

**DOROTHY'S THEORY.**

BY MATTIE INGALLS SHERMAN.

Dorothy sat on the nursery floor  
With dolly on her knee.  
"Now be perfectly quiet, dolly dear,  
And pay attention to me.

"Last night I saw up in the sky,  
A great big dipper, bright;  
'Twas pinned with a few little stars,  
But 'twas fastened very tight.

"Mamma showed it to me, dolly,  
And I hadn't much to say,  
But I was thinkin' lots about it,  
And I've been thinkin' again to-day.

"And now I am quite, quite sure, dear,  
(But we will ask mamma soon),  
That a dipper so high in the sky  
Must b'long to the Man in the Moon.

"I s'pose if he is thirsty at night,  
When you and I are asleep,  
He brings his dipper right down  
And drinks from the ocean deep.

"And when he is tired of water,  
As I am most every day,  
He takes his dipper 'cross lots'  
And drinks from the Milky Way."

**LESSON NOTES.**

**THIRD QUARTER.**

**STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.**

**LESSON I. [July 2.]**

**GRACIOUS INVITATIONS.**

Hosea 14. 1-9. Memory verses, 4-7.

**GOLDEN TEXT.**

Come, and let us return unto the Lord.—  
Hosea 6. 1.

**A LESSON TALK.**

Have you ever wondered why there were prophets in the old Bible times, and what their work was? Before Christ came God told the people in different ways what he wanted them to know. One way was through prophets. These were good men by whom God sent messages to the people. Hosea was one of what is called the "Minor Prophets"—not because they were less useful and important than others, but because their writings were shorter than some others, such as Isaiah and Jeremiah. Do you know where to look in the Bible for the Book of Hosea? Be sure to find out if you do not, so that after this you will always be able to turn to it quickly.

This lesson is one of invitation and promise. If you remember the lessons in the last half of last year, you will know at once why the prophet is calling upon Israel to return to God. Think how good is the

Lord to receive the people who have turned away from him!

**QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.**

What is this lesson? An invitation.  
To whom is it given? To all who have gone away from God.  
What causes people to go away from God. Sin.  
What should we do when we have sinned? Come back to God.  
What should we say to him? That we are sorry.  
What is real sorrow for sin? The sorrow that makes us stop sinning.  
What is true of every one of us? We cannot save ourselves from sin.  
What does God promise? To save any one who comes to him.  
What does he say he will be like to us? The sweet dew of heaven.  
How does he say we shall grow? Like the lily.  
Where is true wisdom found? In God.  
Who may have it? The one who will seek it.

**LESSON II. [July 9.]**

**DANIEL IN BABYLON.**

Dan. 1. 8-21. Memory verses, 17-20.

**GOLDEN TEXT.**

Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself.—Dan. 1. 8.

**A LESSON TALK.**

You have not forgotten the sad stories of the captivity of the Jews which we learned in the last half of 1898, have you? The heathen king, Nebuchadnezzar, who carried away the people of Jerusalem as prisoners, was a very rich and splendid king. He had made Babylon a city of wonders, with its elegant buildings and its hanging gardens. It was to this beautiful city the young princes were carried whom the king wanted to train to be his servants some day. In Dan. 1. 1-7, you may find the kind of boys he chose, and learn their names. You can easily see why Daniel was not willing to eat the king's meat and to drink his wine. He was a servant of the true God, and he would not eat food which had first been offered to idols. He was a manly boy and did not fear to do right. The danger always comes from wrong-doing and not from following the right. Notice what Daniel and his friends ate and drank, and then notice what was the result. God says, "Look not upon the wine," and if we want to be strong and clean in soul and body, as Daniel was, we must choose right ways of living, as he did.

**QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.**

What city was taken by a heathen king? Jerusalem.  
What was the king's name? Nebuchadnezzar.  
To what city were the prisoners taken? To Babylon.

What four boys were among the prisoners? Daniel and his three friends.  
What did the king want them to become? His servants.  
What did he want them taught? All the wisdom of the Chaldeans.  
Where did he want them to eat? At his table.  
What would they have had there? Very rich food.  
What did Daniel know? That the food had been offered to idols.  
What did he want to do? Eat very plain food.  
Whom did Daniel want to please? God.  
Whom should we try to please even in what we eat and drink? The good God.

**FIRE AND FROST.**

Suppose some cold morning you should go in into a neighbour's house and find him busy at work on his windows scratching away, and should ask him what he was doing, and he should reply: "Why, I am trying to remove the frost; but as fast as I get it off one square it comes on another." Would you not say, "Why, man, let your windows alone and kindle a fire, and the frost will come off."

And have you not seen people try to break off their bad habits one after another without avail? Well, they are like the man who tried to scratch the frost from his windows.

Let the fire of love to God, kindled at the altar of prayer, burn in your heart, and the bad habits will soon melt away.

**THE SCHOOL CLOCK.**

When I look at the clock in school,  
The minute hand goes so slow!  
And the hour hand hardly moves at all!  
You cannot see it go!

But when they have met at noon,  
And I've only an hour for fun,  
You ought to see how the spiteful hands  
Just race from twelve to one.

**ANNA AND THE MIRROR.**

Anna caught a glimpse of her face in the mirror this morning and suddenly turned away. She sat down by the window, and though there were sunshine and a beautiful garden outside, and a lovely room all of blue and white within, yet she was very unhappy.

Perhaps you may think she had a step-mother who was unkind to her, or a father who was stern with her. No, she had the kindest and best of parents. What was the matter? Just nothing at all. To be sure her hair had a few snarls in it, and a button on her dress had come off, and mamma had been obliged to say that she would leave her little girl to entertain the little girl in the mirror for an hour. Anna wondered what that could mean and looked in the mirror. She saw a face so sullen and dark and unpleasant that she sat down to think about it. At the end of an hour she had conquered her spirit, and was bright-faced Anna again.