

SUMMER.

BY LOUISE R. BAKER.

"In the dusty weather
Midges fly about,
Katydid and crickets
Keep up quite a shout;
And the great grasshopper
Climbs up on your frock,
And the silly lassie
Blows the four-o'clock.
O the heart is weary,
Through the lengthy days,
All the earth is panting
In the sun's warm rays.
Sitting on the doorstep,
Knitting grandma lace—
O I hate the summer!"
Cried little Sour Face.

"Blush and bloom of roses,
Cherries hanging high;
Daisies in the meadow,
Blackbirds in the sky;
Beautiful deep shadows
Up the grassy lanes;
Bushes red with berries;
Soft, delicious rains;
Flying down the strawstack,
Hiding in the hay,
Fun and light and laughter
All the livelong day;
Helping with the baby
As the hours fly—
O I love the summer!"
Cried little Smiling Eyes.

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT FROM
ISAIAH TO MALACHI.

LESSON III.—OCTOBER 15.

RETURNING FROM CAPTIVITY.

Ezra 1. 1-11. Memorize verses 5, 6.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad.—Psa. 126. 3.

THE LESSON STORY.

It was seventy years since the Jews had been taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar. All this time they had lived in Babylon as slaves. The Lord had told them, through the prophet Jeremiah, that they should be set free, and now the time had come for them to go back to Jerusalem. If you would like to know how sad and lonely they had felt in a strange land, read Psalm 137. Cyrus was now the king of Persia. The Lord had given this heathen king a tender heart toward the captives, so that he was willing to set them free and also to build a house of worship for them in Jerusalem. Cyrus sent word to all parts of his kingdom that all who wanted to go to Jerusalem and

help build the Lord's house might go. There were some who could not do the actual work of helping to build the Lord's house, and Cyrus showed how such as these might help in other ways. This looks as though Cyrus, like Darius, had really begun to believe in the God whom the Jews worshipped. When the Jews were carried into Babylon, seventy years before, Nebuchadnezzar took away also the beautiful vessels of gold and silver which had been used in the Lord's house. There were five thousand and four hundred of these, and they were worth a great deal of money. Nebuchadnezzar had put them into the house with his gods, but Cyrus said that they should be taken back to Jerusalem to be used in the temple which was to be built. This made the Jews very happy, and with joyful hearts they went forth, giving praise to the Lord who had turned the heart of Cyrus toward them and brought them back to their own land.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

1. Who carried away the Jews captive? Nebuchadnezzar.
2. Why did the Lord allow this? Because they disobeyed him.
3. How long were they kept in Babylon? Seventy years.
4. What promise had God sent them? That he would set them free.
5. Who was now king of Babylon?
6. What did he say he would do? Set the Jews free.
7. What else did he want to do? Build the Lord's house in Jerusalem.
8. Who made him want to do these things? The Lord.
9. What did he tell the Jews they might do? Go home and help build the temple.
10. How did they feel about this? Very glad and happy.
11. How many were ready to go? About fifty thousand.
12. What did they carry back with them? The gold and silver vessels of the Lord's house.

LESSON IV.—OCTOBER 22.

REBUILDING THE TEMPLE.

Ezra 3. 10 to 4. 5. Memorize vs. 10, 11.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.—1 Cor. 3. 17.

THE LESSON STORY.

It was a great company of perhaps fifty thousand people who went back to Jerusalem to build the Lord's house. Some of them were boys when carried away into captivity and now were old men, but most of them were young, strong men who knew nothing about their own land except what they had learned from their fathers. When Nebuchadnezzar took the

city, seventy years before, he burned and destroyed it, and now there was no temple in which to worship God. An altar was built, however, right away, upon which sacrifices could be offered both morning and evening. Then the builders laid the foundation for the new temple, and the people gathered to worship and praise God for his goodness in bringing them to their own land and letting them build a house for him. Some were so happy that they shouted aloud in their joy, but the older men wept aloud, for they remembered the sins of Israel for which God had punished them. Both their sorrow and their joy showed that they loved the Lord, but even more did their willingness to work for him and to give their treasure toward building the Lord's house show this. While the Jews were in Babylon the Samaritans and others had settled in their land, and now they wanted to hinder the work of the Jews. The Samaritans claimed to be the people of the Lord, but they really worshipped idols, and they wanted to hinder the Jews in every way possible. It is so now. If any one, even a child, wants to build a temple of the Lord in his own heart, there are enemies ready to hinder him and to tear down what he has tried to build. To all such God says, "Be strong, for I am with you."

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

1. Who went from Babylon to Jerusalem? The captive Jews.
2. How did they feel when they found the city in ruins? Very sad.
3. Who had burned it? King Nebuchadnezzar.
4. What did the Jews build first? An altar of worship.
5. What did they offer upon it? Burnt offerings.
6. Why was this wise and right? They wanted God to bless and help them.
7. What did they then begin to build? The temple of the Lord.
8. What was first laid? The foundation.
9. What did they then hold? A praise meeting.
10. How did the people show their gladness? By smiles and tears.
11. Why did some weep? They remembered their sins.
12. What were they now ready to do? To obey God and work for him.

A LITTLE PROVERB.

There's a knowing little proverb,
From the sunny land of Spain,
But in Northland, as in Southland,
Is its meaning clear and plain.
Lock it up within your heart;
Neither lose nor lend it:—
"Two it takes to make a quarrel;
One can always end it."