Christ, showing that He who
had been rejected by them was still the powerful deliverer. It was
He who had healed the lame man.—Acts iii. 1-16.

PETER AND JOHN BEFORE THE COUNCIL.—While Peter was
addressing the multitude in Solomon's Porch, the priests, the Sadu-
cees and the captain of the Temple came upon them and arrested
them and put them in prison. This did not prevent many from be-
lieving their message. Next day the apostles were brought before
the Council and examined. Peter with undaunted courage preached
Christ before the Council. They were convinced of the truth of what
Peter said, and the lame man healed was a living witness. They
could not deny, yet in the true sense they did not believe. So the
rulers "commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name
of Jesus."—Acts iv. 1-18.

THE APOSTLES' CONFIDENCE IN GOD.—To the command of the
Council forbidding them to speak in the name of Jesus, Peter replied
by asking "whether it be right in the sight of God to harken unto
you more than unto God, judge ye." They dared not be silent. The
rulers were afraid to punish them, because the people favoured the
apostles. They were allowed to depart and went to where the
Church was assembled and told all that had happened. The Chris-
tians lifted their voices with one accord, and applied the words of the
second Psalm to their circumstances.—Acts iv. 19-31.

ANNANIAS AND SAPPHIRA.—A man and his wife made it up
that as the other wealthy members of the Church had sold their prop-
erty and given the money for the common use, they would also sell
theirs, but keep back part of the proceeds for themselves. Peter by
the inspiration of the Holy Spirit knew what they had done and
questioned Annanias who boldly lied. Peter showed him that he had
not only lied unto men but to God. Annanias fell down dead. He
was carried out by the young men and buried. Three hours after
Sapphira came in, and on being questioned, she also lied. After a
few words of reproof she too fell down dead and was carried forth
and buried beside her husband. An impressive awe fell on all who
heard of these things.—Acts v. 1-2.

THE APOSTLES PERSECUTED.—The apostles did not stop their
work for fear of the Jewish authorities. They were again arrested
and put in prison, but an angel was sent to set them free. Next
morning they were in the Temple courts as usual preaching the Gos-
pel. The Council had met for their trial and were astonished to find
that they were not in prison. The captain and his men were sent to
bring the apostles before the Council, and when they appeared the
high priest questioned them sternly. Peter replied, "we ought to
obey God rather than men," and boldly accused them of the crime of
putting Jesus to death. Him God had raised from the dead and
made Him a Prince and a Saviour. The rulers were exasperated and
desired to kill the apostles, but Gamaliel, one of the most respected
and learned teachers, counselled moderation, laying down the world-
ly wise rule, that if the apostles were engaged like some formerly, in
an insurrectionary movement, it would come to naught, but if it was
of God they could not overthrow it. His advice prevailed. The
apostles were again cautioned and then discharged, "rejoicing that
they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name."—Acts
v. 25-41.

THE FIRST CHRISTIAN MARTYR.—Stephen, one of the most
prominent of the deacons appointed to attend to the distribution of
relief funds, was a zealous and able preacher of the Gospel. The
authorities soon ordered his arrest. He made a powerful defence,
drawn from the Old Testament, before the Council, but, like Peter,
he brought the truth home to the conscience of his judges. They
were cut to the heart and filled with rage at his words, and were de-
termined on his death. Filled with the Holy Ghost he saw heaven
opened and Jesus standing on the right hand of God. He told his
enraged persecutors what he saw. They could restrain themselves no
longer, but rushed upon him and cast him out of the city and stoned
him to death. The witnesses, whose part it was to cast the first
stones, to enable them to do so more freely laid their outer gar-
ments at the feet of a young man named Saul. The dying Stephen
kneelt and after commending his spirit to the Lord Jesus, prayed the
Christ-like prayer, "lay not this sin to their charge." Then it is
said of him, "he fell asleep." The sleep from which Jesus who is
the resurrection and the life shall awaken all who rest in Him on the
glorious resurrection morn. The Church was scattered by perse-
cution, but the apostles remained in Jerusalem. Saul, destined for
a far nobler service, was for a time a more relentless persecutor than
ever.—Acts vii. 54-60; viii. 1-4.

PHILIP PREACHING AT SAMARIA.—Philip, one of the first
evangelists, went to a city of Samaria to preach the Gospel. His
message was heard with joy and acceptance. Miraculous cures con-
firmed his words and the city was filled with joy. There was a
magician by the name of Simon, who exercised great influence over
the people, but when they heard Philip they deserted the charlatan.
He too professed belief, and like the others was baptized. The
apostles in Jerusalem when they heard of the success of the work in
Samaria sent Peter and John to instruct the people and confirm them
in their faith. They imparted the Holy Ghost by the laying on of
hands. When Simon saw this, he longed not for the gift of the Holy
Ghost, but for the power to bestow it on others by the laying on of
hands. He offered a bribe to the apostles if they would confer this
power on him. Peter's rebuke was severe and pointed, and urged
him to repent of the wicked thought he had cherished in his heart.
He sought the apostles' prayers to avert the threatened calamity.
After preaching in the towns and villages of Samaria the apostles
returned to Jerusalem.—Acts v. 5-25.

PHILIP AND THE ETHIOPIAN.—By an angelic messenger Philip
was told to leave Samaria and go along the road leading from Jeru-
salem to Gaza that passed through the desert country. He obeyed,
and as he journeyed he saw an official high at the Court of Candace,
queen of Ethiopia, who had been in Jerusalem for the purpose of
joining in the Jewish worship. On his way home he was reading the
scriptures. Philip was directed to join him, and asking if he under-
stood what he read, the Ethiopian replied that he needed a guide and
invited Philip to come and sit with him. He had been reading in
the fifty-third chapter of Isaiah of the humiliation and sufferings of
the Messiah. This, Philip explained, applied to Jesus Christ. As
they reached a stream the Ethiopian asked what hindered his
baptism. In answer to Philip's question he confessed "I believe that
Jesus is the Son of God." He was then baptized into the faith of
Christ, and Philip was suddenly removed from him. He went on-
ward rejoicing. Philip went on his way preaching Christ. He
reached Caesarea, where he made his home.—Acts viii. 26-40.