

## THE HOUSE OF TOO MUCH TROUBLE.

BY ALBERT BIGELOW PAINE.

In the House of Too Much Trouble  
Lived a lonely little boy;  
He was eager for a playmate,  
He was hungry for a toy.  
But 'twas always too much bother,  
Too much dirt and too much noise,  
For the House of Too Much Trouble  
Wasn't meant for little boys.

And sometimes the little fellow  
Left a book upon the floor,  
Or forgot and laughed too loudly,  
Or he failed to close the door,  
In a House of Too Much Trouble  
Things must be precise and trim—  
In the House of Too Much Trouble  
There was little room for him.

He must never scatter playthings,  
He must never romp and play;  
Every room must be in order  
And kept quiet all the day.  
He had never had companions  
He had never owned a pet—  
In the House of Too Much Trouble  
It is trim and quiet yet.

Ev'ry room is set in order—  
Ev'ry book is in its place  
And the lonely little fellow  
Wears a smile upon his face.  
In the House of Too Much Trouble  
He is silent and at rest—  
In the House of Too Much Trouble  
With a lily on his breast.

—*Munsey's.*

## LESSON NOTES.

### FIRST QUARTER.

SIX MONTHS WITH THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS.

#### LESSON VI.—FEBRUARY 7.

A SABBATH IN CAPERNAUM.

Mark 1. 21-34. Memorize verses 21, 22.

#### GOLDEN TEXT.

He laid his hands on every one of them and healed them.—Luke 4. 40.

#### THE LESSON STORY.

When Jesus called Peter and Andrew and James and John—two pairs of brothers—they left all to follow him. James and John left their fishing boat and nets to their father Zebedee, who had servants to help him. We do not know who had the boat of Peter and Andrew, but we do know that they thought it so great an honour to follow Jesus in the work of the Gospel that they did not care for the boats. They first followed Jesus to Capernaum, and there Jesus went into a synagogue and taught. He talked like one who had great power, and the people were astonished.

There was a man in the synagogue who had an evil spirit, and he cried out against Jesus, calling him the Holy One of God. Jesus said, "Hold thy peace, and come out of him," and after loud cries and struggles it came out of the man. The people were greatly excited over this, and the news spread over Galilee. Peter and Andrew lived in this city, and they all went to their house. There they found Peter's wife's mother sick of a fever, but when Jesus took her hand the fever left her, and she rose up and helped to wait on Jesus and the disciples. At sunset their door was crowded with people who brought their sick friends to Jesus, and he healed a great many, and cast out evil spirits also, for he had come from the wilderness in the "power of the Spirit." The evil spirits knew who Jesus was and wanted to tell everybody, but Jesus did not permit them to do so because he had no need of the testimony of evil persons or spirits.

#### QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

What had the four disciples left to follow Jesus? All they had.

Where did they go first? To Capernaum.

What day was it? The Sabbath.

Where did they go? To the synagogue.

What did Jesus do? He taught the people.

What miracle did he perform? He cast out an evil spirit.

Where did they go after this? To Peter's house.

Who was sick there? Peter's wife's mother.

Could Jesus help her? Yes; he cured her.

What was her disease? A fever.

Who came to Jesus at sunset? Crowds of people.

What did he do for them? He healed their sick.

#### LESSON VII.—FEBRUARY 14.

JESUS FORGIVES SINS.

Mark 2. 1-12. Memorize verses 3-5.

#### GOLDEN TEXT.

The Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins.—Mark 2. 10.

#### THE LESSON STORY.

If Jesus had power over the body to heal it and raise it up out of death he had the same power over the spirit. It is a much more dreadful thing to have a soul diseased with sin than to have a body sick and ready to die, and it was to cure us of sin that our Lord came into the world. It was in Capernaum where he had healed so many sick bodies that he showed the people that his work was the cure of souls. While he was teaching in a house so full of people that no one could enter, four men took a sick friend to the flat top of the house, and, lifting up a part of the roof,

let the man down, still lying on his little bed, just in front of Jesus. It pleased Jesus to see such faith and earnestness, and he said to the sick man, "Son, thy sins be forgiven thee." Some who heard this thought it very strange that this man should forgive sin, for they did not know that he was God as well as man. He knew their thoughts and answered them. But he knew too that they must see a miracle in order to believe, and he told the sick man to rise and take his bed and go to his own house. This he did, and the unbelieving scribes went away saying, "We never saw it in this fashion!" Was this the greater miracle of the two which Jesus had performed? No—it is a much greater thing to cure the soul of sin than to cure the body of palsy, and Jesus had just cured this poor man's soul as well as his body. Jesus did not heal the man's body until after he had said to him, "Thy sins are forgiven thee," because it was more important to have his sins forgiven than to be well.

#### QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Where was Jesus teaching? In Capernaum.

What else did he do? He healed many sick people.

Where did he teach one day? In a house.

Who was brought to Jesus? A man sick of palsy.

Who brought him? Four men.

How did they bring him? On a little mattress.

Could they get near to Jesus? No.

What did they do? They took him to the house-top.

What then? They opened the roof and let the man down before Jesus.

What did Jesus do? He forgave his sins.

What did the people think? That this was wrong.

What did Jesus then do? He cured the sick man.

## THE TAILOR BIRD.

Perhaps the most interesting of all birds' nests is that of the tailor bird, of India. It selects a large, sound leaf; and, after it makes small holes in each side with its beak, it draws them together with a thread of long grass. If the first leaf is too small, it brings another and sews the two together. When this is done it builds a soft, downy nest inside. This is always suspended from the end of a slender twig, to keep it out of the reach of any mischievous animals. It is told that the tailor bird not only sews, but will also make a knot in the end of the thread to prevent it from slipping through. There is a bird in Europe called the fantail warbler, which sews a covering for its nest, but it uses a short thread which will reach across but once, and this it ties in a secure knot.