

THE LITTLE SINGER.

BY NELLIE K. KELLOGG.

A LITTLE bright-eyed maiden,
With unaccustomed air:
She wondered at the organ,
And nodded during prayer,
She listened to the reading,
And watched the people too—
For her first Sunday service
Seemed very strange and new.

And when the congregation
Broke forth in sacred song,
She stood upon the footstool
And tried to help along.
She did not know their music,
And so she chose her own—
Of "little robin redbreast"
She sang, a cheery tone.

All utterly unconscious
Of many a smiling gaze,
The childish voice rang clearly
In this odd hymn of praise.
And when the rest were silent
Still those blythe notes were heard,
Her last long stanza warbling
Like some enraptured bird.

And the gracious pastor waited
Till the lingering echoes fled,
With a touched and tender spirit,
Ere his loving text he read;
For he knew the listening Father
Would accord the chant sublime
No dearer worthier welcome
Than that happy nursery rhyme.

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

A.D. 30.] LESSON III. [July 17.

THE FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

Acts 2. 37-47. Memory verses, 37-39

GOLDEN TEXT.

"The Lord added to the Church daily such as should be saved."—Acts 2. 47.

What did Peter say to the people? He told them that Jesus, whom they had crucified, was their Lord and Christ.

How did they feel when they heard that? They were pricked in their hearts.

What does that mean? They saw how very wicked they were.

What did they say? "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

What was Peter's answer? "Repent,

and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ."

What is it to repent? To be sorry for our sins and try to do right

What would being "baptized in Jesus' name" show? That now they belonged to Jesus.

What did Peter promise them? The Holy Spirit.

How many were baptized? About three thousand.

What did these new believers do? They talked and prayed and sang together.

What else did they do? They sold their property and gave money to the poor.

What do we call this company of Jesus' followers? The first Christian Church.

Did the Church grow? [Repeat the Golden Text.]

How were these people an example for us? They were sorry for their sins, they believed on Jesus; they were baptized, they lived beautiful and happy daily lives.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

Who was St. Thomas? An apostle, who at first did not believe that the Lord had risen.

Who was Judas? The wicked apostle, who betrayed the Lord with a kiss.

A.D. 30.] LESSON IV. [July 24.

THE LAME MAN HEALED.

Acts 3. 1-16. Memory verses, 6-8.

GOLDEN TEXT.

"And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong."—Acts 3. 16.

Where did Peter and John go? Into the temple to pray.

Whom did they see at the beautiful gate? A man who was poor and lame.

What did he ask them? To give him money.

What did Peter say? "Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee."

What did he tell the man to do? To rise up and walk.

Did the man obey? Yes, he began to walk and to leap.

Where did he go first? Into the temple to praise God.

Who gathered around Peter and John? A great crowd.

Did they know this man who was leaping for joy? Yes, they knew he was the same lame beggar whom they had seen

every day at the temple gate.

Who did Peter say had cured him? Jesus, the Son of God, whom they had put to death

Can you repeat the Golden Text? Who had faith in Jesus' name? Peter and John, and the lame man himself

Do you suppose the man who was healed always loved Jesus after this? Do you love him for what he has done for you?

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

Who was Caiaphas? The high priest who condemned Christ

Who was Pontius Pilate? The governor of Judea, who delivered up Jesus to be crucified.

A DREADED TASK

A TASK never grows smaller or lighter by sitting down and lamenting that it must be done, and there is an old maxim that teaches us that a thing "once begun is half done."

A farmer friend of mine has a boy of fourteen named Billy, who is like a good many other boys of my acquaintance: his heart is heavy and a cloud immediately overspreads his mental horizon when he is asked to make himself useful.

"Billy," said Mr. H. one day when I was out at the farm, "why don't you go to work on that little patch of potatoes?"

"Aw," whined Billy, "there is so many of them 'taters I'll never get them hood."

"You won't if you don't begin soon."

"I hate to begin."

"How are you ever going to do the work if you don't begin?"

"Well, I'll begin pretty soon."

His father walked away, and I heard Billy exclaim in a tone indicating great mental distress: "Plague on them old 'taters! It makes me sick to think of them."

"Why do you think about them then?" I said laughingly.

"I've got to," he replied dolefully, with a sorrowful shake of the head. "I've been thinking about them ever since I got up this morning."

"How long now, Billy, will it really take you to hoe them?"

"Well, at least an hour."

"And you have been distressed about it ever since you got up?"

"Well, I hate to hoe 'taters."

"And you've been up a little more than five hours?"

"Well, I, I—" Billy began to grin, took up his hoe, and said: "I never thought of that!"

And the potatoes were hoed in just forty minutes