

THE CRADLE SHIP.

BY CHARLES GORDON ROGERS.

When baby goes a-sailing, and the breeze is fresh and free,
 His ship is just the queerest craft that ever sailed the sea!
 Ten fingers true make up the crew that watch on deck must keep,
 While all a-row ten toes below are passengers asleep!
 And mother is the pilot dear—ah, none so true as she
 When baby goes a-sailing, and the wind is fresh and free!

When mother rocks the cradle ship, the walls—for shores—slip past;
 The breezes from the garden blow when baby boy sails fast!
 So fast he flies that dolly cries she fears we'll run her down,
 So hard a port! we're not the sort to see a dolly drown,
 And then, you know, we've got the whole wide carpet for a sea
 When baby goes a-sailing, and the wind is fresh and free.

When baby lies becalmed in sleep, and all the crew is still,
 When that wee ship's in port at last, all safe from storm and ill—
 Two eyes of love shall shine above, two lips shall kiss his face,
 Until in deep and tranquil sleep he'll smile at that embrace!
 For mother watches, too, at night; while through his slumbers creep
 Dream-memories of sailing ere the breezes fell asleep.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

SIX MONTHS WITH THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS.

LESSON V.—JANUARY 31.

JESUS CALLS FOR DISCIPLES.

Mark 5, 1-11. Memorize verses 4-6.

GOLDEN TEXT.

If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples.—John 8, 31.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

Where did Jesus first begin to teach? In Galilee. What lake is there? Where did he often stand? Can you make a picture of the place in words? What did Jesus do? Whose boat was it? Who were his partners? What did they use for catching fish? What did Jesus say to Peter after the sermon? What did Peter reply? What did he do as Jesus said? What did Peter and Andrew find in their nets? Whom did they call to help them? What did Peter say? What was Jesus' reply? What did he mean? That they should be preachers of

his Gospel. What did they then do? What were the names of the new disciples?

DAILY STEPS.

- Mon. Find a prophecy of Christ's first ministry. Isa. 9, 1, 2.
- Tues. Read the lesson verses.
- Wed. Find when the disciples first saw Jesus. John 1, 35-42.
- Thurs. Read another account of their call. Matt. 4, 18-22.
- Fri. Learn the Golden Text.
- Sat. Read when Peter again went fishing. John 21, 1-11.
- Sun. Read the call to all disciples. Matt. 11, 23-30.

THREE LITTLE LESSONS.

We have learned that—
 1. The Lord looketh on the heart.
 2. He sees there what work we are good for.
 3. He calls us, and helps us to do it.

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.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

When did the disciples first go with Jesus? What house did they enter? What did he do there? What did the people think? Why? What unfortunate man was there? Did he know who Jesus was? What did he call him? What did Jesus say to him? Did the evil spirit obey him? Where did Jesus and the four disciples go? What did they find there? What did Jesus do for her? What did she afterward do for him? What happened after the sun was set? Why did they wait for sunset? Because of the great heat. Why could Jesus do these miracles? Because he was full of "the power of the Spirit."

DAILY STEPS.

- Mon. Read the lesson verses.
- Tues. Find what Jesus said of those who follow him. Luke 18, 28-30.
- Wed. Read of Christ's power over sickness and death. Luke 8, 26-56.
- Thurs. Read how Peter and John healed the sick. Acts 3, 1-10.
- Fri. Learn the Golden Text.
- Sat. Read James' words about healing. James 5, 14, 15.
- Sun. Read our Lord's last words to his disciples. Mark 16, 15-18.

THREE LITTLE LESSONS.

We have learned that—
 1. We need not fear to follow Jesus.
 2. If we leave all we shall find more than all.
 3. To lose the natural life is to find the spiritual life.

Obedience always tends to strengthen faith.

"ME TENTH DIME."

Here is an example of intelligent giving to the Lord which might well be emulated by many whose tenth is more than a dime:

"Have your shoes shined?" sang out a small boy near the Union Station, among a group of persons just from the train. A young man who heard the cry stayed his steps, hesitating; for he had not much more money in his pocket than he had blacking on his shoes; but to hesitate was to fall into the shoeblack's hands, and the brushes were soon wrestling with splashes of rural clay.

When the shine was completed, the young man handed the boy a dime, and felt that he had marked his way into the great city with an act of charity; for at heart he did not care how his boots looked. As he was pulling himself together for a new start, he saw the boy who had cleaned his shoes approach the blind beggar who sat behind the railroad fence, and drop a dime into his cup.

"What did you do that for?" asked the young man.

"Yer see," said the boy, "that was me tenth dime terday; an' me teacher at Sunday-school told me I oughter give a tenth of all I makes ter the Lord—see?—an' I guess that ol' blind man wants a dime more than the Lord; so I gave it to him. See?"

LITTLE CHRIS AND HIS WHITE KITTEN.

Little Christopher—he is called Chris by his friends—had a white kitten that followed him everywhere. He called her Snowball. One day Chris trotted down the long lane across a wide meadow until he came to a fence with bars across the path. There was a flock of geese in the meadow near a brook, and a big white gander came stretching its long neck at Chris, and hissing as it came. Chris climbed the bars, for he saw the whole flock coming. The gander tried to nibble his toes, but, though he felt like crying, he was brave and did not until he heard his mother calling him across the meadow. Then he cried, and the geese quacked, and mamma told Rover to go and take care of Chris. So he did, barking as he came, and the geese spread their wings and went cackling down to the brook. And Snowball, what became of her? Why, she ran up a great maple tree near-by and cried, "me-ow!" Chris ran to meet his mother and cried, too, but she could not get Snowball. Brother Jamie had to come with a ladder and take her from the tree. She had two saucers of milk that night.

When you have had an adventure, and been badly frightened as Snowball was, no doubt you want to be petted a little, do you not? So I am sure you are glad that the kitten had extra attention that night.