

THE THREE LITTLE DOGS.

Three little dogs were talking  
As they trotted along the road;  
And the subject of speech,  
With all and with each,  
Was what bad folks were abroad.

Said the first: "You would hardly believe it,

But I can assure you it's true:  
A man with a pail  
Throw suds on my tail'  
Now I think that is cruel, don't you?"

Said the second: "That's very atrocious,  
But a worse thing happened to me:  
A boy with a stone  
Almost broke my backbone.  
Now what do you think of that?" said he.

Said the third: "My fate was the hardest,  
And I can prove it just now:  
A man knocked me flat  
When I looked at a cat'  
Wasn't that too bad? Bowwow!"

But the three little dogs did not mention—  
The first, that he'd stolen some sprats;  
The next, that he ran  
At a poor blind man;  
And the third, that he'd taunted the cat.

Thus these three little dogs were talking,  
And many little folks do the same;  
They tell of a story  
That redounds to their glory,  
But forget where they well deserve blame.

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

LESSON XI. [Sept. 10.]

ENCOURAGING THE BUILDERS.

Hag. 2. 1-9. Memory verses, 4, 5.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Be strong, all ye people of the land, saith the Lord, and work: for I am with you.—Hag. 2. 4.

A LESSON TALK.

When you read Ezra 4. 1-5 you will find that the Jews soon began to have trouble. It is often so when people are working for the Lord. There are always enemies who want to hinder a good work. The leader among the Jews now was Zerubbabel, the high priest was Joshua. There were people living in Israel called Samaritans. They said they served the God of Israel, but they really served idols. They came and asked if they might help build the Lord's house, and when they were not allowed to do so they were angry, and did all they could to hinder the work as long as King Cyrus lived. When he

died, and Artaxerxes became king, they wrote letters telling him lies about the Jews, and he sent word to stop building the temple.

When this king died Darius was made king, but now the Jews were busy building houses for themselves, and thought they would not ask the king at once to let them go on with the temple. This did not please the Lord, and he sent the prophet Haggai to tell them to build. They obeyed, and in a short time he sent another message (our lesson) to give them strength and comfort.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

To whom did the Lord send a message? To the Jews.

Where were they now? In Jerusalem. What had they gone there to do? To build the Lord's house.

Who had hindered them? The Samaritans.

How did many of them feel? Much discouraged.

What was the message God sent them? A message of hope and courage.

By whom was it brought? By the prophet Haggai.

What did the Lord say? "I am with you."

What more did he tell them? Not to be afraid.

Who are safe from all evil? Those who obey God.

Why should we love the Lord's house? Because he dwells there.

What does he promise to give in his house? Peace.

LESSON XII. [Sept. 17.]

POWER THROUGH THE SPIRIT.

Zech. 4. 1-14. Memory verses, 8-10.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.—Zech. 4. 6.

A LESSON TALK.

This lesson is a promise of triumph. It did not look when the words were spoken as though the Lord's cause could triumph, but the Lord sent his own prophet to say that it surely would.

You remember that the people had been hindered in their work of rebuilding the temple by the Samaritans. The prophet Haggai brought words of courage and cheer from the Lord, and now Zechariah comes with a message. An angel brought the message to him and he gave it to the people. He saw in a vision a candlestick of pure gold with seven lamps and seven pipes running to the lamps. The candlestick was a promise of light, and the pipes that were to carry the oil made a picture of the coming of the Holy Spirit of grace and truth. Zechariah talked with the angel, and was told that this was the Lord's word to Zerubbabel: "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit." The great mountains of difficulty would

all come down, the Lord said, and poor Zerubbabel, the Jews' leader, must have been glad to hear it. This is our lesson: God is stronger than all difficulties Satan can bring up.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Who came and talked with Zechariah? An angel.

What did he show him? A candlestick of gold.

What was upon it? Seven lamps.

What led to the lamps? Seven pipes.

What did the angel say this vision was? The word of the Lord.

To whom was the word sent? To Zerubbabel.

Who was he? The governor of the Jews.

Why was he troubled and unhappy? Because enemies hindered him from building.

How did the Lord say the work would be done? By his spirit.

What did he say would come down? The mountains of trouble.

Whose side is always sure to win? The Lord's side.

How may we have the Holy Spirit? By asking God for it.

WHY BESS KEPT STILL.

BY HELEN A. HAWLEY.

They called her Baby Bess, though she was a big girl, three years old. Baby Bess hadn't had a picture taken since she was a real baby. Therefore Somebody felt pretty bad because he couldn't carry one away in his breast pocket. Everything was so sudden and there was so much to do. But mother said a picture should surely be sent within a fortnight.

When the house was quiet after Somebody went, one day Baby Bess was arrayed in her gown with the frills, and took a walk with her mother down to the Picture-man, with the long word on the sign which she was too little to spell. "PHOTOGRAPHER" it said.

The Picture-man was very much afraid she wouldn't sit still, and he put her head in a queer kind of a brace. Bess thought it felt like a big clothes-pin. Then he said, "If you will, please hold this bright toy where she can see it."

But mother said, "Leave it all to me. Trust me, she will not move."

Then mother stood where Baby Bess could look at her, and just kept saying one word over and over aloud.

The picture came out clear and lovely. The next week one was sent to Somebody.

Now what do you think the word was, and who was Somebody, and where had he gone? The word was "Father," and Somebody was "Father," and "Father" had gone to join a great camp of soldiers. No wonder he wanted dear Baby Bess in his breast pocket.

When God is satisfied with us we shall be satisfied with God.