

A LITTLE VISITOR.

There's a busy little fellow,
Who came to town last night,
When all the world was fast asleep,
The children's eyes shut tight.
I cannot tell you "how" he came,
For well the secret's hid,
But I "think" upon a moonbeam bright,
Way down to earth he slid.

He brought the Misses Maple
Each a lovely party gown;
It was brilliant red and yellow,
With a dash or two of brown.
And he must have had a Midas touch,
For, if the truth is told,
The birches all, from top to toe,
He dressed in cloth of gold.

Who is this busy little man,
Whose coming brings us joy?
For I'm very sure he's welcomed
By every girl and boy;
The little stars all saw him,
Though they will not tell a soul;
But I've heard his calling card reads thus:
J. Frost, Esq., North Pole.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

SIX MONTHS WITH THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS.

LESSON VII.—FEBRUARY 14.

JESUS FORGIVES SINS.

Mark 2. 1-12. Memorize verses 3-5.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins.—Mark 2. 10.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

In what city had Jesus just healed many sick people? Where was he teaching? Why was it difficult to enter the house? Where did the most of the people probably stand? In the court. Who came for healing? Who brought him? Where did they take him? How did they bring him to Jesus? How could they "uncover the roof"? Take up the stone slabs that lay across the beams. What was the sick man's bed? A light mattress. Was Jesus displeased? What did he say to the sick man? What did the people think? Did Jesus know their thoughts? What did he then say to the sick man? Was he cured? Which was the greater miracle?

DAILY STEPS.

Mon. Read the lesson verses.
Tues. Read the same story by Luke. Luke 5. 17-25.
Wed. Read Matthew's story. Matt. 9. 1-8.
Thur. Learn what Jesus knew the men most needed. Verse 5.
Fri. Learn the Golden Text.

Sat. Learn something to make you glad. Heb. 13. 8.

Sun. Find that Jesus knows our secret thoughts.

THREE LITTLE LESSONS.

We have learned that—
1. Jesus can make a weak will strong.
2. He can also make a weak body strong.
3. He is ready to do it for us.

LESSON VIII.—FEBRUARY 21.

JESUS AND THE SABBATH.

Matt. 12. 1-13. Memorize verses 6-8.

GOLDEN TEXT.

It is lawful to do well on the Sabbath days.—Matt. 12. 12.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

Where did Jesus walk with his disciples? What day of the week was it? What did the disciples do as they walked? What is meant by corn? Wheat. Who followed them? What did they say? Were they good? They thought they were. What did Jesus tell them? What had he come to teach men? The true way to keep the Sabbath. Where did Jesus go on another Sabbath? Who was there? What did the Pharisees say? Why did they ask him this question? What did Jesus say to them? What did he tell the man with the withered hand to do? What was the result? How shall we keep the Sabbath? Who is the Lord of the Sabbath? (Mark 2. 28.) Repeat the Golden Text.

DAILY STEPS.

Mon. Read lesson verses carefully.
Tues. Learn how fault-finding were the Jews. Mark 2. 6, 7, 16-24.
Wed. Learn why the Sabbath day is holy. Gen. 2. 3.
Thur. Learn the fourth commandment.
Fri. Learn who is the Lord of the Sabbath. Mark 2. 28.
Sat. Find what Jesus said to the Pharisees. Mark 9. 27.
Sun. Learn God's word about the Sabbath. Isa. 58. 13, 14.

THREE LITTLE LESSONS.

We have learned that—
1. We should keep the Lord's day.
2. We should be good and do good always.
3. It is safe to follow Jesus always.

A BIBLE STORY.

"I'd like to hear a story," said Jack, "that begins 'Once on a time.'"
It was Sunday afternoon, and Jack, Louise and their father were lying under an apple-tree in the yard.
"Very well, Jack," said papa. "Once on a time there was a great king, and he had a little son named Rehoboam, of whom he was very proud. The little prince lived in a beautiful palace; he was dressed in

lovely purple silk clothes, covered with beautiful embroidery. Around his neck he wore a chain of pearls. He hadn't a bicycle to ride, but he had a little snow-white ass, with long, silky ears. Although his father was so wise, he had a very wicked, foolish mother. Her name was Queen Naamah. She petted and spoiled her only son, and often used to take him with her when she went to worship her fierce, terrible idol.

"O father," cried Jack, "was she a heathen?"

"Indeed she was, dear, and her wise husband, King Solomon, instead of making her worship our loving God, built an idol for her on a hill. The idol was of hollow brass. Its name was Moloch, and it had a calf's head, and wore a crown."

"How did she worship it?"

"Oh, in a very dreadful way. The men who took care of the idol would build a fire inside it, and when its big brass arms were red-hot, a little child was thrown into them. As the little prince grew older, it is no wonder he grew cruel as well. At last his father died, and the son wanted to be crowned king at once, but the people were afraid of having a cruel, extravagant king, and so after waiting a year they asked him to promise to be kind and gentle to them. But the cruel boy had grown to be a cruel man, and although the old wise friends of his father told him to promise what they asked, he declared he would not. He would whip them with whips having iron claws in them, and he would make them bear heavy burdens. He said this because those who had been his friends in boyhood, and who were as cruel and foolish as himself, coaxed him to say so. You can guess how angry this made the people. So angry were they that most of them went away and made them a new king, named Jeroboam. Instead of a strong, splendid kingdom, as his father had, the poor foolish king, Rehoboam, had only a few thousand people left, with one large city, Jerusalem, and some smaller ones. And he called his kingdom 'Judah,' because that was the name of the people who followed him."

HOW MISTLETOE IS PLANTED.

Did you ever see it growing, that queer Christmas plant, with snow-white berries and thick yellow-green leaves? Its roots do not grow in the ground now, but in the thick bark of trees, generally oak-trees. It first grew from the ground, and men have watched closely to see how its seeds get planted in the rough bark of a tree. Now they have found out. Birds eat the berries, the seeds of which are small and sticky, and cling to their bills. To get rid of them, the birds wipe their bills on the tree where they are sitting, the seed clings, grows, and the mistletoe is planted.—The *Mayflower*.