

## THE ALPHABET-TREE.

BY CLARA DOTY BATES.

To Jack all play was good,  
 All learning very bad,  
 Until one night, when tired out,  
 A charming dream he had;  
 In a wide garden space,  
 All shine and green, stood he,  
 Where, in the sunniest, fairest place,  
 Grew an alphabet-tree.

Fruits purple, gold, and red,  
 Bent every tiniest twig;  
 A's were apples, the bunches of B's  
 Bananas yellow and big;  
 He spied an orange—O;  
 A plum, and that was P;  
 C was a cherry, Q a quince,  
 And a great blue grape was G.

How full of juice they were!  
 How ripe the syllable-seed!  
 And when he had eaten from every bough,  
 Behold, Jack liked to read!  
 He ate from red-streaked A  
 Way down to X, Y, Z,  
 And cried, "There never was anything  
 So nice as this alphabet-tree!"

## LESSON NOTES.

## THIRD QUARTER.

## STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

## LESSON X. September 6.

## DEATH OF SAUL AND JONATHAN.

1 Sam. 31. 1-13. Memorize verses 6-7.

## GOLDEN TEXT.

There is a way which seemeth right  
 unto a man, but the end thereof are the  
 ways of death.—Prov. 14. 12.

## THE LESSON STORY.

David and his men had gone to live in the borders of the Philistines, who were kinder to them than Saul had been. Their king had given David a little city called Ziklag to live in. There he was not troubled by Saul, and there he gained a great victory over the Amalekites. Saul had grown so gloomy that he had gone to a witch, or fortune-teller, and there he heard words that made him fall upon the ground with fear. He knew that he had shut God out of his life, and all was dark, and now he heard that his end was near. And so it was. The Philistines came down upon the Israelites and overcame them so that they fled, and Saul's three sons were killed, and one of them was Jonathan, the beloved friend of David. Saul was wounded so that he took his own life, and his armor-bearer did the same. When David heard of the battle that went against Israel and of the death of Saul and Jonathan he made a great lamenta-

tion. He forgot all the evil that Saul had done, and thought only that he was the Lord's anointed King. As for Jonathan, David cried, "I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: very pleasant hast thou been unto me: thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women."

## QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

What prince gave David a home? Achish.

Where? In the country of the Philistines.

What city did he give David? Ziklag.

Did Saul follow him there? No.

What new trouble had Saul? The Philistines came to fight Israel.

Where did he seek help? Of a witch at Endor.

What did he hear? That his end was near.

Did this come true? Yes, the Philistines conquered.

Who were killed? Saul and three of his sons.

Was Jonathan one of them? Yes.

What did David do? He made a great mourning.

Whom had he lost? His friend Jonathan.

## LESSON XI. September 13.

## DAVID BECOMES KING.

2 Sam. 2. 1-10. Memorize verses 1-3.

## GOLDEN TEXT.

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!  
 —Psa. 133. 1.

## THE LESSON STORY.

The reason that David was fortunate was because he went to the Lord for advice. Now that he knew of Saul's death he thought he ought to go back to his own people, but he first asked the Lord. The Lord told him to go to Hebron. That was a city of Judah, David's tribe, and a holy place to the Israelites, for their forefathers lived there, and Jerusalem had not yet been taken by the Jebusites. So David and his six hundred men and their families went to the hills of Hebron, and the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over Judah. What joy there must have been that the boy whom Samuel had anointed several years before had been brought out of the wilderness and the land of the enemy to be king over his own people! Still he was not king over all Israel, for one of Saul's sons, Ish-bosheth, had been made king over the other tribes by Saul's chief captain, Abner. He reigned but two years, and was then killed by two of his own captains, who wanted to see David king over all Israel; but David lived to reign seven years and a half in Hebron, and forty years in Hebron and Jerusalem. He was always kind to the children and grand-

children of Saul, his enemy, and the lame son of Jonathan always sat at the king's table.

## QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Who became king after Saul? David.

Who had called him? The Lord.

Who had anointed him? Samuel.

What did he now ask the Lord? If he should go to his own country.

What was he told? To go.

To what city? Hebron.

Who anointed him king over Judah? The men of Judah.

To whom was David very kind? To the men who buried Saul.

Who was Ish-bosheth? The son of Saul.

What was he? King over the other tribes of Israel.

How long did he reign? Two years.

How long did David reign? Forty years.

## KITTIE'S NEW SONG.

Kittie had learned a new song to sing,  
 for her heart was full of joy and music.

"Happy day, happy day,  
 When Jesus washed my sins away,"

sang little Kittie again and again, down in the summer-house; and the silvery notes came through the open window into papa's study, and papa laid down his book to listen.

Soon the voice ceased, and the little pattering feet were heard on the stairs, and then a gentle knock.

"Come in, Kittie."

"Papa, isn't this a nice hymn? Please may I sing it to you?"

And so papa listened again to that soft voice, singing the same sweet hymn.

"I like the 'Happy day' part best, papa."

"The chorus, you mean, Kittie, but why?"

"Because, papa, I can't quite understand the rest, but I know that if Jesus had not washed my sins away, I could never go to live with him."

"Why not, Kittie?"

Kittie repeated slowly the verse she had learned that morning about the city of God. "There shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie." And papa, I used to make lies."

"And do you think Jesus has washed that sin away, Kittie?"

"Yes, papa, I asked him to; and if we ask we shall receive, you know. Don't you like those lines, too, papa?"

"Yes, Kittie, very much."

"Please sing it with me once."

And so papa and his little Kittie sang together of that happy day when Jesus washed their sins away.