

OLD DAME CRICKET.

Old Dame Cricket,
Down in a thicket,
Brought up her children nine—
Queer little chaps,
In glossy black caps,
And brown little suits so fine.

"My children," she said,
"The birds are abed;
Go and make the dark earth glad.
Chirp while you can!"
And then she began,
Till oh, what a concert they had!

They hopped with delight
They chirruped all night,
Singing, "Cheer up! cheer up! cheer!"
Old Dame Cricket,
Down in the thicket,
Sat away till dawn to hear.

"Nice children," she said,
"And very well bred;
My darlings have done their best.
Their naps they must take;
The birds are awake,
And they can sing all the rest."

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF OUR LORD.

A.D. 27.] LESSON IX. [Dec. 2.

CHRIST'S TESTIMONY TO JOHN.

Luke 7. 24-35. Memory verses, 27, 28.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Behold, I send my messenger before thy face.—Luke 7. 27.

OUTLINE.

1. The Prophet, v. 24-30.
2. The People, v. 31-35.

EVERYDAY HELPS.

Mon. Read John's anxious questions. Luke 7. 19.
Tues. Learn how Jesus answered. Luke 7, 21, 22.
Wed. Read the lesson very carefully. Luke 1. 24-35
Thur. Learn what the prophet said about John. Golden Text.
Fri. Find whose "way" John prepared. Mal. 3. 1.
Sat. Find who believe Jesus' words. Verse 29.
Sun. Learn the good of trusting Jesus. Verse 23.

DO YOU KNOW—

Who came before Jesus? What did he say of Jesus? Where had John been thrown? What did he send to ask Jesus? Why? What did John's friends see Jesus do? What did Jesus tell them? What did John know when he heard this? Who only can do mighty works? God.

Of whom did Jesus speak to the people? Was John a great prophet? Who is greater? To what age did John belong? What is the new and better age? Who would not believe Jesus? Whose ways and words are always right?

I WILL TRY TO REMEMBER—

That God cares for what I am.
That I may trust where I do not understand. Verse 23.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

What is religion? Religion is holiness in heart and life.

What is it to be holy in heart? To be holy in heart is to be changed by the Holy Spirit, so as to be saved from sin and to love God.

A.D. 28.] LESSON X. [Dec. 9.

CHRIST TEACHING BY PARABLES.

Luke 8. 4-15. Memory verses, 11-15.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The seed is the word of God.—Luke 8. 11.

OUTLINE.

1. Four Kinds of Soil, v. 4-8.
2. Four Kinds of Heart, v. 9-15.

EVERYDAY HELPS.

Mon. Read the parable of the sower. Luke 8. 4-15.
Tues. Learn what the seed is. Golden Text.
Wed. Find out about "the fowls of the air." Verse 12.
Thur. Are you a rock hearer? Verse 13.
Fri. Learn what "thorns" are, and what they do. Verse 14.
Sat. Find where the "good heart" can be found. Jer. 32. 39.
Sun. Learn what good fruit is. Gal. 5. 22.

DO YOU KNOW—

Why did so many people follow Jesus? Did they care much for his teachings? What did they care more for? How had Jesus always taught the truth? How did he begin to teach it now? What is a parable? What did Jesus think the earnest people would do? Where was Jesus now? On the shore of Lake Galilee. Why did he sit in a boat to teach? What was the parable about? (Tell it in your own words.) Who asked the meaning of the parable? What is the seed? Who is like the birds of the air? What are the thorns like? What is the good ground?

I WILL TRY TO REMEMBER—

That my heart is a place to sow seed.
That I may let God make it good ground.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

What is it to be holy in life? To be holy in life is to do my duty to God and man, according to God's holy word.

What is your duty to God? My duty to God is to worship him, to love him, and to keep his commandments.

BUTTERCUP, POPPY, FORGET-ME-NOT.

Buttercup, Poppy, Forget-me-not—
These three bloomed in a garden spot;
And once, all merry with song and play,
A little one heard three voices say:
"Shine and shadow, summer and spring,
O thou child with the tangled hair
And laughing eyes, we thee shall bring
Each an offering passing fair."
The little one did not understand,
But they bent and kissed the dimpled hand.

Buttercup gambolled all day long,
Sharing the little one's mirth and song
Then stealing along on misty gleams,
Poppy came bearing the sweetest dreams,
Playing and dreaming—and that was all,
Till once a sleeper would not awake.
Kissing the little face under the pall,
We thought of the words the third flower spake,
And we found betimes in a hallowed spot,
The solace and peace of Forget-me-not.

Buttercup shareth the joy of the day,
Glinting with gold the hours of play.
Bringeth the Poppy sweet repose,
When the hands would fold and the eyes would close.
And after all the play and the sleep
Of a little life—what cometh then?
To the hearts that ache and the eyes that weep,
A new flower bringeth God's peace again.
Each one serveth its tender lot—
Buttercup, Poppy, Forget-me-not.

WHAT JOHNNIE SAID.

"I'll never taste wine, for people say there is an evil spirit in it, I'll never chew nor smoke tobacco. I'll not do anything that will make nice people dislike me. But I'll give the pennies and nickels that others spend for cigars and toddy to the poor and to my Sunday-school teacher." Let all the boys talk like that.

THE SINGING PRISONERS.

One evening, while Uncle Ben was paying a visit to Farmer Frankland he found it difficult to talk to him, owing to the loud and constant singing of a canary, whose cage hung against the wall. In vain did Mrs. Frankland tell the bird to be quiet, in vain did she shake her handkerchief before the cage to frighten the bird into silence; it would sing on, and, as Uncle Ben listened to its sweet voice, it seemed to say, "I have so much music in me, that I must let some of it out." Children! copy the example of the canary. Don't keep all the music inside, let others have the benefit of it. If bad thoughts or bad tempers come to you, try to sing them away. Singing is better than sighing, and if you wish to make earth a little more like heaven, remember that the shining ones that Saint John saw, sang as it were a new song before the throne.