

FOUR LITTLE TRAVELLERS.

BY ELIZABETH L. GOULD.

Mary Alicia set forth for the east,
To see where the sun comes up;
And Edward Delaney went straight toward
the north
To search for a polar pup.
Margaret Anna repaired to the south,
Where oranges flourish, you know;
And Thomas Augustus struck out for the
west,
Where gold mines and buffaloes grow.
'Tis a very strange thing that I have to
relate
Concerning these travelled young folk—
But the very next morning they all of
them found
They were safe in their beds when they
woke.

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT FROM
ISAIAH TO MALACHI.

LESSON IV.—JULY 23.

THE GRACIOUS INVITATION.

Isa. 55, 1-13. Memorize verses 6-8.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Seek ye the Lord while he may be found.
—Isa. 55, 6.

THE LESSON STORY.

The prophet Isaiah was a poet. He made pictures with words, and they were written down by scribes and kept through all the ages for the comfort and the warning of God's people. He lived through the reigns of four kings of Judah, but the last one was the good king Hezekiah, who tried to lead his people in the ways of truth. Once when Isaiah was in the temple he saw a glorious vision (which you may find in the sixth chapter), and an angel touched his lips with a live coal from the Lord's altar, so that he was then ready to go anywhere, or speak any words, if sent by the Lord. Perhaps it was a sign that God was giving him the great gifts that we call poetry and vision. The gifts of God come to souls that are willing to do his work and speak his words. Sometimes Isaiah had to speak hard and stern words to people who needed them, and again he was full of cheering and gracious words for those who needed hope and courage. These two kinds of words are so different that many say that there were two Isaiahs, but we know that the word of God is one, and the mouth that spoke it was only his instrument.

In our lesson, which we hope your teacher will read to you in a voice of hope and encouragement, the Lord is calling to the people who are longing for something they know not what, to come to him and be satisfied, as one who is thirsty goes to a spring of living water, or as one who is

hungry seeks food. He tells them that they spend their money for things that do not satisfy, when they might come to him and find all. He cannot tell them all he has for them, for they could not understand. "For," he said, "as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." Then he tells them how sure his word is, so that they may trust him.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

1. What is our lesson? A song of hope.
2. Who sang it? Isaiah the prophet.
3. Who gave him the words? The Lord.
4. What were they for? To call tired and hungry and thirsty people to him.
5. What would he give them? The bread and the water of life.
6. What are some of Isaiah's writings? Stern words to the wicked.
7. What are the others? Gracious words to the good.
8. How could Isaiah say such divine words? An angel had touched his lips.
9. What with? With a coal from the Lord's altar.
10. What could he then do? Anything that the Lord told him to do.
11. What could he speak? The Lord's words.
12. Who was his good friend? Hezekiah, king of Judah.

LESSON V.—JULY 30.

MANASSEH'S SIN AND REPENTANCE.

2 Chron. 33, 1-13. Memorize verses 10-13.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.—Prov. 14, 34.

THE LESSON STORY.

The good king Hezekiah had a son named Manasseh. He was only twelve years old when his father died, but he was made king and reigned fifty-five years. We do not know what kind of a woman was Hephzibah, his mother, but for some reason this poor boy, who was too young to be a king, went as far away from his father's way of life as he possibly could. He built up the heathen altars that his father had torn down, offered sacrifices to Baal and to the stars, and, worse than all, built altars to them in the house of the Lord and in the two courts of it. He was also full of interest in witchcraft, evil spirits, and enchantment, and even made his children to pass through the fire before an idol, so leading his people into a worship that was worse than that of the heathen.

As he would not listen to the word of the Lord, he had to learn by great pains and sorrows. The Lord allowed the hosts of Assyria to come against Jerusalem, and Manasseh, who had fled among the thorns, was taken and bound with chains and carried away to Babylon. Then he had time to think about the God of his father. He grew very humble then, for he saw that all his idol worship had been of no use to

keep him out of trouble. It is written that "he humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers," and God heard his prayer and brought him out of Babylon and back to Jerusalem and into his kingdom. It was also written that "then Manasseh knew that the Lord he was God.

It is added that Manasseh went about taking down altars and idols, and that he repaired the Lord's altar and offered peace offerings and thank offerings there, and commanded his people to serve the Lord God of Israel. We are glad of all this, but we wish he had given his youth to God!

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

1. How old was the young king Manasseh? Twelve years old.
2. Who was his father? Hezekiah.
3. Was Manasseh old enough to be a king? No.
4. What did he do? He went far from the right way.
5. What did he build? Altars to heathen gods.
6. Where did he build some of them? In the Lord's house.
7. What was his worst act? He made his children go through fire in idol worship.
8. What did the Lord do for him? Sent him into captivity.
9. What did he think about there? The God of his fathers.
10. What did he do? He began to humbly pray to him.
11. What was done for him? God brought him home.
12. What did he do at home? Brought back the true worship.

THE MENAGERIE.

Oh, look at my menagerie
And see the funny things!
They are the wildest animals
With horns and tails and wings.

The beetle is a 'noceros,
This bug's a buffalo,
I call the mole my elephant
Because he's big and slow.

The spotted yellow ladybug
A lovely leopard makes;
This monster fishworm is a boa,
These caterpillars, snakes.

The grasshopper's a kangaroo
(You know they both can jump),
The snail's a camel, for his shell
Is just a truly hump.

I dared to catch a bumblebee
And keep him in a cage
Of morning glory; he's a lion,
Just hear him roar and rage.

The lizard is a 'potamus,
The hop toad is a bear;
Oh, look at my menagerie,
But not too near—take care!