

A THANKFUL SOUL.

BY FRANK L. STANTON.

I take life jest as I find it;
If it's hot I never mind it;
Hunt around for shady trees
An' jest whistle up a breeze!
If it's snowin', why—I go,
Jest go a-skimmin' 'crost the snow!
(Ever try how good it feels
In a waggon off the wheels?
Spring or winter, summer, fall,
I'm jest thankful fer 'em all!

Folks say this world's full of strife;
That jest livens up my life!
When the good Lord made it, ho
Done the best for you an' me—
Saw the sky had too much blue,
An' rolled up a cloud or too.
Give us light to sow an' reap,
Then throw in the dark fer sleep.
Every single drop of dew
Twinkles on a rose for you.

Tell you! this world's full o' light—
Sun by day and stars by night;
Sometimes sorrow comes along,
But it's all mixed up with song.
Folks that always make complaint
They ain't healthy—that they ain't!
Some would jest live with the chills
If it warn't fer doctors' bills!
Always findin' fault with things—
Kill a bird because it sings.

I take life jest as I find it;
If it's a sunshiny day,
Hot or cold, I never mind it—
That's my time fer makin' hay;
If it's rainin', fills my wish—
Makes the lakes jest right fer fish;
When the snow falls white as foam,
Then I track the rabbits home.
Spring or winter, summer, fall,
I'm jest thankful fer em' all!

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

LESSON III. [July 16.]

THE HEBREWS IN THE FIERY FURNACE.

Dan. 3. 14-28. Memory verses, 16-18.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us.—Dan. 3. 17.

A LESSON TALK.

This lesson shows that believers in God cannot long be among unbelievers without getting into trouble—certainly not if they are brave and true. The heathen king of the last lesson (what was his name?) set up a great image in Babylon, all covered with gold, and nearly a hundred feet high, and commanded everybody to worship it. Daniel was not there, but his three friends were, and the names by which they are

called in this lesson are the new names which were given them by the king. Even Daniel had a new name—Belshazzar. If it seemed too horrible to believe that the king said he would throw people who would not worship the image into a fiery furnace, remember that all this was long before Jesus came, and men were very cruel before he came to teach love and kindness. Do you think the young men were wise to refuse the king's command? He had great power, you remember! Yes, but the great King of heaven had greater power still.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Where were the young men now? In Babylon.
How were they treated? With great honour.
What was the king's name? Nebuchadnezzar.
What did he set up? A great gold image.
Who would not worship it? The young men.
Why did they disobey? They believed in God.
What does he say? Worship me.
What did the king threaten to do? Burn them.
Were they afraid? No, they trusted God.
Who was with them in the furnace? God.
Who is with us when we do right? God.
What did the king do? He saved them.

LESSON IV. [July 23.]

THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL.

Dan. 5. 17-31. Memory verses, 24-28.

GOLDEN TEXT.

God is the judge.—Psalm 75. 7.

A LESSON TALK.

After the death of Nebuchadnezzar a new king reigned in Babylon. His name was Belshazzar, and you may find what kind of a king he was by reading Dan. 5. 1-4. At that very time an army had shut up the people of Babylon in their city, and none could tell what the end would be, yet Belshazzar made a drunken feast, and used the gold and silver vessels from the holy house in Jerusalem from which to drink wine, while the people praised their heathen gods! In Dan 5. 5-16 read how a warning hand wrote upon the wall, and how Daniel was called to read the strange handwriting. When you read the lesson verses you may wonder how Daniel dared to tell the king all the truth, but he did, for he was a man who believed God, and he was not afraid to do right. You may wonder that after what Daniel said to the king such honour was given him, but you must remember that a king's word could not be broken, and he had made this promise in the presence of a thousand of his lords.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Who was now king of Babylon? Belshazzar.
Whom did he worship? Heathen gods.
What did he make for his lords? A great feast.
What did he see at this feast? A hand, writing on the wall.
Who could not read it? The wise men.
Who was then sent for? Daniel.
What did the king promise if he would read the writing? Rich gifts.
What did Daniel read? That the days of the kingdom were numbered.
What did he read about Belshazzar? That God was not pleased with him.
Whom did he say should have the kingdom? The Medes and Persians.
What happened that night? The king was killed and the kingdom taken.
What should we learn from this? To be humble and to obey God.

WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?

The mightiest sermons are sometimes delivered by voiceless preachers. A recent writer tells of help which came to her from a suggestive sentence placed where it was impossible to overlook it.

It was in silver letters, on a black card in the shape of a shield, and a similar card hung in every room in the house,—halls, parlours, dining-room, and even in the kitchen.

Such a home-like house it was, too, that watering-place boarding-house, with its large, cool rooms, filled with pleasant guests, and the cheery family of the host, who had the faculty of making one feel so much at home that it really was more like visiting than boarding; and the rides on horseback, and drives to places of interest, and picnics, and moonlight excursions! Ah, what a place to rest in!

But that card; what did it mean?

I knew that the elder daughter of the house was soon to go as a missionary to the foreign field, and wondered why she had not selected some Bible text for the home instead of that strange question.

One day I came in feeling sad, perplexed, and cast down in spirit almost to despair. I knew not what to do or say, hardly what to think, and knew of no friend to whom I could look for counsel or aid. Suddenly my eyes fell on the silver letters, "What would Jesus do?" Instantly their meaning flashed on me. What would he do if he were here now, and if my troubles were his troubles.

I remembered the garden when his friends slept, and his "Could ye not watch with me one hour?" and how they all deserted him at last, as earthly friends do when troubles come, for—

"Laugh, and the world laughs with you;
Weep, and you weep alone"

So I lost no time in asking him what to do, and he led me step by step through my Gethsemane.