

PERSEVERANCE.

The boy who does a stroke, and stops,
Will ne'er a great man be;
'Tis the aggregation of single drops
That makes the sea the sea.

Not at all once the morning streams
Its gold above the gray,
It takes a thousand little beams
To make the day the day.

The farmer needs must sow and till,
And wait the wheaten head,
Then cradle, thresh, and go to mill,
Before his bread is bread.

Swift heels may get the early shout,
But, spite of all the din,
It is the patient holding out
That makes the winner win.

LESSON NOTES.

SECOND QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF ACTS.

LESSON XI. [June 14.]

PAUL AT ROME.

Acts 28. 16-24, 30, 31. Mem. vs. 30, 31.

GOLDEN TEXT.

I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ.—Rom. 1. 16.

THE LESSON STORY.

The island that Paul and his friends were cast upon was called Melita. It lies south of Italy, and is now called Malta. The people were very kind to the poor, shivering people cast out of the sea, and built a fire on the shore to warm and dry them. When Paul, who was always doing for others, gathered sticks for the fire a viper came out of the heat and fastened itself on his hand. The people thought to see him die, but he shook off the snake into the fire, and no harm came of it. Then they thought he must be a god. Publius, the chief man of the island, lodged Paul and his friends for three days, and was very kind to them. Paul was able to return the kindness, for he cured the father of Publius, who was sick, by praying and laying his hands upon him. After this many sick people came to be healed, and Paul was greatly honoured. He stayed there three months. When they reached Rome the centurion, who had been very friendly to Paul, allowed him to live outside the prison in a house of his own, with a soldier to guard him. There he did as he always did in a new place—spoke to his own countrymen first, if any lived there. He called the Jews to his house, and explained why he was there, and on a day soon after preached to them about Jesus from morning until

evening. Some believed, but others did not. Paul lived two years in this way, preaching to all who came, Jews and Gentiles, and many became Christians.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Where was Paul cast away? On the island of Melita.

What is it now called? Malta.

How was he treated there? Kindly.

By what was he bitten. By a poisonous snake.

Did it kill him? No.

Where did he go from there? To Rome.

How did he live there? In his own lodgings.

How was he kept? He was chained to a guard.

Could he preach the Gospel? Yes.

To whom did he first preach? To the Jews.

How long did he live in this way? Two years.

Who came to him to learn of Christ? Jews and Gentiles.

LESSON XII. [June 21.]

PAUL'S CHARGE TO TIMOTHY.

2 Tim. 3. 14 to 4. 8. Mem. vs. 12-14.

GOLDEN TEXT.

There is laid up for me a crown of righteousness.—2 Tim. 4. 8.

THE LESSON STORY.

Do you remember Timothy, whom Paul called his "dearly beloved son"? To him Paul wrote two letters, and the second one was written at Rome after he had been brought before the Emperor Nero the second time. It is believed to be the last letter that Paul wrote, for he was beheaded by the order of Nero soon after. There had been a great persecution, and Paul had not lived in his own lodgings as he did at first. He was in the prison, and though his friends were allowed to see him, very few came, for many were put to death, and others were hiding in the catacombs. It is so noble and beautiful a letter that Paul writes to Timothy, begging him to come to him, that you will like to read the whole of it. He tells him to live by the word of God, which he had known from a child. He urges him to work earnestly and always for God; to teach God's word; to tell people to repent and live for God. He tells him to help the beginners in the way of Christ, and teach them how to grow strong, and warns him against the false teachers that would come. Though he knew that he was soon to die, he says that he is ready to go, for he knows that there is a crown waiting for him which the Lord will give him. Though no one stood by him when he was brought before Nero, the Lord was with him, and helped him to speak bravely for Christ, and he was sure that he would preserve him in his heavenly kingdom.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

To whom did Paul write two letters? To Timothy.

What was he to Paul? A son in the Gospel.

How had he been taught when a child? To know the Scriptures.

Who taught him? His mother and grandmother.

When did Paul write the second letter? When he was about to die.

Where was he? At Rome.

How was he to die? As a martyr.

What is a martyr? One who dies for Christ's cause.

What did Paul want? He wanted to see Timothy.

What did he write him? Words of counsel.

What did he say of himself? That he was ready to die.

What was waiting for him? A crown of righteousness.

POLICEMAN DOT.

When he was a tiny kitten his mistress called him Dot. As he grew older he became a very large cat, but the name didn't grow, so now it really doesn't fit him, at all. He is black and white and keeps his fur so clean and smooth that he is a fine-looking cat, though not truly handsome.

His mistress tells this story about him.

She is an old lady who lives all alone in a big house—all alone, except for Dot. Every night before she goes to bed, she and Dot go all over the big house, to see that the doors and windows are all closed and fastened. Then they go upstairs. Dot sleeps on the foot of his mistress' bed.

One night he awoke his mistress by jumping up suddenly.

"What is the matter, Dot?" she said, and began to stroke him. "What has frightened you?"

"Just then she heard some one coming up the stairs, and she was frightened, too. She knew it must be a bad man, who had come to steal her money. Sure enough, he opened the door and came right into the room. What do you think Dot did then? He gave a spring and leaped right at the man.

Now, Dot is a big cat and he has sharp claws. He scratched the man until he turned and ran away as fast as he could. He ran downstairs and jumped out of the window he had opened, and never dared to come back, either.

Dot's mistress says she will never be afraid as long as she has Dot to take care of her. Most cats can catch mice and even rats, but Dot caught a man!

Do you wonder that Dot's mistress is proud of her brave cat?

That is a happy day that is full of good deeds.