

A LITTLE SUNBEAM.

A little sunbeam in the sky  
Said to itself one day:  
"I'm very small, but why should I  
Do nothing else but play?  
I'll go down to the earth and see  
If there is any use for me."

The violet beds were wet with dew,  
Which filled each heavy cup;  
The little sunbeam darted through,  
And raised their blue heads up.  
They smiled to see it, and they lent  
The morning breeze their sweetest scent.

A mother 'neath a shady tree  
Had left her babe asleep;  
It waked and cried, but when it spied  
The little sunbeam peep  
So shyly in, with glance so bright,  
It laughed and chuckled with delight.

Oh, on it went, it might not stay;  
Now, through a window small  
It poured its glad but tiny ray,  
And danced upon the wall.  
A pale young face looked up to meet  
The sunbeam she had watched to greet.

And so it travelled to and fro,  
And glanced and danced about;  
And not a door was shut, I know,  
To keep that sunbeam out;  
But ever as it touched the earth,  
It woke up happiness and mirth.

And loving words, like sunbeams, will  
Dry up a fallen tear,  
And loving deeds will often help  
A broken heart to cheer.  
So loving and so living, you  
Will be a little sunbeam too.

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT FROM  
ISAIAH TO MALACHI.

LESSON XII.—DECEMBER 17.

PREPARATION FOR THE MESSIAH.

Mal. 3. 1-12. Memorize verses 8-10.

GOLDEN TEXT.

I will send my messenger, and he shall  
prepare the way before me.—Mal. 3. 1.

DAILY STEPS.

Mon. Read the lesson verses. Mal. 3. 1-12.

Tues. See what God says about an evil offering. Mal. 17. 8.

Wed. Find out what kind of an offering God wants. Mal. 1. 11.

Thur. Learn what is the best offering we can give. Psa. 51. 16, 17.

Fri. Find how our gifts may be made pure. Matt. 3. 11.

Sat. Learn the kind of giver God loves. 2 Cor. 9. 7.

Sun. Read about the One who can make all things pure. Matt. 3. 7-12.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

Who was Malachi? One of the Lord's prophets. When did he live? Four hundred years before Christ came. What did he say was surely coming? Messiah's kingdom. Whom did he mean by the Messiah? The Lord Jesus. How did he say he would come? Suddenly. Where did he say he would appear? In his temple. What would he do to it? Make it clean. What had the Jews done? They had gone away from the Lord. What is meant by this? They did not keep his law. What did he ask them to do? To return to him. How did he say they had robbed him? By keeping back their tithes. What is the tithe? The tenth of all we have. What did God tell them to do? To bring all their tithes into his storehouse. What did he promise if they would do this? To send them a great blessing.

THREE LITTLE LESSONS.

We have learned that—

1. The Lord wants us to be pure in heart.
2. He wants to bless us with good gifts.
3. He wants us to let him come into our hearts to live.

LESSON XIII.—DECEMBER 24.

THE CHARACTER OF THE MESSIAH.

Isa. 9. 1-7. Memorize verse 6.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.—Matt. 1. 21.

DAILY STEPS.

Mon. Read the beautiful lesson verses. Isa. 9. 1-7.

Tues. Read something to make you glad. Isa. 11. 1-10.

Wed. Learn the reason why Jesus was so named. Golden Text.

Thur. Find what John says about Jesus. John 1. 4-9.

Fri. Learn how Jesus gives peace. John 14. 27.

Sat. Find why a Son was given to the world. John 3. 16.

Sun. Find another beautiful name for Jesus. Matt. 1. 23.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

When did Isaiah live? What was he? What can a prophet see? Things in the future. Whom did Isaiah see was coming some day? A Holy One. What did Jesus say of himself? "I am the light of the world." What does the light show? The unclean things. How did Jesus come into the world? As a little child. What is the first name by which Isaiah calls him? The second? The third? The fourth? The fifth? What is the wonderful thing about Jesus? He is so great and yet so good. How can Jesus give us counsel?

Through his word and by his Spirit. Where do we see his might? In the world he has made. Why is he called the Father? He said, "I and my Father are one." What is the sweetest of his names? "The Prince of Peace." When will the whole world be at peace? When Jesus rules in all hearts. What do we know of his kingdom? That it is sure to grow. What will it one day fill? The whole earth.

THREE LITTLE LESSONS.

We have learned that—

1. Jesus came as a little child.
2. A child may know and love and serve Jesus.
3. A child's heart may be a little kingdom of peace.

GOD IS HERE, TOO.

Nurse came in and found Bessie wide awake, lying very still in her bed.

"All alone in the dark," said nurse, "and not afraid at all, Bessie, are you?"

"No, indeed," answered Bessie, "for I ain't all alone. God is here; and I look out of the window and see the stars, and God seems to me looking down with all his eyes, nurse."

"To be sure," said the nurse; "but God up in the sky is a great way off."

"No," spoke little Bessie, "God is here, too, because he seems sometimes hugging me to his heart; then I am so happy."

Oh, how sweet to feel God near—to be resting on his bosom, like a little child in its father's arms! This is the blessed privilege of a believing child.

HER NAUGHTY HAT.

"What is the matter, my darling?"  
And mamma looked in surprise  
As wee Mary stood before her  
With weeping but flashing eyes.

"I thought you would be so happy  
When you saw your lovely hat.  
What makes you cry so, dearest,  
What makes you look like that?"

"It's my naughty new hat, mamma,  
I don't want it on my head;  
There's a beautiful birdie on it,  
But the beautiful bird is dead.

"I think I will have a fun'ral;  
The children shall come and sing,  
To show all the other birdies  
We grieve for the dear, dear thing.

"Yes," said mamma, as she kissed her;  
"How thoughtless I must have been;  
Better the birdie were buried  
Than that it a hat should trim."

Do not pull that pretty flower to pieces.  
Carry it to somebody who is shut up in a sick-room.