

PETER NODDY.

Peter Noddy comes at night,
Down the chimney, so they say,
Sows our eyelids fast and tight.
Till the break of day;
And never yet has anybody
Caught a glimpse of Peter Noddy.

Often have I set my chair
By the fire to watch for him;
But he took me unaware
In the shadows dim,
And before my eyes could view him
He had popped his needle through them.

Is his thread a moonbeam white,
Stolen from the sky, I wonder?
Or perhaps he tears the slight
Spider-webs asunder,
And from out their glossy shreds
Twines and spins his lissom threads.

And his fingers are so deft,
And his needle is so keen,
Not a scar or mark is left
Where its point has been.
So he comes and so he goes,
Whence or whither no one knows.

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

LESSON VI. [Nov. 5.]

NEHEMIAH'S PRAYER.

Neh. 1. 1-11. Memory verses, 8-10.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day.—Neh. 1. 11.

A LESSON TALK.

Most men do not like to go into danger, but we have here a story of a man who was willing to leave a life of comfort and pleasure to undertake a work which he knew would be both hard and dangerous. Why was this? Nehemiah had been trained to love and serve the true God. When he was taken captive in time of war and carried away to Persia, and set to wait upon the king of that country in his beautiful palace, he did not forget God. He loved his country and Jerusalem, the holy city, and was happy when he could hear any news from there. Find how he learned that the temple had been rebuilt, and yet that the Jews were in great trouble because the walls were broken down and the gates destroyed. Both love for God and for his country led Nehemiah to forget himself—his safety and his comfort—and to think only of what he could do to make things right once more.

Nehemiah was in the service of a powerful king who was used to having his own way. Would the king let him go? See how Nehemiah won his consent, and notice how wise it is to have the love of those whom we serve.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Who was Nehemiah? A Lebrew captive.

In what land was he a captive? In Persia.

Where did he live? In the king's palace.

What was he? The king's cupbearer.

What sad news did he hear? That the walls of Jerusalem were broken down.

What did he want to do? Go build them up.

Would this be easy? No; very hard.

Why was he willing to do it? He loved God.

What was the first thing he did? He prayed.

What did he confess? His own sins and the sins of his people.

What did he ask God to remember? His promise of mercy.

To whom should we look for help? To God.

LESSON VII. [Nov. 12.]

REBUILDING THE WALLS OF JERUSALEM.

Neh. 4. 7-18. Memory verses, 15-18.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Watch and pray.—Matt. 26. 41.

A LESSON TALK.

Of course Nehemiah's king allowed him to go to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls, for the Lord made him willing. It was a journey of eleven hundred miles, but he did not mind that, for he was going to work for the Lord, and the thought gave him courage and strength. Read in Neh. 2. 11-16 what Nehemiah did after he had been three days in Jerusalem. In Neh. 2. 19, 20, learn how enemies began right away to oppose. Does it seem strange that the wall could be built in such a short time? There was money to be raised and friends to be gained for the work, as well as enemies to be kept away. But the answer to all questions is that God himself worked with Nehemiah and helped him. Does not the story of the brave way in which the Jews went about this work, working and fighting, make you think of the way the Christian has to live in this world? We may not have to fight actual living enemies, but we all have to fight heart enemies, and it is our Lord who has told us to "watch and fight." This lesson has many things to teach us. Can you find the lessons for yourself.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Where did Nehemiah go? To Jerusalem.

What did he want the people to do? To build the walls of the city.

Did he work too? Yes; he led the others in the work.

Who soon rose up to hinder the work? Wicked men.

What did they try to do? To keep the Jews from building.

What did they not believe? That it was the Lord's work.

To whom did Nehemiah go for help? To God.

What did the Lord tell him to do? To set a watch.

What did the workmen do besides watch? They worked.

Who has told us to watch and pray? Our Lord.

What else should we do? Work.

What does this lesson teach us? Courage and faith.

DOTTY'S RULE.

BY JOHN A. CAMPBELL.

"Dotty," said Dotty's mother, "my silk has given out, and I will have to buy more. Will you go to the store for me?"

"Yes, mother," said Dotty, who was playing with her dolls. "But, oh, dear! I don't see why I have to do all the errands for everybody! I run, run, run, all day long!"

Now Dotty knew a great deal better than that. Mother did not often ask her to run errands, especially outside the house. And, all day long, mother was doing little things for Dotty that took a great deal more time than her little girl understood. But Dotty had a bad fault—she liked to complain and grumble, when she was told to do anything, instead of doing it cheerfully at once.

So she sighed and laid down her pet doll Arabella, as if she was giving up her whole afternoon to do mother's errand, instead of ten minutes.

Then she came slowly to her mother, for the order, with a little frown on her face. But Mrs. Hall said:

"No, Dotty; I sent Mary Jane instead."

"But, mother, I said I'd go!" cried Dotty. "I was obeying, wasn't I?"

"Yes, dear, but you grumbled, you know."

It was a sober little girl that went back to her dollies, and somehow Dotty didn't have as much enjoyment as before. Soon she ran back to her mother, crying, "I have a new rule, mother! Always obey, and don't grumble, either!"

"That's a very good rule," said mother smiling.

ON GUARD.

You have a little prisoner;

He's nimble, sharp, and clever;

He's sure to get away from you

Unless you watch him ever.

And when he once gets out he makes

More trouble in an hour

Than you can stop in many a day,

Working with all your power.

He sets your playmates by the ears,

He says, "That isn't so,"

And uses many ugly words

Not good for you, you know.

Quick, fasten tight the ivory gates,

And chain him while he's young;

For this same dangerous prisoner

Is just your little tongue.