

TWO PENNIES.

BY EMILY HUNTINGTON MILLER.

Two beautiful shining pennies,  
Bright and yellow and new!  
Don't tell me about the heathen;  
I want them myself, I do.

I want a top and some marbles,  
A sword, and a gun that shoots;  
A candy cane and a trumpet,  
A knife, and a pair of boots.

But then, what if I were a heathen,  
With no precious Bible to tell  
The story of Jesus, our Saviour,  
Who loved little children so well!

For Jesus, you know, may be asking  
This question of you and of me:  
"Did you carry my love to your brothers  
And sisters 'way over the sea?"

I guess you may send my pennies;  
Perhaps in some way they will grow;  
For little brooks grow to be rivers,  
And pennies make dollars, you know.

I'm not very wise, but there's one thing,  
I think, must be certainly true:  
If little boys ought to give pennies,  
Big men should give dollars, don't you?

LESSON NOTES.

SECOND QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF ACTS.

LESSON VI. [May 10.]

THE PLOT AGAINST PAUL.

Acts 23. 12-22. Memorize verses 20-22.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer.—Acts 23. 11.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

What did Paul do before he was put in prison? Where did he stand? Did the people listen? Why did they hate Paul? Because they loved Christ and the Gentiles. Who stood by him that night? What did he say to him? What did forty Jews do? Who heard about the plot? Whom did he tell? To whom did Paul send him? What did the captain order? How many soldiers guarded Paul? Where did they go? Who lived at Casarea? Why did Paul have to be tried by the governor? Because he was a Roman citizen.

DAILY STEPS.

Mon. Read what happened after Paul's speech. Acts 22. 22-30.

Tues. Read about Paul before the council. Acts 23. 1-11.

Wed. Read the lesson verses. Acts 23. 12-22.

Thur. Find how Paul felt in time of trial. 2 Tim. 4. 17, 18.

Fri. Learn the Golden Text.

Sat. Find a promise for times of trouble. Psa. 9. 9, 10.

Sun. Read the Lord's promise to the faithful. Rev. 3. 12.

THREE LITTLE LESSONS.

We have learned—

1. That God is stronger than the strongest.
2. That he is wiser than the wisest.
3. That he will always stand by the least of his children.

LESSON VII. [May 17.]

PAUL BEFORE FELIX.

Acts. 24. 10-16, 24-26. M. n. vs. 14-16.

GOLDEN TEXT.

I will fear no evil; for thou art with me.—Psa. 23. 4.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

Who took Paul to Casarea? Who were they taking him to? Was he afraid? Why was he at peace? How many days did he rest? Who then came from Jerusalem? What did they do? What was this speaker's name? Tertullus. What did Paul then do? Did Felix condemn Paul? No. What did he say he would wait for? Was Paul put again in prison? Who guarded him? What happened a few days after? Who was Drusilla? A Jewess? What did Paul reason about? What did Felix do?

DAILY STEPS.

Mon. Read about Paul's flight by night. Acts 23. 23-35.

Tues. Read the speech of Tertullus. Acts 24. 1-9.

Wed. Read the lesson verses. Acts 24. 10-26.

Thur. Learn the Golden Text.

Fri. Read David's prayer among enemies. Psa. 56.

Sat. Find what Paul says of his trials. 2 Cor. 11. 23-28.

Sun. Read about a young man who was like Felix. Matt. 19. 16-22.

THREE LITTLE LESSONS.

We have learned—

1. That a prisoner may have peace.
2. That a judge may be troubled.
3. That it is dangerous to turn away from God.

A BIRD CURE.

I want to tell you of the strange cure of a little girl who had been sick a long time, and whose friends had almost despaired of her being any better. A strange cure, I say, because her only medicine was her love for birds and their sweet music, her only doctor the birds themselves.

It was thought that she had overtaxed her mind and body at school in her efforts to obtain all the prizes, and when my little story begins she just lay all the bright summer days on a couch near the window; a pale, fragile little creature, looking out so listlessly, and seeming to care nothing for the fair world about her.

But one day a canary bird, which had possibly escaped from the bars of its prison, came near, and poured forth a perfect flood of song. Nellie did not move. She was almost afraid to breathe lest her charming visitor would take flight.

While she lay listening and smiling, a mocking-bird set up the quaintest mimicry of various familiar sounds she had ever heard. Then he went off into a rollicking roundelay of sweet notes; he whistled, he chirped, he trilled, and "quavered." He even put the vain little canary in a tantrum by mocking him.

Nellie laughed outright; and begged her mother to live in the country always.

Every day now she scattered crumbs, not only near the window, but on the lawn outside, at the feet of the beeches, in the shade of the lindens and larches.

And, oh, so many birds flocked to the lawn for the dainty morsels! She was wakened every morning by a concert of the sweetest bird music, too; and that made her jump up, dress quickly, and hurry out to watch her new friends. The morning air, fragrant with field flowers and new-mown hay, proved a fine tonic for the sick child; and before autumn's rainbow glory touched the stately trees, and the leaves of the silver poplar began to quiver like snowflakes in the frosty air, Nellie's cheeks were like a wild rose's heart.

And the lawn became the birds' paradise. They came in such numbers, of every name and colour, that she had a new one to study and admire every day. She dreaded the swift-coming, icy winter, that would banish all her dear bird friends, and still all their gay songs.

But what do you think? When the world was white with snow, and the trees glittered with icicles, and the north wind blew its coldest, and she could only look out of her window, she joyously counted, hopping gaily about, swallows, robin red-breasts, larks, orioles, and blue-birds.

And now, Nellie herself, as well as those who loved her, almost forgot how listless, sad and pale a child she had lately been. She had so many birds to feed and care for this cold winter! When asked "if the country cured her," she always gave the answer: "No; it was not the country; it was the birds that made me well."

Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver thee.—Psa. 50. 15.