

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.

FOURTH QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

LESSON II. [Oct. 8.]

HAMAN'S PLOT AGAINST THE JEWS.

Esther 3, 1-11. Memory verse, 5, 6.

GOLDEN TEXT.

If God be for us, who can be against us?
—Rom. 8, 31.

A LESSON TALK.

This lesson shows how foolish and hateful a thing pride in the heart may be. Our actions grow out of what we are, and just so surely as a nettle cannot bear sweet violets, just so surely cannot a proud, envious, hateful heart bear the sweet blossoms of love and peace. Haman's pride and self-love became so great when the king of Persia put him above all his other princes that he could not be satisfied with the honour which he had, but reached out for more! It shows a small mind to notice a slight, and the growth of pride and self-love in the heart helps to make the mind small and weak. Do you wonder why Mordecai would not do reverence to Haman? Mordecai was a Jew, you know, and he believed that the great God was the only being to whom he should bow down. Perhaps he knew that Haman was a wicked man and deserved no honour. See how cruel and bloodthirsty Haman was to want to kill all the Jews in the land because one had refused to do him reverence. Are you not glad you did not live when human life was worth so little? See how easily the king gave Haman the right to kill all these innocent people!

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Who was Esther? A beautiful queen.

Who was her king? Ahasuerus, the king of Persia.

What did not the king know? That Esther was a Jewess.

Who had brought Esther up? Her relative, Mordecai.

What had he taught her? To love the true God.

To whom did the king give a high place? Haman.

What kind of a man was Haman? A bad man.

Why was he angry with Mordecai? Because Mordecai did not bow down to him.

What did Haman tell the king? That the Jews were bad people.

What did he ask permission to do? Destroy them all.

What did the king say? That he might do it.

What did they not know? That God takes care of his people.

LESSON III. [Oct. 15.]

ESTHER PLEADING FOR HER PEOPLE.

Esth. 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.

A LESSON TALK.

You will need to read all the Helps carefully to get the whole of the beautiful story of Queen Esther. The faith and courage of the young queen saved her people, and you will not fail to notice that she did not trust her own beauty and her power over the king, but that she called upon her own people, who believed in God, to fast with her before she went to the king. This lesson shows how Mordecai was raised to a position of honour, and all the Jews throughout the kingdom had "light, and gladness, and joy, and honour," because a woman was not afraid, even at the risk of her life, to stand for the right. When we see how the king held out his golden sceptre to Esther, it reminds us that our great King is always ready to hold out to us the sceptre of his love and truth, and we should be encouraged to ask large things of him. This lesson, too, may help us to remember that when we are in a place of trouble and danger the best thing we can do is to go to our King for help. As Esther got help for herself and her people, so may we find help not only for ourselves, but for others.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Who was the Jews' enemy? Haman.

What was done with the ring of Haman? It was given to Mordecai.

What did this ring mean to Mordecai? Power.

What did Esther ask of the king? That he would save her people.

What did the king do? He held out the golden sceptre.

What did this mean? That he would grant what she asked.

What did he say the Jews might do? Defend themselves.

What did this mean? That they might fight for their lives.

Who were very happy now? All the Jews.

What did many of the Persians become? Like the Jews.

What did they see? That God was on their side.

TWO BRAVE MEN.

In an article in Youth's Companion, an army general gives some interesting acts of bravery which have come under his notice. Once a party of citizens and soldiers was completely surrounded in a piece of timber by large force of Indians. The whites had a number of wounded with them, some so badly hurt that they could not be moved, even if they had not been entirely surrounded by hostile savages. The wounded whites lay all day and all night with loaded pistols by their sides, ready for use should the Indians make a rush upon them. The unwounded, lying behind rocks and stumps, guarded the camp all that day and night, firing upon the Indians whenever one could be seen.

At last two of the party volunteered to crawl out through the lines of the surrounding Indians and carry news of the wants of the beleaguered party to the settlements, ninety miles away. The risk was great, but the task was accomplished. The brave fellows made their way, unnoticed, through the Indians, reached the settlements, and returned with reinforcements before the savages made an attack.

WHAT A LITTLE GIRL FOUND OUT.

A poor little street girl was taken sick one Christmas, and carried to the hospital. While there she heard the story of Jesus coming into the world to save us. It was all new to her, but very precious. She could appreciate such a wonderful Saviour, and the knowledge made her very happy as she lay upon her little cot. One day the nurse came round at the usual hour, and "Little Broagstick" (that was her street name) held her by the hand and whispered "I am having real good times here, ever such good times! Spose I'll have to go 'way from here just as soon as I get well, but I'll take the good time along—some of it, anyhow. Did you know about Jesus being born?"

"Yes," replied the nurse, "I know. Sh-sh-sh! Don't talk any more."

"You did? I thought that you looked as if you didn't, and I was going to tell you."

"Why, how did I look?" asked the nurse, forgetting her orders in her curiosity.

"O, just like most o' folks—kind o' glum. I shouldn't think that you'd ever look glum if you knowed about Jesus bein' born."

Dear reader, do you know "about Jesus bein' born"? If you do, won't you tell it to others?