

ONE AFTERNOON.

BY LAURA E. RICHARDS.

Papa and mamma went out to row,  
And left us three at home, you know—  
Roderick, James, and me.  
"My dears," they said, "now play with  
your toys,  
Like dear little, good little, sweet little  
boys,  
And we will come home to tea."

We played with our toys the longest while,  
We built up the blocks for nearly a mile—  
Roderick, James, and I.  
But when they came tumbling down, alas,  
They fell right against the looking-glass—  
O how the pieces did fly!

Then we played the stairs were an Alpine  
peak,  
And down we slid with shout and with  
shriek—  
Roderick, I, and James.  
But Jim caught his jacket upon a tack,  
And I burst the buttons all off my back,  
And Roderick called us names.

Then we found a pillow that had a rip,  
And all the feathers we out did slip—  
Roderick, James, and I.  
And we made a snowstorm, a glorious  
one,  
All over the room. O wasn't it fun,  
As the feathery flakes did fly!

But just as the storm was raging around  
Papa and mamma came in and found  
Roderick, James, and me.  
O terrible, terrible things they said!  
And they put us all three straight to bed,  
With the empty pillowcase under our  
head,  
And none of us had any tea.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE WRITINGS OF JOHN.

LESSON I.—JANUARY 1.

CHRIST THE LIFE AND LIGHT OF MEN.  
John 1. 1-18. Memorize verses 1-4.

GOLDEN TEXT.

In him was life; and the life was the  
light of men.—John 1. 4.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

Who was the writer of our lesson? The  
Apostle John. Who told him what to  
write? The Spirit of God. Can you see  
God? No. Why did he come to earth as  
a man? That we might see and hear him.  
Why, I did men believe in him? A few only.  
What were they called? Disciples, or  
learners. What did they become? Mission-  
aries. Why was Jesus Christ called the  
light? He was God's voice to men. What  
was the lesson say of him? That "he was  
the light of men." What else is he called? Life and

Light of men. What power did he give to  
his disciples? To become the sons of God.  
Does he still give that power to men? Yes.

DAILY STEPS.

- Mon. Learn a verse about Light. Matt.  
1. 20, 21.
- Tues. Read the song of Simeon. Luke  
2. 29, 32.
- Wed. Read a prophecy about the Light.  
Isa. 9. 2.
- Thur. Read the lesson verses.
- Fri. Find a verse about eternal life.  
John 17. 3.
- Sat. Learn the Golden Text.
- Sun. Find the Lord's words about life.  
Rev. 1. 17, 18.

THREE LITTLE LESSONS.

- We have learned that—
1. God and Jesus Christ are one.
  2. He is the Truth, the Life, and the  
Light.
  3. He has brought all these to us.

LESSON II.—JANUARY 8.

THE WITNESS OF JOHN THE BAPTIST TO  
JESUS.

John 1. 19-34. Memorize verses 26, 27.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh  
away the sin of the world.—John 1. 29.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

Who was John the Baptist? The son of  
Elisabeth and Zacharias. What was his  
work to be? To prepare the people for  
Jesus. Where did the Lord send him?  
Into the wilderness. Whom did he listen  
to there? The Spirit of God. What did  
he live upon? Locusts and wild honey.  
How was he dressed? In coarse garments.  
What did the people wish to call him? The  
Christ. What did he call himself? A voice.  
Of whom did he always preach? Of the  
coming Saviour. How did Jesus come to  
John? To be baptized. What did John  
see? The Spirit, like a dove, upon him.  
What did John say? "Behold the Lamb of  
God."

DAILY STEPS.

- Mon. Find how John looked and spoke.  
Matt. 3. 1-6.
- Tues. Read the lesson verses. John 1.  
19-34.
- Wed. Find what a prophet said about the  
coming of Christ. Isa. 40. 3-5.
- Thur. Read one of John's sermons. Luke  
3. 7-17.
- Fri. Learn the Golden Text.
- Sat. Make a word picture of John the  
Baptist for some one.
- Sun. Find how Jesus baptized. John  
20. 22.

THREE LITTLE LESSONS.

- We have learned that—
1. God's own children always speak the  
truth.
  2. They are humble and unselfish.
  3. God honors them because they honor  
him.

JESSIE FINDING JESUS.

In a wretched tenement in New York, a  
little girl stood by her mother's death-bed  
and heard her last words: "Jessie, find  
Jesus."

When her mother was buried, her father  
took to drink, and Jessie was left to such  
care as a poor neighbor could give her.  
One day she wandered off, unmissed, a  
basket in her hand, and trudged through  
one street after another, not knowing  
where she went. She had started to find  
Jesus. At last she stopped from utter  
weariness in front of a saloon. A young  
man staggered out of the door, and almost  
tumbled over her. He uttered passion-  
ately the name of him whom she was  
seeking.

"Can you tell me where he is?" she in-  
quired eagerly.

He looked at her in amazement. "What  
did you say?" he asked.

"Will you please tell me where Jesus  
Christ is? for I must find him"—this  
time with great earnestness.

The young man looked curiously down  
at her a minute without speaking; and  
then his face sobered, and he said in a  
broken husky voice, hopelessly, "I don't  
know, child; I don't know where he is."

Poor Jessie trudged on; but soon a rude  
boy jostled against her, and snatching her  
basket threw into the street. Crying,  
she ran to pick it up. The horses of a  
passing street-car trampled her under  
their feet, and she knew no more till she  
found herself stretched on a hospital bed.

When the doctors came that night, they  
knew she could not live until the morning.  
In the middle of the night, after she had  
been lying very still for a long time, ap-  
parently asleep, she suddenly opened her  
eyes, and the nurse bending over her,  
heard her whisper, while her face lighted  
up with a smile that had some of heaven's  
own gladness in it. "Oh, Jesus, I have  
found you at last!"

Then the tiny lips were hushed, but the  
questioning spirit had received an answer.

Whisper songs will often calm down a  
turbulent mood, and are especially useful  
where the class has not a room to itself.  
The teacher whispers a line, and the chil-  
dren repeat it in a whisper. The follow-  
ing is an example:

Softly whisper, softly speak,  
Little children still and meek,  
Hush and listen, do not play,  
Hear what teacher has to say,  
When we sing and when we pray,  
When from sin we turn away,  
When our hearts to Jesus rise,  
Jesus answers from the skies.

God is good, the sky is saying;  
God is great, the hills declare;  
God is love, the flowers are telling;  
God is round us everywhere.