

A SONG.

Now's the time to make your mark,
Study, work away!
Bee, and bird, and flower, all
Nature's voice obey.

Now's the time to grow and learn,
Now to sow the seed,
And to watch its springing up
Into word and deed.

If you treasure well the hours,
In each heart and face
Shall the cheering impress dwell,
Childhood's happy grace.

While the days grow into years,
Study, work away!
Bee, and bird, the hours improve,
So the children may.

BEGIN RIGHT.

"Boys," said a father, coming in through the yard as the rain began to fall, "put on your rubber coats and boots, and run out and clear away the heap of dirt you threw up yesterday around the cistern platform. Make a little channel where the ground slopes for the water to run off below."

Hal and Horace thought this great fun, and were soon at work. But presently their father called from a window: "You are not doing that right, boys. You've turned the water all toward the house. It will be running into the cellar window next thing you know. Turn your channel away from the house at once."

"But this is the easiest way to dig it now, papa," called Hal. "Before it does any harm we'll turn it off."

"Do it right in the beginning," said the father, in a voice that settled things. "Begin right, no matter if it is more trouble. Then you will be sure that no harm can be done, and won't have to fix things up afterward."

The boys did as they were told, and were just in time to keep a stream of water from reaching the cellar window.

Soon after this, the father found Horace reading a book borrowed from one of the boys. "That is not the kind of reading that I allow," he said. "Give it back at once."

"Please let me finish the book," pleaded Horace. "Then I can stop reading this kind before it does me any harm."

"No," said his papa, repeating the lesson of the rainy day, "begin right in your reading, and in all your habits, and then you will not have to change. Take the right direction first, and then you'll be sure of it."

THE EMPEROR AT THE FORGE.

Boys often resent being called upon to do a piece of work which they think beneath them, especially if it is a task which properly belongs to some one else. But every one should cultivate an obliging dis-

position, and be able to help in any emergency to the extent of his ability.

Emperor Joseph set a good example in this respect one day when travelling in Italy. A wheel of his carriage broke down, and he repaired to the shop of a blacksmith in a little village, and desired him to mend it without delay.

"I would," said the smith; "but this being a holiday, all my men are away at church; even the boy who blows the bellows is away."

"Now I have an excellent chance to warm myself," said the unknown emperor. So, taking his place at the bellows instead of calling an attendant to do so, he followed the smith's directions and worked as if for wages. The work was finished, and, instead of the little sum which he was charged, the sovereign handed out six gold ducats.

"You have made a mistake," said the astonished blacksmith, "and given me six gold pieces, which nobody in this village can change."

"Change them when you can," said the laughing emperor, as he entered his carriage. "An emperor should pay for such a pleasure as blowing the bellows."

I have known some shop-boys who would have waited long, and sent far for help, before they would have "come down" to blowing a blacksmith's bellows. It is not boys with the best sense who thus stand upon their dignity. A readiness to oblige, and to take hold of unaccustomed work when necessary, has often been excellent business capital for a young man; while the opposite spirit never wins friends. "Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."

THERE IS OUR FATHER.

Two children were at the sea-shore on the outlook for their father's return from fishing. There had been no storm, so they were not afraid, but their father had been away two days and two nights, and the little folks wanted to see him back. They had watched for him hour after hour. Other fishing boats had passed, but his was not in sight, but at last the elder girl saw far off the well-known sail, and the boat she loved to see. Pointing it out to her little sister she said, "There is father!" But the little dot said, "I don't see father!" "No, nor do I," answered the elder, "but he is there; that is his boat, he is master of it, he will soon be here!" Both children were joyous. Though they could not see their father, they knew he was there, and that every moment brought the time nearer when they would see him, and talk to him.

There is another Father of all little children whom we cannot see yet, but we know he is near, and before very long we shall be at home with him, and see him, if we are good and have faith in him. Wherever we are, in sunshine or in gloom, we may always say, "There is our Father."

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE ACTS AND EPISTLES.

LESSON III. [Oct. 17.]

PAUL BEFORE THE ROMAN GOVERNOR.

Acts 24. 10-25. Memory verses, 14-16.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Fear thou not; for I am with thee.—Isa. 41. 10.

QUESTIONS FOR YOUNGER SCHOLARS.

What was the Jewish council before which Paul appeared. The Sanhedrin. What did the judges do after Paul spoke?

Where did the captain take Paul?

Who lived at Cæsarea?

What right had Paul as a Roman citizen? To be tried before a Roman judge.

Where was Paul's trial held?

Why did the Jews want Paul sent back to Jerusalem? So as to kill him.

Where was he kept?

Who trembled at his words?

What mistake did Felix make?

AM I LIKE PAUL.—

Always ready to hear God speak?

Always ready to acknowledge a fault?

Always ready to speak the word of God?

LESSON IV. [Oct. 24.]

PAUL BEFORE KING AGRIPPA.

Acts 26. 19-32. Memory verses, 22, 23.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.—Matt. 10. 32.

QUESTIONS FOR YOUNGER SCHOLARS.

How long did Paul stay in Cæsarea?

Who came then to be governor?

What did the Jews hope now?

Why did they try again to have Paul brought to Jerusalem? So as to waylay and kill him.

What did Festus say?

Where did Paul say he would be judged?

Why could he have his choice? It was his right as a Roman citizen.

For what did he wait in Cæsarea?

Who came there while he was waiting?

Who was Agrippa? A grandson of Herod the Great.

Who spoke before him?

To what was Agrippa "almost persuaded"?

What did Festus and Agrippa think?

MY LESSON.

When God shall speak

Unto my heart,

To hear and do,

This be my part.