

DRARY'S HYMN.

I cannot think but God must know
About the thing I long for so;
I know he is so good, so kind,
I cannot think but he will find
Some way to help, some way to show
Me to the thing I long for so.

I stretch my hand—it lies so near
It looks so sweet, it looks so dear,
“Dear Lord,” I pray, “O, let me know
If it is wrong to want it so!”
He only smiles. He does not speak;
My heart grows weaker and more weak
With looking at the thing so dear
Which lies so far and yet so near.

Now, Lord, I leave at thy loved feet
This thing which looks so near, so sweet;
I will not seek, I will not long;
I almost fear I have been wrong.
I'll go and work the harder, Lord,
And wait till by some loud, clear word
Thou callest me to thy loved feet,
To take this thing so dear, so sweet.

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT FROM
ISAIAH TO MALACHI.

LESSON VIII.—AUGUST. 20

JEHOIAKIM BURNS THE WORD OF GOD.

Jer. 36. 21-32. Memorize verses 22-24.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Amend your ways and your doings and
obey the voice of the Lord your God.—
Jer. 26. 13.

THE LESSON STORY.

How hard it seemed to be for the Jewish people to love and worship a God they could not see! After the death of King Josiah the people fell back into their old ways of idol worship as they had done before. When the heart grows willing to do wrong then the head grows foolish in its way of thinking. This happened when Jehoiakim, the son of Josiah, was king. The Lord had sent a prophet to the people, to tell them what was about to fall upon them because they had turned away from the true God. His name was Jeremiah, and Baruch, the scribe, who wrote his words, read them to the people. He also read them to some of the princes who were next to the king. When the king heard of it he made them bring it to him when he sat in his winter palace. There was a fire on the hearth, and all his princes were standing around him. It was Jehudi who read the words of the roll, and they were not pleasant words to hear. They were all about the king and his people being carried away captives because of their unfaithfulness to God. As Jehudi read he cut the leaves with a penknife, and cast them into the fire. They thought that in this way they could destroy the Lord's purposes. When all the roll was

burned there was no one in the room to feel afraid or to speak a word for the honor of the Lord's Word. After this they tried to arrest Jeremiah and Baruch, the scribe, but the Lord hid them. Yet the Lord always takes care of his Word, and he gave it again to Jeremiah, and Baruch, the scribe, wrote it upon a new roll, so that the prophecy that the king of Babylon should come and destroy their land and carry them away captives still stood as if it had not been burned.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

1. Who was the king of Judah? Jehoiakim.
2. Whose son was he? The son of Josiah.
3. Was he a good man? No; he worshipped idols.
4. What prophet was sent to him? Jeremiah.
5. Where were his words written? In a roll.
6. What is a roll? An ancient book.
7. Who were troubled about Jeremiah's roll? The princes.
8. What did they do? They told the king about it.
9. What did he do? He had the roll read to him.
10. How did he show his scorn for it? He had it burned.
11. Did that destroy it? No; the Word of God cannot be destroyed.
12. Where is that Word now? Printed and carried all around the world.

LESSON IX.—AUGUST 27.

JEREMIAH IN THE DUNGEON.

Jer. 38. 1-13. Memorize verses 8-10.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.—Matt. 5. 10.

THE LESSON STORY.

Jeremiah is sometimes called the “weeping prophet,” for he lived in a time of great trial and sorrow. The kings of Judah had been going from bad to worse, and had taken the people with them, though always there is a “remnant,” a few faithful souls, who have kept the light of faith alive in their hearts. There were a few such when Zedekiah the grandson of Josiah, became king of Judah. The king of Babylon was spreading his camp around Jerusalem, as Jeremiah had prophesied, and there was no way of escape. Jeremiah prophesied again, and told the people that if they would go out of their city gates and give themselves up to the princes of Babylon they would save their own lives and prevent the enemy from burning Jerusalem. But the princes of Judah were angry with Jeremiah for saying this, and told the king that his words were doing much harm, and that he should be put to death. The king did not want to put Jeremiah to death, for he half believed that the Lord was with him, but he was

weak, and said, “Behold, he is in your hand, for the king is not he that can do anything against you.” So they took Jeremiah and let him down by cords into a filthy dungeon in the court of the prison, where he sunk in the mire.

Ebed-Melech, one of the king's servants, went to the king and told him all about it. The king told him to bring Jeremiah out of the dungeon, which was done very kindly.

So he was brought up into the prison court and afterward into the king's house, and when the great day of trouble came and the city was burned the king of Babylon was kind to Jeremiah, and sent him to his own people. He also let the faithful Ethiopian go free.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

1. Who was Zedekiah? King of Judah.
2. Who was his father? The good king Josiah.
3. Was Zedekiah good, like his father? No.
4. Who came against Jerusalem? The king of Babylon.
5. What was he trying to do? To make them give themselves up to him.
6. How long was he doing this? Two years.
7. What did Jeremiah say to the people? To yield themselves.
8. Would they do this? No, and they were angry with Jeremiah.
9. What did they do to him? They put him in a deep, miry dungeon.
10. Who was his friend then? An Ethiopian.
11. What did he do? He told the king, who sent him to take Jeremiah out.
12. What was done for Jeremiah? He was kindly cared for.

“FOLLOW ME.”

I was but a little lamb,
From the Shepherd straying,
When I heard within my heart
Some one softly saying:
“Follow me, follow me;
I will safely guide thee
Through the stormy ways of life,
Walking close beside thee.”

Early to his loving care
Shall my heart be given,
For each step I take with him
Brings me nearer heaven.
“Follow me, follow me,”
Is the Saviour saying
Unto every little lamb
Who from him is straying.

The leaves of the talipot palm of Ceylon do not seem wet even after the hardest rain, but are always light and dry. The natives use them to write upon instead of paper. They use a sharp knife instead of a pencil, and the lines thus traced on the leaf endure for years, because the water is shed from it.