

PANSIES.

BY A. P. S.

I love a foxglove gently swaying;
I love a rosebud blooming sweet;
I love the honeysuckle climbing;
I love the daisies at my feet.
But I love pansies in the summer,
I love a pansy in the fall,
And when the snows of winter come,
I love a pansy best of all.

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

LESSON X. [Dec. 3.]

KEEPING THE SABBATH.

Neh. 13. 15-22. Memory verses, 15-17.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.—Exod. 20. 8.

A LESSON TALK.

Do you remember that Nehemiah's king hid not want to let his good servant go, and that Nehemiah set a time when he would return. He stayed twelve years in Jerusalem first, and all that time was governor of the city. Then he went back to Persia. It may be that the king sent for him. We do not know how long he stayed this time, but we do know that when he came back again to Jerusalem he found something which made him feel very sad. When the law was read to the people on their great day of thanksgiving they all heard what God said about keeping the Sabbath. They knew that it was one of his commands, and for a time they kept this and his other commands. But they grew careless, and now when Nehemiah came back he found that the holy law was broken in many ways, and especially that the Sabbath was broken. See how earnest Nehemiah was to have the people do right. He was not afraid that the people would be displeased. He was only afraid that God would be displeased. We may learn from this lesson how easy it is to grow careless about keeping God's law, and that we need to "set a watch" every day upon our own actions.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Who gave the Sabbath to us? The good God.

What is the Sabbath? It is God's own day.

What is it for? A day of rest, in which we may learn about God.

What did Nehemiah teach the people to do? To keep God's law.

What did they do when he went away? Broke God's law.

How did they treat the Sabbath? They bought and sold, as on other days.

Who came back to Jerusalem after awhile? Nehemiah.

How did he feel when he saw what the people were doing? Very sad.

What did he say? That God would punish them.

What did he do? He made them stop their wrongdoings.

Was this right? Yes; for he was the governor of the city.

How should we keep the Sabbath? Just as God tells us to do.

LESSON XI. [Dec. 10.]

LESSONS IN GIVING.

Mal. 1. 6-11 and 3. 8-12. Memory verses, 3. 10.

GOLDEN TEXT.

God loveth a cheerful giver.—2 Cor. 9. 7.

A LESSON TALK.

The prophet of whom we are to learn now was the last Old Testament prophet. He lived four hundred years before Christ, and had many words to say about his coming. God gave him the light to see far down the future coming of a holy King and of a holy kingdom. Like John the Baptist, he wanted the people to get ready for the king and the kingdom. What did the prophet see? That the people of Israel had grown careless about the worship of God. They still went to his house and carried their offerings, but they were not careful to take right offerings, and they did not approach God in the right spirit. A father does not like to have his child treat him with small respect, and God, our Father, wants us, his children, to remember when we come to him that he is the high and holy One, and worship with true and clean hearts. This lesson teaches us that we are not to hold back from the Lord the gifts of our hearts and of our hands, which he asks of us. What do we owe to God? As soon as we find out, are we willing to pay our debt? If we give him our hearts we will want to give him all he asks besides.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Who was Malachi? A prophet.

Who spoke through Malachi? The Lord.

How long before Jesus came did Malachi live? About four hundred years.

What did this prophet tell the people? That Jesus was coming.

What did he want them to do? To get ready for him.

What did the people bring to God? Poor offerings.

What ought we to bring to him? Pure offerings.

What is meant by a tithe? The tenth of what we have.

To whom does the tithe belong? To God.

What if we keep it for ourselves? God is not pleased.

What do we do when we keep what belongs to God? We rob him.

What does he want of us first of all? Our hearts.

CHEERFUL GIVING.

Polly Winship pledged twenty-five cents a year to send the gospel to the heathen. Her brother Sam asked, "Why did you promise so much? You know you haven't five cents in the world, and you can't earn any." "Yes, I can," replied Polly. Early the next morning she went to her uncle's, and asked him to hire her to pick up potatoes. Her uncle said: "I was going to hire Sam for two cents a bushel; but a girl ought to work for a cent a bushel." "If a basket is full of potatoes, does it make any difference whether a boy or a girl filled it?" asked Polly. Her uncle replied: "I'll pay you the same as I would Sam if you work as quickly as he does." Polly filled twenty-five baskets, and then stood beside her uncle, happy, tired, and dirty, as he counted out for her five bright dimes. "That's a good deal of money for a little girl to spend," said her uncle. "It isn't to spend," said Polly; "I am going to give twenty-five cents to the little heathen children this year, and the other twenty-five I am going to give for last year, because I didn't know then how much they needed it." Her uncle gave five dollars to the missionary collection, saying: "I was never so ashamed as when that little girl gave all her potato money for missions. I think it is about time for me to give something, too."

LENDING.

"Mother," said Johnny, "haven't you you a pie that you would like to lend to the Lord?"

"Why, Johnny, what do you mean?" she asked; for she thought at first that it was a joke.

"Don't you remember," he said, "that the Bible says that he that giveth to the poor lendeth to the Lord? I don't believe that old Betsy has had a pie for a long time, and I thought that perhaps you would like to have me take one over to her. Then you would be lending to the Lord, you know."

One of mother's best pies went to Betsy. She was only sorry that she had not thought of sending one before.

