

THE TIMID KITTEN.

There was a little kitten once
Who was of dogs afraid;
And being by no means a dunce,
His plans he boldly made.

He said, "It's only on the land
That dogs run after me,
So I will buy a cat-boat, and
I'll sail away to sea.

"Out there from dogs I'll be secure.
And each night, ere I sleep,
To make assurance doubly sure,
A dog-watch I will keep."

He bought a cat-boat, hired a crew,
And one fine summer day
Triumphantly his flag he flew,
And gaily sailed away.

But in mid-ocean one midnight—
'Twas very, very dark—
The pilot screamed in sudden fright,
"I hear a passing bark!"

"Oh, what is that?" the kitten said.
The pilot said, "I fear
An ocean greyhound's just ahead,
And drawing very near!"

"Alack!" the kitten cried, "alack!
This is no paltry pup!
An ocean greyhound's on my track—
I may as well give up!"

—St. Nicholas.

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

LESSON IX. [Nov. 30.]

GIDEON AND THE THREE HUNDRED.

Judg. 7. 1-8. Memorize verses 19-21.

GOLDEN TEXT.

It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man.—Psa. 118. 8.

THE LESSON STORY.

The Israelites, who were ever falling into idolatry, were in trouble now because of it. The Midianites had destroyed their fields of grain, and had driven them into caves and dens of the mountains. They cried to the Lord for help, and the Lord sent them a helper named Gideon. He threw down the altar of Baal, and built an altar to the Lord, and at his command gathered Israel together to conquer their enemies. The Lord said there were too many. He did not want them to boast of their own strength, so all that were afraid to meet the great army of the enemy were told to leave the camp, and twenty-two thousand went home, and ten thousand stayed. The Lord also made another test. He told Gideon to bring them to the

waters, and to watch them as they drank, and to set aside all who drank from their hand from those who bent upon their knees to drink. And there were three hundred who drank from their hand, and by these the Lord said he would save the people of Israel. Gideon divided these men into three companies, and gave each man a lamp in a pitcher, and a trumpet. As they came close to the camp of the enemy Gideon blew his trumpet, and then each man did the same, and broke the pitcher in his hand. Then he held up the lamp that had been hidden in his pitcher, and the sudden noise and light frightened the Midianites, and they fled, fighting among themselves; but the Israelites stood in their places around the camp, and the victory was won.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

What did the Israelites keep on doing? Worshipping idols.

What did this cause them? Great trouble.

What did the heathen do? Troubled and harmed them.

Why did the Lord allow this? Because they had sinned.

To whom did they go for help? To the Lord.

Whom did he send to help them? Gideon.

Who was Gideon? A wise and good man.

What did he raise? A large army.

What did the Lord tell him? Not to use so many men.

How many fought the battle? Three hundred.

What did the Lord want them to know? That he fought for them.

What can the Lord do for us? Conquer our enemies.

LESSON X. [Dec. 7.]

RUTH AND NAOMI.

Ruth 1. 16-22. Memorize verses 16, 17.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Be kindly affectioned one to another.—Rom. 12. 10.

THE LESSON STORY.

The story of Ruth is so beautiful that you should read it all by yourself, for our lesson gives but a little part of it. Once, in time of famine, a family left their home in Canaan and went into Moab, on the east side of Jordan. Elimelech and Naomi were the parents, and their sons were Mahlon and Chilion. The father died, but the sons grew up and married women of Moab, and after a while the sons died also. Then the heart of Naomi turned toward her old home in Bethlehem, and when she started on her journey her daughters-in-law went with her a little way. When they came to part Ruth could not say good-bye. Orpah kissed Naomi and went back, but Ruth would not go, and she said those beautiful words that

you will find in verses 16 and 17 of the lesson. These wise and tender words not only show that Ruth loved Naomi, but that she also learned to believe in and to love the God whom Naomi worshipped and served.

How glad Naomi was to still have a daughter to go with her, and how glad Ruth was that she went, for she found a home in Bethlehem and became the grandmother of King David, and, long after, into her family line the Lord Jesus Christ was born. To little Bethlehem came Rachel, Ruth, and Mary, three beloved women who lived hundreds of years apart; but, best of all, to it came the Saviour of the world.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

What came upon Canaan at one time? A famine.

Where did a family of Israelites go? To the land of Moab.

Why did they go there to live? So as to get food to eat.

Who were in this family? A father and mother and two sons.

Whom did the sons marry? Two women of Moab.

What were their names? Ruth and Orpah.

Who died in Moab? The father and both sons.

What did Naomi, the mother, want to do? Go back to Canaan.

Where was her old home? In Bethlehem.

Who went to Bethlehem with Naomi? Ruth.

What did this choice show? That she believed in Naomi's God.

Who were born long after in Ruth's family? King David, and the Lord Jesus.

ONE TO CARRY.

I've learned to put together
The figures on my slate;
The teacher calls it "adding,"
And I like it first-rate.
There's one queer thing about it:
Whenever you get to ten,
You have to "carry one," she says,
And then begin again.
That's what we do with pennies:
When I have ten you see,
I "carry one" to Jesus,
Who's done so much for me.

—Selected.

Kenneth, aged six, and Philip, his brother, two years older, asked permission of their mother to go out for a little walk on Sabbath afternoon. "Yes, you may go," she said, "if you will not forget that it is the Sabbath, and walk quietly." The boys went out, and soon returned. "O mamma," said Kenneth, running to his mother, "Philip didn't do at all as you said; he acted just like Monday and Tuesday."—Selected.