



THE CONVERSION OF SAUL.

CHRIST IS RISEN!

BY LONGFELLOW.

This is the day, when from the dead
Our Lord arose; and everywhere,
Out of their darkness and despair,
Triumphant over fears and foes,
The hearts of his disciples rose,
When to the women, standing near,
The angel in shining vesture said:
"The Lord is risen; he is not here!"
"Christ is risen!" and the bells
Catch the glad murmur, as it swells,
And chant together in their towers.
All hearts are glad, and free from care,
The faces of the people shine.

LESSON NOTES.

SECOND QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF THE ACTS.

LESSON I. [April 6.]

SAUL OF TARSUS CONVERTED.

Acts 9. 1-12. Memorize verses 3-5.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Repent ye, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out.—Acts 3. 19.

THE LESSON STORY.

Do you remember Saul, who stood by when wicked men were stoning Stephen? His heart grew still more hard against the disciples of the Lord, and hearing that there were Christians at Damascus he asked the high priest for letters to Jews at Damascus, that he might go there and arrest men and women who believed in Jesus, and bring them bound to Jerusalem. About noon as he came near the city a light from heaven flashed all around him, and he fell to the ground, and a voice said, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" Saul said, "Who art thou, Lord?" And when he knew that it was Jesus he cried, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"

The men who were with Saul heard the voice, but saw no one. They led Saul into Damascus—for he was stricken blind—and he was three days in the house of Judas in the street called Straight, blind, and not able to eat or drink. Then the Lord told a good man named Ananias to go to him, for he was praying. When Ananias laid his hand on Saul, calling him brother, his sight and a new life came to him. It was the Holy Spirit. Then he began to preach Christ in the synagogues.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Who was Saul? A learned young Jew.
Whom did he hate? All who loved and followed Jesus.
What did he want to do? To kill or imprison all such.
Where was Saul going now? To Damascus.
What for? To find disciples of Jesus and arrest them.
What did Saul see on the way? A great light.
What did he do? He fell to the ground.
What did he hear? The Lord speaking to him.
What did he answer? "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"
What did the Lord tell him? To go into Damascus.
Why did he have to be led? He was blind.
What did the Lord give him? His sight and the Holy Spirit.

LESSON II. [April 13.]

PETER, AENEAS, AND DORCAS.

Acts 9. 32-43. Memorize verses 40-42.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Jesus Christ maketh thee whole.—Acts 9. 34.

THE LESSON STORY.

Peter was an apostle who used to go from town to town preaching the Gospel. At first he thought he should preach to the Jews only, but afterward the Lord showed him that he should go to the people whom they called Gentiles. One day he went into a village called Lydda, about twenty miles from Jerusalem. There he found a man named Aeneas who had been sick of the palsy for eight years. Peter went to him and said, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: arise, and make thy bed." Then the sick man rose up and was well. A greater miracle was done at Joppa, a place on the seashore twelve miles from Lydda. A good woman named Tabitha had just died, and her friends were mourning over her, for she had been a friend to the poor. Some disciples sent for Peter, who went, and was shown into the room where the body of Tabitha, or Dorcas, was lying. He sent everybody out, and after he had prayed he said, "Tabitha, arise!" and she opened her eyes and sat up. Then Peter called her friends, and there was

great joy. It was not Peter who did these things, but Christ living in Peter.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

What apostle was a great preacher? Peter.
To what village did he go? To Lydda.
Where was Lydda? Twenty miles from Jerusalem.
What sick man lived there? Aeneas.
What did Peter do for him? He cured him in the name of Jesus.
How far away was Joppa? Twelve miles.
Who had just died there? Tabitha, or Dorcas.
Why did the people mourn for her? She loved and helped the poor.
What did Peter do? He called her back to life.
How could he do these great works? By the power of Jesus.
What did these miracles cause? Many believed in Jesus.
With whom did Peter stay in Joppa? Simon, the tanner.

EASTER BELLS.

BY CHAS. H. GABRIEL.

Ring out, O happy Easter bells,
Fill earth and air with noisy swells,
And many a tuneful lay,
Afar and near let songs of cheer,
In carols sweet, the joys repeat
Of resurrection day.

Ring out, O happy Easter bells,
Your cheerful note of joy impels
The human heart to praise;
Your merry rhyme of clang and chime,
With holy fire our souls inspire,
A sacrifice to raise.

Ring out, O happy Easter bells,
To all the world your music tells
Of fairer things above,
Our songs of joy we will employ,
To praise his name and wide proclaim,
The wonders of his love.

Oh, happy bells of Easter Day!
Ring, ring your joy
Through earth and sky:
Ye ring a glorious word:
The notes that swell in gladness tell
The rising of the Lord.

DON'T ROB THE BIRDS, BOYS.

Don't rob the birds of their eggs, boys:
It is cruel, and heartless, and wrong:
And remember, by breaking an egg, boys,
We may lose a bird with a song.

When careworn, weary, and lonely,
Some day, as you're passing along,
You'll rejoice that the egg wasn't broken
That gave you the bird with its song.