

HEROES.

"Mamma, tell me what's a hero,"  
 Robbie said to me one day;  
 "When I grow to be a man  
 I will be one if I may."

"What's a hero? That's hard telling  
 To a little boy like you.  
 Let us fancy what might happen;  
 You can think what you would do."

"Just suppose your little brother  
 Spoiled your very nicest toys;  
 Just suppose at school to-morrow  
 You should find the other boys

"Planning to do something naughty  
 To plague the teacher, 'just for fun.'  
 Suppose your papa should say, 'Come  
 Robbie,'  
 When you wanted one more run."

"Patience under little trials,  
 Courage to resist the wrong,  
 Prompt obedience to duty.  
 These are what make heroes strong."

Robbie stood a moment thinking.  
 Then he said: "When I'm a man  
 I should like to be a hero,  
 Mamma dearest, if I can."

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

LESSON III. [Oct. 15]

ESTHER PLEADING FOR HER PEOPLE.

Esther 8. 3-8, 15-17. Memory verses, 15-17.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.—Psalm 37. 5.

DO YOU KNOW?

What sad fate overtook Haman! He was hanged. What had he planned to do? Hang Mordecai. What had Esther told the king? That Mordecai had brought her up. What did Esther ask more of her king? That he would save her people. What did holding out the golden sceptre mean? The favour of the king. What did she ask of him? Help and favour for others. Which of her words show that she had a tender heart? Verse 7. Whom did the king appoint to carry out his decree? How did Mordecai go out from the palace? Who rejoiced with him? What effect did all this have? Many believed in Esther's God. What does this teach? To trust God.

DAILY HELPS.

Mon. Find what Mordecai did to show his sorrow. Esth. 4. 1-9.  
 Tues. Read about Esther's hard place. Esth. 4. 10-15.

Wed. Learn the plan that Esther made! Esth. 5. 1-8.  
 Thur. Find how Haman was humbled. Esth. 6. 4-11.  
 Fri. Read the story of Haman's downfall. Esth. 7. 1-10.  
 Sat. Read the lesson verses carefully. Esth. 8. 3-8, 15-17.  
 Sun. Read to what end pride comes. Prov. 16. 5, 19.

LESSON IV. [Oct. 22.]

EZRA'S JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM.

Ezra 8. 21-32. Memory verses, 21-23.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him.—Ezra 8. 22.

DO YOU KNOW?

Who was Ezra? A priest and teacher of the law of God. Why was he living in Persia? He was one of the Jews who remained after the captivity. Why did he want to go to Jerusalem? To teach the laws of God. How did the king help him? He told him to take all the Jews with him he wanted to, and he gave him gold and silver, and vessels for the temple. What did Ezra call the people to do? To hold a fast. For what did they pray? That God would take them safely to Jerusalem. Why did they need protection? They had to go through the enemy's country. Did they get through safely? Yes, no harm came to them. Through what do we pass in this life? An enemy's country. Who can take us safely through? The Lord.

DAILY HELPS.

Mon. Read the lesson verses from your Bible. Ezra 8. 21-32.  
 Tues. Read the decree of the king. Ezra 7. 13-20.  
 Wed. Learn how Ezra felt about the king's kindness. Ezra 7. 27, 28.  
 Thur. Learn how God keeps his people. Psalm 33. 18, 19.  
 Fri. Find how God heard and helped Ezra. Psalm 66. 19, 20.  
 Sat. Learn an encouragement to pray. Psalm 34. 6.  
 Sun. Read a psalm that ought to help us. Psalm 5.

"NOBLESSE OBLIGE."

"Here, boy, let me have a Sun."  
 "Can't, nohow, mister."  
 "Why not? You've got them. I heard you a minute ago cry them loud enough to be heard to the City Hall."  
 "Yes, but that was down t'other block, ye know, where I hollered."  
 "What does that matter? Come, now, no fooling; hand me out a paper. I'm in a hurry."  
 "Couldn't sell you no paper in this here block, mister, 'cause it b'longs to Limpy. He's just up to the funder end now; you'll meet him."  
 "And who is Limpy, pray? And why does he have this especial block?"

"'Cos us other kids agreed to let him have it. Yo see, it's a good run on 'count of the offices all along, and the poor chap is that lame he can't get around lively like the rest of us, so we agreed the first one caught sellin' on his beat should be lit on and thrashed. See?"

"Yes, I do see. So you nowaboys have a sort of brotherhood among yourselves?"  
 "Well, we're goin' to look out for a little cove what's lame, anyhow, you bet."

"There comes Limpy now; he's a fortunate boy to have such kind friends."

The gentleman bought two papers of him, and went on his way down town, wondering how many men in business would refuse to sell their wares in order to give a weak, halting brother a chance in a clear field.

HOW THE WOOD WAS PAID FOR.

A well-to-do deacon in Connecticut was one morning accosted by his pastor, who said: "Poor Widow Green's wood is out. Can you not take her a cord?"

"Well," answered the deacon, "I have the wood and I have the team, but who is to pay me for it?" The pastor replied, "I will pay you for it on condition that you read the first three verses of the Forty-first Psalm before you go to bed to-night." The deacon consented, delivered the wood, and at night opened the word of God and read the passage: "Blessed is the man that considereth the poor, the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. The Lord will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth; and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies. The Lord will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing; thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness."

A few days afterwards, the pastor met him again.

"How much do I owe you, Deacon, for that cord of wood?"

"O," said the now enlightened man, "do not speak of payment; I did not know those promises were in the Bible."

THE SLEEPLESS WATCHER.

The lamp had just been put out, and the timid little girl was afraid of the dark; but presently she saw the bright moon out of her window, and asked: "Is the moon God's light?"

"Yes, Ethel," the mother replied; "the moon and stars are all God's lights."

Then came the next question from the little girl: "Will God blow out his light and go to sleep too?"

"No, my child," replied the mother, "his lights are always burning."

Then the timid little girl gave utterance to a sentiment that thrilled the mother's heart and led her to more complete trust in her God: "Well, mamma, while God's awake, I'm not afraid."—*Union Gospel News.*