

## Song of the Harvest

April's showers and May's bright blossoms,

Summer's skies and busy hum,  
Now have reached the end they aimed at,  
Nature's mighty task is done.

Garnered in from field and meadow  
Is the earth's rich store of grain,  
While the vines and trees hang heavy,  
Laden with their fruit again.

Unto Him, the Lord of Harvest,  
All our gratitude belongs,  
He it is who all has ordered,  
Unto him now rise our songs.

## GECKO, OR LIZARD.

If you look at our picture of the foot of the gecko, or lizard, you will begin to understand why the Bible calls them "hands." You can easily conceive that they would grasp and hold very strongly, and cling very tight, more like hands than feet. And, indeed, they do. Those of the geckos who live out of doors, suspend themselves by their feet for hours from the underside of the larger tropical leaves, lurking in ambush for the insects on which they feed. Those who live indoors can run up the smoothest surface, and hang like house-flies from the ceiling. You would not be surprised at that if you could turn their feet upside down and see how they are made. Let me do it for you. Here, then, is the underside of their feet. They have five toes, and each one is divided into two parts, and composed of plates or scales set on in regular order. I believe they act very much like the sucker with which you sometimes play. And the gecko can squeeze the air out from between the cushions of his feet and so cling to the ceiling; then he can let the air in again, and so be loose the moment he wills.

Most of these geckos are quite harmless; but one kind has what we should call a very nasty habit. He sheds an aerial poison from his toes, so that when he runs across a man's hand little red pustules rise wherever his feet have touched. Hence the Arabs call him the father of leprosy.

By this time I think we know enough of our teacher to begin learning our lesson. The gecko says, "We lizards only lay hold with our hands, yet we are in king's palaces." So far as the mere sense of the words goes, we understand him at once. We quite see that feet such as his, so nimble, so capable, so strong in their grasp, deserve to be called hands. We quite understand that, with such hands as these, the lizard may very easily climb the walls and hang from the ceiling of any house, even of the king's palace. This clever little lizard has only feet—no horns or wings—but it uses its feet so well that it turns them into hands, and then uses its hands so well that, even though born and brought up in an old wall, it finds its way into the palace of the king. It does not sit and fret because it is so little, and has so little, but it makes the best use of what it has. It does not sit and fret because it is so poor and weak, but runs into the house of a strong, rich king. Now, this is the very spirit you should show. You should make as much as you can out of a little, and you should try to get on and to get up. There are boys and girls who cannot do much even when they have a great deal. There are boys who have all manner of toys—Noah's arks as big as baby's cradles, puzzles that cover a good-sized table, cricket balls and bats, skates, footballs, velocipedes even, and more pretty, expensive things than I can count—and yet they are often more troublesome and more clamorous for new toys and new amusements, and less cheerful and contented, than the poor little creature that sit in



HARVEST TIME.

the gutter, as good as gold, making mud-pies. There are girls and boys who have more books than they can use, and are sent to the very best schools, and who, after all, learn less than the children in ragged schools, and are less able to do their duty and to play their part in life, when they come home for good. For good? no, for bad; to be a plague and burden to the parents who have taken such pains with them, and have been so kind.

There are children with plenty of pocket-money, and with parents who would be charmed to help them in any act of kindness, who hardly ever think of serving their poor neighbours, and doing a little good in the world in which God has given them so much. Heaven, the palace of our King, is very high. It takes much climbing, and patient climbing, to reach it. But the first steps are very low, easy even to children's feet; and all the upper steps grow easier for children who have begun to climb from the first.

## LESSON NOTES.

## THIRD QUARTER.

## STUDIES IN OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY.

## LESSON X.—SEPTEMBER 6.

## DAVID'S LOVE FOR GOD'S HOUSE.

1 Chron. 22. 6-16. Memory verses, 11-13.

## GOLDEN TEXT.

Blessed are they that dwell in thy

Tuesday.—Read David's love for God's house (1 Chron. 22. 11-19). Fix in your mind Time and Place.

Wednesday.—Read a good desire (1 Chron. 17. 1-12). Learn the Golden Text.

Thursday.—Read David's thankfulness (1 Chron. 17. 16-27). Learn the Memory Verses.

Friday.—Read the story of a big collection (1 Chron. 29. 1-9).

Saturday.—Read the joy of service (1 Chron. 29. 10-19). Study Teachings of the Lesson.

Sunday.—Read a temple song (Psalm 84).

## QUESTIONS.

- I. The House, verses 6-8.
6. When did David first think of building a temple? 8. Why did he not do so? Were his wars just?
- II. The Builder, verses 9-13.
9. What promise was given to him? What advantage would Solomon possess? 10. Was he to have any special guidance or help? How long did his descendants reign over Israel? How may his kingdom be said to be everlasting? 11. Did the prosperity he enjoyed bring any obligation? 12. What did he specially need for the work? Did the fact that he was king give him freedom from the law? 13. Why should he be encouraged?
- II. The Preparation, verses 14-16.
14. How might David's example help him? Was he to take his ease and enjoy what was handed down to him? 15. What workmen were to aid him? 16.



GECKO, OR LIZARD.

house: they will be still praising thee.—Psalm 84. 4.

Time.—In David's old age.

Place.—Jerusalem.

## DAY BY DAY WORK.

Monday.—Read David's love for God's house (1 Chron. 22. 1-10). Answer the Questions.

How had David secured such vast treasure? When was this charge given? What should we do with our treasures?

## TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

There is a special place and work for each one of us. When God gives rest he expects work. God's promises should stir us up to active service. We are to

use our money as God's stewards. It is a privilege to help in the erection or maintenance of God's house. Everybody is building something more lasting than Solomon's temple. The foundation, the plan, and the materials for holy character are all provided us.

## TESTED.

An Eastern king, so the story runs, was once in need of a faithful servant and friend. He gave notice that he wanted a man to do a day's work, and two men came and asked to be employed. He engaged them both for certain fixed wages and set them to work to fill a basket with water from a neighbouring well, saying he would come in the evening and see their work. He then left them, and went away. After putting in one or two bucketfuls, one of them said:

"What is the good of doing this useless work? As soon as we put the water in on one side, it runs out on the other."

The other man answered: "But we have our day's wages, haven't we? The use of the work is the master's business, not ours."

"I am not going to do such fool's work," replied the other; and, throwing down his bucket, he went away.

The other man continued his work, till about sunset he exhausted the well. Looking down into it, he saw something shining at the bottom. He let down his bucket once more, and drew up a precious diamond ring.

"Now I see the use of pouring water into a basket," he exclaimed to himself. If the bucket had brought up the ring before the well was dry, it would have been found in the basket. The labour was not useless after all."

But he had yet to learn why the king had ordered this apparently useless task. It was to test their capacity for perfect obedience, without which no servant is reliable. At this moment the king came up to him, and, as he bade the man keep the ring, he said:

"Thou hast been faithful in a little thing, now I see I can trust thee in great things. Henceforward thou shalt stand at my hand."—Selected.

A little boy who loved big words came to his mother one day and said: "I wish we had a refrigerator under our house."

"Why, my son?"

"Instead of stoves, to keep us warm, you know."

Of course every one laughed. He, looking very indignant, said:

"You need not all laugh so, I knew enough to say invigorator if I had wanted to."

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