

THE POPPYLAND LIMITED EXPRESS.

The first train leaves at six p.m.,  
For the land where the poppy blows;  
The mother dear is the engineer,  
And the passenger laughs and crows.

The palace car is the mother's arms,  
The whistle a low, sweet strain;  
The passenger winks and nods and blinks,  
And goes to sleep on the train.

At eight p.m., the next train starts  
For the Poppyland afar;  
The summons clear falls on the ear;  
"All aboard for the sleeping-car!"

But what is the fare to Poppyland?  
I hope it is not too dear.  
The fare is this; a hug and a kiss,  
And it's paid to the engineer.

So I ask of him who children took  
On his knee in kindness great,  
"Take charge, I pray, of the trains each  
day,  
That leave at six and eight.

"Keep watch of the passengers," thus I  
pray,  
"For to me they are very dear,  
And special ward, O gracious Lord,  
O'er the gentle engineer."

THE DIAMONDS IN THE SKY.

BY KATHARINE E. MEGEE.

"Twinkle, twinkle, little star,  
How I wonder what you are,  
Up above the world so high,  
Like a diamond in the sky."

One of the first rhymes your baby lips were taught to lisp was "Twinkle, twinkle, little star"; but, dear children, how many of you really do wonder anything about the glittering "diamonds" which stud the sky?

The stars have existed from the beginning, and he, who in the greatness of his power created all things, called them by name; and he has told us that man cannot number them. There are about five thousand stars which are visible to the naked eye, but this is only a fractional part of the number brought to view by means of a powerful telescope.

Many attempts have been made by men interested in this pleasant subject, to measure the distance of the stars from our planet earth, but, except in a very few cases, the result has been unsatisfactory. In ancient times it was believed that the stars were immovable—that is, that they always remained at a fixed point of the heavens, but this theory has been proven untrue.

Nor are the stars all of the same colour, as the careless beholder would suppose them to be. You can prove the truth of this assertion for yourselves. Go out doors any clear night when the heavens seem to be alive with these "star diamonds," and by a little observation you can readily see the difference in colour. Men, called astronomers, who devote their time to the

study of the heavenly bodies, tell us that about one-half the stars are white, one-third yellow, one-hundredth are red, while a few are of blue tint.

In remote ages, even before we have any reliable history, the stars were classed into groups, called constellations. In those days they did not have weather bureaus and almanacs, or barometers to tell them what kind of weather they might expect at certain times; but shepherds and seafaring men depended upon the risings and settings of the constellations for their knowledge of the changes of the seasons.

Not only are names given to these groups, but many of the more brilliant stars themselves are named; and from charts of heavens, made by the astronomers, you can, when you are older and begin to not only "wonder," but to study about the "little star," become as familiar with their name and their positions in the heavens as you now are with the map of your own country.

Often what appears to the naked eye as a single star, when examined through the telescope resolves itself into two, perhaps three or four stars. Stars thus formed are called double, triple, or quadruple, as they happen to be formed of one, two, three, or four stars. The reason they appear to be but one star is because they are so near to each other, and seen at so great a distance; just as two lights, swung very closely, one in front of the other, from a distance seem to be but one light.

It is a most interesting study! God himself honoured the stars by appointing one of them to act as guide to the shepherds and wise men, and led them to the feet of the blessed Saviour, the Star of this benighted world.

FINEST TEAM IN SERVICE.

Two black horses, Harry and Babe, that drew a fire engine in Jersey City, are said to be the finest team in the service. Harry is the more intelligent, and a truly magnificent animal, and a fire is his delight. Both horses stand untied in their stalls, which have a door in front that opens automatically whenever an alarm is turned in. The sound of a gong drives Harry frantic, and almost as soon as the door of his stall flies open when the alarm is sounded he is under the swinging harness. The other morning it was found necessary to take Harry to the blacksmith shop. As he stood there having his shoes looked to, a trolley car passed, and the motorman clanged the gong. With a snort Harry bounded backward, and snapped the chain like a bit of string, and clattered from the shop, not stopping till he reached the engine house. The men saw him coming, and quickly swung down the chain that was across the door. The horse dashed in, turned around, and then backed himself under the swinging harness. As the men stared at him, he tossed his head and neighed impatiently, as much as to say, "Where is the fire, and why don't you hurry up?"

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE ACTS AND EPISTLES.

LESSON XII. (Sept. 19.)

PAUL'S ADDRESS TO THE EPHESIAN ELDERNS.

Acts 20. 22-35. Memory verses 22-24.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.—Acts 20. 35.

QUESTIONS FOR YOUNGER SCHOLARS.

- Where was Paul going now?
- Who went with him?
- Who went with him besides those mentioned? Luke, who wrote the Acts.
- Where did Paul and his friends stop?
- What miracle did Paul do there?
- Where did the ship stop after this?
- What word did Paul send to Ephesus?
- Who came to see him?
- Why did they come?
- What did Paul say about going to Jerusalem?
- What was he willing to do?
- What did he warn against?
- Had Paul lived a selfish life among them?
- Whose words did he ask them to remember?
- May we, too, be givers?

WHAT I MAY DO.

- I may give God my voice, and speak for him.
- I may give him my hands, and work for him.
- I may give him my heart, and live for him.

THIRD QUARTERLY REVIEW.

Sept. 26.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.—Matt. 5. 16.

Titles and Golden Texts should be thoroughly studied.

- 1. F. C. in E. . . . The entrance of—
- 2. P. and the P. G. Believe on the—
- 3. P. at T. and B. They received the—
- 4. P. P. in A. . . . God is a Spirit—
- 5. P. M. in C. . . . Other foundation—
- 6. W. and W. for C. If I go and—
- 7. A. for S of O. For none of us—
- 8. The E. of C. L. And now abideth
- 9. P. O at E. . . . Take heed, and—
- 10. G. G. for J. C. Ye know the grace—
- 11. C. L. . . . Be not overcome of—
- 12. P. A. to the E. E. Remember the—