

THE VALLEY OF MAKEBELIEVE.

BY DOUGLAS ZEBRISKIE DOTY.

There's an old covered waggon,
Quite rusty and gray,
That stands 'neath an elm tree;
Just over the way;
And it goes on a journey,
On each pleasant day,
To the beautiful valley of Makebelieve.

They don't charge you fare
On this wonderful trip;
Each passenger goes, with
A smile on his lip,
Like a bee buzzing 'round
For honey to sip,
To the beautiful valley of Makebelieve.

It's a queer, sweet land they
Are bound for to-day;
It's the home of the goblin,
And land of the fay;
And, though you won't see them
You'll hear them, they say
All about in the valley of Makebelieve.

Bright Fancy and Youth are
The winged steeds that draw
This magical coach to
That fair land before.
Now, see how they're prancing,
And see how they paw,
And it's ho! for the valley of Makebelieve.

The way is quite plain for
The young and the gay.
But you never will find it—
You old ones and gray—
For the path leads back through
The years to the day.
When you played in the valley of Makebelieve.
—New York Herald.

last one is about a rich man who had two sons, and the younger one, who wanted to see the world, asked his father for his share of the money; so his father, with a sad heart no doubt, gave it to him, and he went away. He soon spent it in what he called having a good time, and then he had nothing. Then a great famine came over the land where he was, and he had to work at feeding pigs to get even such things as they ate to live upon. They were the husks or pods of the carob tree. At last he came to a great decision. "I will arise and go to my father," he said, and he went, thinking over the words of confession of sin and foolishness that he would make, and ask to be a servant in the family where he had been a son. But the father saw him coming, for he no doubt looked for him every day, and he ran to meet him, and kissed him, and was full of joy, because his boy had come back again. He made a great feast and asked all his friends to come and rejoice with him that the lost had been found. So our Lord welcomes every wandering child home.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

What is the story in our lesson? About a lost boy. What is said of his father? He was a rich man. What is said of the son? He was the younger son. What did he ask for? His share of his father's money. What did he want to do? He wanted to see the world. What became of the money? He soon spent it. Where was he? In a far land where there was a famine. What did he do? He worked hard and ate pigs' food. What did he at last say he would do? Go to his father. What did he expect to say to him? "I have sinned." How did his father meet him? With great joy. How does our heavenly Father meet his wanderers? With love and forgiveness.

on he grew more sad, and told his disciples what he was going to meet at Jerusalem—suffering and death. But they would not believe him, and James and John came near to him to ask a favor—that they might be next to him when he became King. "Ye know not what ye ask," he said, and then he questioned them to find if they were willing to suffer with him. They said they were, but he knew that they did not understand, and so he told them that honors were not for him to give, but they should be given to those for whom they were prepared. The other disciples were offended when they heard that James and John had asked, and then Jesus, gathering them around him like children, taught them that sweet lesson of humility—that they must not seek to rule as worldly people do, but to serve; that if one wishes to be ruler over others he must learn to serve them instead. "for even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Where was Jesus going in our lesson? To Jerusalem. Why was he sad? Because he knew that he must die for our sins. Did he not choose to do so? Yes, but the sins were heavy. Did he tell the disciples about this? Yes. Did they understand him? No; they believed he would be a king. What did James and John ask? That they might be next to him. What did Jesus say? "Ye know not what ye ask." Did they understand what Jesus had taught them? No. What did Jesus say they must have? Hearts willing to serve. What did he say the chiefest should be? Servant of all. What did Jesus himself come to do? To take the lowest place.

THE ART OF SELF-DEFENCE.

"Have you studied the art of self-defence?" said a young fellow to a man of magnificent physique and noble bearing.

The elder man looked at his questioner with a quiet smile and they answered thoughtfully: "Yes, I have both studied and practised it."

"Ah!" said the other eagerly, "whose system did you adopt?"

"Solomon's," was the reply; "and as I have now been in training for some time on his principles, I can confidently recommend his system."

Somewhat abashed, the youth stammered out: "Solomon's! and what is the special point of his system of training?"

"Briefly this," replied the other: "A soft answer turneth away wrath."

A man never amounts to much in the service of the Lord till he learns how to go against the current of public opinion.

LESSON NOTES.

SECOND QUARTER.

SIX MONTHS WITH THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS.

LESSON VII.—MAY 15.

THE PRODIGAL SON.

Luke 15. 11-24. Memorize verses 17-19.

GOLDEN TEXT.

"Come, and let us return unto the Lord."—Hos. 6. 1.

THE LESSON STORY.

There are three beautiful parables, or stories, in the fifteenth chapter of Luke, and they all teach the same lesson. The first is about a lost sheep, the second is about a lost piece of silver, and the third is about a lost boy. The lesson is that God loves his lost and sinful people so much that there is joy in heaven when they come back to him and to goodness, and he does all he can to bring them back. The

LESSON VIII.—MAY 22.

JESUS TEACHES HUMILITY.

Mark 10. 35-45. Memorize verses 43-45.

GOLDEN TEXT.

"For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister."—Mark 10. 45.

THE LESSON STORY.

Jesus was having a quiet little talk with his disciples one day as they were on their way from the Jordan River to Jerusalem. A young man had just left them who wanted to please God, but he could not leave all to follow Jesus because he loved his riches too well. Jesus was sad at this and told his disciples how hard it was for the rich to really come into the kingdom of heaven. Peter said, "Lo, we have left all to follow thee," and then Jesus told them how truly rich they were, for they had the true riches. As he went