

HER SECRET.

Once in an Eastern palace wide  
A little child sat weaving;  
So patiently her task she plied  
That men and women at her side  
Flocked round her, almost grieving.

"How is it, little one," they said,  
"You always work so cheerily?  
You never seem to break your thread,  
Or snarl or tangle it, instead  
Of working smooth and clearly."

"Our weaving gets so worn and soiled,  
Our silk so frayed and broken;  
For all we've fretted, wept, and toiled,  
We know the lovely pattern's spoiled  
Before the King has spoken."

"I only go and tell the King,"  
She said, abashed and meekly;  
"You know he said, 'in everything'—  
"Why, so do we!" they cried. "We  
bring  
Him all our troubles weekly."

She turned her little head aside,  
A moment let them wrangle;  
"Ah, but," she softly then replied,  
"I go and get the knot untied  
At the first little tangle!"

Oh little children—weavers all—  
Our broidery we spangle  
With many a tear that need not fall  
If on our King we would but call  
At the first little tangle!

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF JESUS.

LESSON IV. [Jan 27.]

CHRIST SILENCES THE PHARISEES.

Matt. 22 34-46. Memory verses, 37-40

GOLDEN TEXT.

What think ye of Christ?—Matt. 22. 42.

THE LESSON STORY.

If you had been in the temple those last days that Jesus spent there, you would have found a crowd about him all the time. Some who really wanted to learn the truth were there, but others were there to listen, and find fault and catch him in his words. They hoped he would say something against the law, so that they might arrest him.

One of these, a lawyer, tried to puzzle Jesus with a hard question. He called him "master," as though he believed in him, and asked which was the greatest commandment of the law. How ready Jesus was to answer. The greatest thing in the world is love, and even the cunning lawyer dared not say that the law which bids us love God first and best is not the greatest! Then Jesus told him that the second was just as great, "Thou shalt love

thy neighbour as thyself." By keeping these two laws, Jesus said we would obey the whole law, and this is because love is the greatest of all things. Then, while the Pharisees stood around him, Jesus asked this solemn question: "What think ye of Christ?"

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

What did the Pharisees want? To get rid of Jesus.

What did they try to do? To puzzle him with questions.

What did a lawyer ask him? What was the greatest commandment.

What did Jesus answer? The first.

What does this command us? To love God best.

What is the second? About loving our neighbour.

Who is our neighbour? Any one we can help.

What one word is the whole law? Love.

What did Jesus ask the Pharisees? "What think ye of Christ?"

Could they answer his question? No, they stumbled.

How can we think right about Christ? By loving him.

Where can we get love? From God.

LESSON V. [Feb 3.]

PARABLE OF THE TEN VIRGINS.

Matt. 25. 1-13. Memory verses, 10-13.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Watch therefore; for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.—Matt. 25. 13.

THE LESSON STORY.

A parable is a story with a meaning. Jesus often used parables in teaching the disciples. Let us think now that we are little disciples—for we are, if we are trying to learn of Jesus—and see if we can understand the lesson he wants to teach us.

Jesus wanted the disciples (and us) to know what this kingdom of God is like, and so he told the story about ten virgins who took lamps and went to a wedding. Perhaps this seems strange to you, but in that far-away country and time they did many things very differently from what we now do. When there was a wedding there were always two processions. The bridegroom and his friends were in one. They usually started from their homes, and when they met they all went to the bridegroom's home, where the wedding took place. See if you can tell from verses 3 and 4 why some are called wise and others foolish. Read on and you will see what trouble the carelessness of the foolish virgins caused.

If Jesus invites you into his kingdom, and you are too careless to get ready, what will happen?

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

What did Jesus tell the disciples? A parable.

What is a parable? A story with a meaning.

What was this parable about? Ten virgins and their lamps.

Which of the virgins were wise? Those who took oil.

What did the five foolish virgins do? Took no oil with them.

Who were they going to meet? The bridegroom.

What did they do while they waited? They slept.

When he came, what did they do? They went to meet him.

What did the foolish virgins have to do? Go and buy oil.

What happened while they were gone? The bridegroom came.

Why could they not go in with the bridegroom. The door was shut.

Who can enter heaven at last? Only those who are ready.

DOROTHY DEE'S TWIN.

"O Dorothy Dee, Dorothy Dee,  
She is as pretty, yes, as pretty can be;"

Sang the village children, and Dorothy's mirror echoed the foolish ditty until Dorothy Dee was in danger of becoming a very vain Dorothy as well as a very pretty one. But Dorothy was pretty, as pretty as a picture, with her beautiful peach blossom complexion, set off by soft brown curls and lovely eyes of a hazel blue. That was one Dorothy; but the other one—well, Dorothy's pretty face was not matched by a pretty soul.

"Sweet in form and feature,  
But sour in heart and temper,"

brother Ben often sang when the ugly Dorothy "had the floor." But Dorothy said that Ben was shaming, and let the two Dorothys manage for themselves.

When Ben came home from college in the holidays, he brought his new kodak with him; and, sure enough, he got a snap at the two Dorothys, first one, then the other. After he went back to his studies, he arranged the two girls as he chose for a snap; and when the picture was properly developed, behold! the two Dorothys arm in arm, and O such a difference! Marking "The Twins" below, he sent it to Dorothy for a birthday present. She was very angry, and cried and stamped and pounded her fists until her mother placed the mirror on the desk before where she stood, and there she saw one Dorothy. At first she looked frightened, then ashamed, and then tried to be herself; and when she succeeded in this, she saw the other Dorothy, and was forced to acknowledge that Ben had made a true picture, if an ugly one. "There will be but one Dorothy after this," she said, for she did not like being so ugly; and whenever the other twin began to show herself in temper, Dorothy would run to the mirror and fight her off, until at last she got offended at her reception and quit coming altogether.