

A SECRET.

Shall I be like grandmamma when I am old?

Shall I wear such a queer little bonnet—
No feathers, no posies, but just a plain fold,
With a little white edging upon it?

Shall I sit in the easy-chair all the day long,

With a great ball of wool and a stocking?
Shall I think it quite dreadful for folks to do wrong,

And dirt and disorder quite shocking?

Just wait till I tell you what grandma once said—

I hope you won't think me crazy—
It happened one day when they sent me to bed

For being ill-tempered and lazy.
She came and sat by me and patted my hand,

And told me, "There's no use in crying;
It's by stumbling, my pet, that we know how to stand,

And we always grow better by trying."

"Was any one ever so wicked as me?"

I asked her between my sobbing.
Then grandmamma laughed just as hard as could be,

And her little white curls went bobbing.
"Was any one ever so naughty as you?
I'm sure that I know of one other."

"Who was it?" I asked, "Oh, please tell me, do."

She whispered, "Your own grand-mother."

Now isn't it strange? But of course it is true.

I can tell you just one thing about it—
She'd not tell a story, whatever she'd do,
And we'd only be silly to doubt it.

But of course I feel certain you never will tell,

For how perfectly dreadful 'twould be
To have people know, who all love her so well,

That grandma was ever like me.

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE ACTS AND EPISTLES.

LESSON X. [Dec. 5.]

CHRIST'S HUMILITY AND EXALTATION.

Phil. 2. 1-11. Memory verses 5-8.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.—Phil. 2. 5.

OUTLINE.

1. The Loving Mind, v. 1, 2.
2. The Lowly Mind, v. 3-8.
3. The Royal Mind, v. 9-11.

THE LESSON STORY.

Do you remember how Paul was called to preach at Philippi? (Acts 16. 9.) It was here that Lydia and the gaoler were converted. The Christian Church grew to be large and flourishing, and Paul wrote a letter to it from which this lesson is taken.

Paul teaches the Philippians (and us) that the law of Christ's kingdom is love. If we have had consolation in Christ, or if we want to be consoled by him, we should love one another. If we have comfort in God's love, or in the love of friends, it is our duty to pass on the comfort to some one else. Love from God makes us lowly, loving, and honouring others more than ourselves. Christ our Master has such a mind, lowly, loving, peaceable. He showed his lowly mind by taking the form of a servant and being made in the likeness of man. He showed his loving mind by dying on the cross for us. He showed his peaceable mind by bearing patiently the cruel treatment of his enemies. His lowliness exalted him, and now his name is above every name. At that great name every name shall yet bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is the Lord of all.

LESSON HELPS FOR EVERY DAY.

Mon. Read the beautiful lesson verses. Phil. 2. 1-11.

Tues. Learn why to forgive. Col. 3. 13.

Wed. Find what is better than strife. James 3. 14-17.

Thur. Read the love chapter. 1 Cor. 13.

Fri. Learn the Golden Text.

Sat. Find to whom we should look. Heb. 12. 2.

Sun. Learn the true object of life. Rom. 14. 7-9.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON STORY.

How was Paul called to preach at Philippi? What did the Church become there? What is the law of Christ's kingdom? If we have received comfort from love, what should we do? What does love cause us to be? What kind of a mind had Jesus? How did he show his lowly mind? How did he show his loving mind? How did he show his peaceable mind? How has he been exalted? What does true lowliness do? Lifts up, or exalts. What shall every tongue yet confess?

QUESTIONS TO ANSWER TO YOURSELF.

Jesus had a lowly mind. Have I?
Jesus had a loving mind. Have I?
Jesus was a peacemaker. Am I?

LESSON XI. [Dec. 12.]

PAUL'S LAST WORDS.

2 Tim. 4. 1-8, 16-18. Memory verses, 6-8.

GOLDEN TEXT.

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.—2 Tim. 4. 7.

OUTLINE.

1. The Final Charge, v. 1-5.
2. The Finished Work, v. 6-8.
3. The Lord's Deliverance, v. 16-18.

THE LESSON STORY.

Paul wrote two letters to Timothy, whom he calls his "dearly beloved son." The second one, from which our lesson is taken, is believed to be the last one he wrote. He was in Rome, having been brought before Nero for the second time. He thought that the time of his death was not far off, and it is likely that he was beheaded not much later.

In this letter Paul urges Timothy to work earnestly and constantly for God. It is his business to teach God's word, to tell people their sin, and to call them to repent and live better lives. He must help those who have begun to follow Christ, and teach them to grow in the knowledge of him. There is need of diligence, Paul says, for the time is coming when false teachers will creep into the Church, and many will be turned from the faith.

Paul believed that he would soon die, and he says he is ready to go, for he says there is a crown waiting which the Lord will give him. When Paul was called before Nero no man stood by to speak for him, but the Lord stood by and strengthened him to speak boldly for Christ, and he felt sure that God would save him from evil and preserve him in his heavenly kingdom.

LESSON HELPS FOR EVERY DAY.

Mon. Learn how Paul loved Timothy. 2 Tim. 1. 1-6.

Tues. Read the lesson verses. 2 Tim. 4. 1-8, 16-18.

Wed. Find Paul's advice to Timothy. 2 Tim. 2. 15.

Thur. Learn why Paul did not fear to die. Golden Text.

Fri. Read Peter's advice to ministers. 1 Peter 5. 1-4.

Sat. Find another time when the Lord stood by Paul. Acts 23. 11.

Sun. Read a beautiful song of hope. Psalm 121. 1-8.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON STORY.

To whom did Paul write two letters? Where was this one written? What did Paul think when he wrote it? What probably happened not long after? To what does Paul urge Timothy in this letter? What was Timothy's work? What should we all be? Earnest in good work. What did Paul say of himself? Why did he not fear to die? What made Paul sad? Verse 16. Who did stand by him? What good hope did Paul have? Verse 18.

COMFORT FOR YOU.

God will stand by a child as well as by an apostle.

God loves to deliver from evil.

God loves to preserve to his heavenly kingdom.