

DO WHAT YOU CAN.

It was only a little seed
That she dropped into the ground,
But a beautiful flower, with fragrant bells,
When next she passed, she found.

It was only a little thing—
An acorn smooth and round;
But in time it grew to a stately tree,
Whose branches swept the ground.

It was only a little word—
A word of love and cheer;
But it soothed the one it was spoken to
And rendered the speaker dear.

It was only a little flower,
Laid on the sick one's bed;
But it brought to mind a tender face,
And some loving words that were said.

Yes, these are little things,
But the lesson that I would teach
Is, that little things are in all our paths,
While the great ones but few can reach.

Let us do the little we can,
Nor talk of the great that we would;
So the blessed Master shall say one day:
"She hath done what she could."

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF THE ACTS.

LESSON VIII. [Feb. 23.]

THE ARREST OF STEPHEN.

Acts 6. 7-15. Memorize verses 7, 8.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul.—Matt. 10. 28.

THE LESSON STORY.

The Christian Church was growing very fast, and just as a great family must have some to provide for all its daily wants, so did this family of Christ. Seven deacons were chosen, and at their head was Stephen, a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit. He also did miracles in the name of Jesus, and was able to talk to the learned Jews with great wisdom and in the spirit of his Master. They could not answer him, but they stirred up the people against him, and found men who would say that he had spoken against the law and against God. Then he was brought before the council, and these men came and swore falsely against him. They said evil things that they had never heard from him, and he did not answer them, but the judges, sitting in a half circle around the room, looked at him as he stood before them, and though he spoke no word, "they saw his face as if it had been the face of an angel." No one can

have such a face unless the Lord lives within him. It is "the beauty of the Lord." How wonderful and blessed it is that the Lord wants to come and live in each one of us!

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

What had the Church grown to be? A very great family.

Who had the care of it? The apostles.

What did they find? That they needed helpers.

Whom did they appoint? Seven deacons.

Who was the head deacon? Stephen.

What did these men do? Took care of the Church family.

What else could Stephen do? Preach and teach.

Why did the Jews hate him? Because he was good and wise.

What did they do? They arrested him.

Who spoke against him? False witnesses.

Did Stephen answer them? No, he was silent.

How did his face look? Like an angel's face.

LESSON IX. [March 2.]

THE STONING OF STEPHEN.

Acts 7. 54 to 8. 2. Mem. verses 59, 60.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.—Matt. 5. 44.

THE LESSON STORY.

When Stephen stood before the council and heard living words spoken about him, he answered nothing, but his face was full of peace and love, like that of an angel. When the high priest said, "Are these things so?" he did not answer, but began to tell the story of the Jews from the time of Abraham. He showed them how good the Lord had been to them, and how often they had turned away from their best Friend; and how they were turning away from him now in turning away from "that Just One" whom they had betrayed and killed. This made them angry, and they were ready to kill him. Stephen did not look down, but he looked up and saw the heavens opened and Jesus at God's right hand, and when he told them this they would not listen, but hurried away to stone him to death. Stephen loved his enemies as Jesus did, and prayed for them, saying, "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge."

There was a young man there that day who helped to stone Stephen. His name was Saul. Do not forget it, for we shall hear more about him some day. Do you remember Another who prayed for his enemies when he was dying. It was because Stephen had the Spirit of this Holy One in his heart that he could do this. And so may we, if we let the Holy Spirit come to live in us, love and forgive all who try to harm us in any way.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Who told lies about Stephen? False witnesses.

Did he answer back? No, he spoke of God's love.

What else did he say? That they had killed Jesus.

What did this cause the Jews to become? Very angry.

What did Stephen see? A heavenly vision.

Could the Jews see this? No.

What did they do to him? They cast him out and stoned him.

What did Stephen ask God? To take him.

What did he ask for his enemies? Forgiveness.

Who stood near when Stephen died? Saul.

Was he a Christian? No, he was a persecutor.

Who mourned for Stephen? All the disciples.

PUCK, THE STRAY CAT.

BY KATE W. HAMILTON.

When Puck first strayed into the yard she was left there by somebody. Nobody but Winnie would have thought of calling her "a nice kitty." She was thin and hungry-looking, and her rough fur and big eyes gave her a queer, owl-like look. But Winnie carried her into the house, as if she were a great prize.

"I wouldn't kape that tramp cat, honey," said Bridget, looking at it with dislike. "Sure I'll get ye a pretty white one from me sister."

"Ho, what a cat! If you must have one, Sis, I'll get you a nice Maltese that was offered me the other day," promised brother Fred.

But Winnie only shook her head and clung to poor Puck, saying she wanted her and no other.

"But why wouldn't you rather have a prettier one, dear?"

"'Cause the pretty cats can get plenty of homes," answered Winnie, with tears in her brown eyes, "but the poor little ones like Puck can feel cold and hungry all the same, and nobody wants 'em. Puck hasn't anybody to like her but just me."

"Little kind heart! Keep her if you want to," answered mamma, with a quick kiss. "I shouldn't wonder if she grew better looking when she has had enough to eat."

And sure enough Puck grew so plump and glossy that the family quite forgot that they had ever called her ugly. Then she began to be useful. She came running along the hall one day, and when Winnie opened the door there stood Puck with two mice in her mouth!

"Two of 'em! That cat's jist a jewel!" said Bridget.

And Winnie answered, softly:

"I guess it pays to be kind—even to cats."