

MR. SOMEBODY.

BY LAURA E. RICHARDS.

My little one came to me weeping, weeping,

Over her bright cheeks the bright tears creeping:

"Oh! mamma, 'tis raining and pouring away!

We cannot go to the picnic to-day."

I took the darling up in my lap,
And tried to make light of the great mishap:

"Be patient, my child, with the rain; for oh!

It makes Mr. Somebody's garden grow.
Yes, it makes Mr. Somebody's garden grow."

My little one came to me sighing, sighing,
Almost ready again for crying:
"Oh! mamma, the sun is so fiery hot,
The flowers I planted have died on the spot."

I took the darling up on my knee,
And kissed and spoke to her cheerily:
"Be glad, my child, of the sun to-day!
It helps Mr. Somebody make his hay.
Yes, it helps Mr. Somebody make his hay."

There's many a thing that may seem
"quite too bad!"
For this little lass or that little lad;
But the thing that to you may the hardest be,
May fill Mr. Somebody's heart with glee.
Yes! may fill Mr. Somebody's heart with glee.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE WRITINGS OF JOHN.

LESSON VI.—FEBRUARY 5.

JESUS AT JACOB'S WELL.

John 4. 5-14. Memorize verses 13, 14.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.—Rev. 22. 17.

THE LESSON STORY.

John, the beloved disciple, wrote the gospel that is called his when he was an old man, and though the Word is the Lord's, yet John could remember his days with Jesus, and this little journey that he took with him from Jerusalem to Galilee. Samaria lay between, and when the three days' journey was half done they came to Jacob's well. This was an old and very deep well that you might see to-day if you were there. It is the one that Jacob "gave to his son Joseph." Jesus sat down upon the rocky curb of the well while the dis-

ciples went into the village of Sychar to buy food. When a woman came to draw water, Jesus, who longed to give her life, asked her for a drink, that he might tell her about the water of life. She was surprised that he spoke to her, and asked him why he did it. Then he told her plainly that he had living water to give to her. How beautifully he talked to her about that well of water that springs up "into everlasting life" in the human soul!

He said much more to her which is not in our lesson to-day, and the woman believed that he was a prophet. She was a sinful woman, and a Pharisee would not have spoken to her; but Jesus came to save sinners, and he told this woman how she might worship God truly from the heart without going to Jerusalem or to their own sacred mountain. He also told her that he was the Messiah, or the Christ. How different was Jesus, though he was the King of kings, from the proud and selfish Pharisee!

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Where did Jesus go from Jerusalem? To Galilee.

What country did he pass through? Samaria.

Where did he stop to rest? At Jacob's well.

Near what town was it? Near Sychar. Who came to draw water? A Samaritan woman.

What did Jesus ask of her? A drink. What did he wish to offer her? The water of life.

Was she surprised? Yes. Why? Because the Jews do not deal with Samaritans.

Could she understand about the living water? No.

How does it cure thirst? It satisfies the soul.

Did the woman want it? Yes.

LESSON VII.—FEBRUARY 12.

THE SECOND MIRACLE IN CANA.

John 4. 43-54. Memorize verses 49-51.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The same works that I do bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.—John 5. 36.

THE LESSON STORY.

After Jesus had been in the town of Sychar, in Samaria, for two days, preaching the Gospel of the new Christian Church, he went on into Galilee, and came to Cana, where he made the water wine. He was able to do another blessed and beautiful thing there—he gave to a father his son, who was about to die. It was a nobleman of Cana, whose son was sick down in Capernaum by the lake. When he heard that Jesus was coming, he went to meet him, and begged him to come down and heal his son. Jesus wanted to see if the nobleman had real faith, so he

said, "Except ye see signs and wonders ye will in no wise believe." But the nobleman had only one thought. "Sir, come down," he said, "ere my child die." Then Jesus was satisfied, and said, "Go thy way: thy son liveth."

Some men would not have believed that, but the nobleman did, and went away satisfied. As he came near Capernaum his servants came to meet him and to tell him that his son was living; and when he asked them when he began to get better, they said, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." What a strange, yet joyful, feeling the father must have had as he remembered that it was just at that very hour that Jesus had said, "Thy son liveth"! This nobleman and all his household became the friends of Jesus and believers in his Gospel.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Whom did Jesus meet in Cana? A nobleman.

What was he, probably? A Roman officer.

What did he want? He wanted Jesus to heal his son.

Where was his son? In Capernaum.

What did Jesus do? He tried his faith.

What did he find? That he truly trusted him.

What were Jesus' words to him? "Thy son liveth."

Where did the nobleman then go? To see his son.

Whom did he meet? His servants.

What did they tell him? That his son was alive.

When did he begin to get better? On the day before at the seventh hour.

What had the father heard at that hour? The promise of Jesus.

DOROTHY'S OPINION.

Mamma has bought a calendar,
And every single page
Has pictures on of little girls,
'Most just about my age.

And when she bought it yesterday,
Down at the big bazaar,
She said, "What lovely little girls!
How true to life they are!"

But I don't think they're true to life,
And I'll just tell you why:
They never have a rumpled frock,
Or ribbon bow awry.

And though they play with cats and dogs
And rabbits and white mice,
And sail their boats and fly their kites,
They always look so nice.

And I am sure no little girl
That ever I have seen,
Could play with dogs or sail a boat,
And keep her frock so clean.