

THE BEST-LOOKING BOY.

I know a little fellow
Whose face is fair to see,
But still there's nothing pleasant
About that face to me;
For he's rude and cross and selfish,
If he cannot have his way,
And he's always making trouble,
I've heard his mother say.

I know a little fellow
Whose face is plain to see;
But that we never think of,
So kind and brave is he,
He carries sunshine with him,
And everybody's glad
To hear the cheery whistle
Of the pleasant little lad.

You see, it's not the features
That others judge us by,
But what we do, I tell you.
And that you can't deny.
The plainest face has beauty
If its owner's kind and true;
And that's the kind of beauty,
My girl and boy, for you.

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

LESSON IX. [Aug. 27.]

RETURNING FROM CAPTIVITY.

Ezra 1. 1-11. Memory verses, 2-4.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad.—Psalm 126. 3.

A LESSON TALK.

In Jer. 29. 1, 10-14 you may find the Lord's promise to the Jewish captives in Babylon. He sent it to them through Jeremiah, the prophet, who wrote it to them in a letter. How glad they must have been when they read the letter! This lesson tells how this promise was kept, and how, after having been slaves in Babylon seventy years, they were at last allowed to go back to their own land.

Cyrus was the king of Persia now, and the Lord put it into his heart to set the captives free. He sent a proclamation all through his kingdom to say that the Lord had told him to build a house for his worship in Jerusalem, and that all the Jews who were willing might go home to help build the house. Notice that those who could not help in building the house were allowed to help in another way. There is something for each one of us to do in helping on the Lord's work. You will be interested in learning about the vessels of the Lord's house which were now taken back to Jerusalem.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

What people were carried away to be slaves? The Jews

Why did the Lord allow this? To punish them for their sins.

How long were they kept in Babylon? Seventy years.

Who had promised to set them free? The Lord.

What does the Lord always do? Keep his promises.

Who was king now in Babylon? Cyrus.

What did the Lord make him want to do? Set the slaves free.

What did he want to do? Build the Lord's house in Jerusalem.

What did he say the Jews might do? Go home and build it.

Who were glad to do this? All the willing-hearted.

What did those do who could not work? They helped in other ways.

What should each of us try to do? All that we can.

*** LESSON X. [Sept. 3.]**

REBUILDING THE TEMPLE.

Ezra 3. 10 to 4. 5. Memory verses, 10, 11

GOLDEN TEXT.

The temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.—1 Cor. 3. 17.

A LESSON TALK.

You remember, do you not, that when Nebuchadnezzar took the city of Jerusalem, seventy years before this, he burned and destroyed it? It was not such a pleasant home-coming to the Jews as it would have been if the dear old city had been there. But they knew that it was for their sin that this trouble had come upon them, and so they could not complain.

Of course there was no temple in which to worship God, but they soon built an altar to the Lord upon which they offered sacrifices morning and evening. Do you think it strange that some of the old men wept when the rest were so full of joy? See if you can think what would make them sorry.

Perhaps you can see why they found people ready to hinder them in their good work of building the Lord's house. There are plenty of such people now. Do not fail to remember that God wants each one of us to be temples of his, for his glory.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Where did the Jews go from Babylon? To Jerusalem.

What did they find? The city was in ruins.

Who had burned it? King Nebuchadnezzar.

What did the Jews want to do? Build the Lord's house.

What did they build first? An altar of worship.

What did they offer upon it? Burnt offerings.

What did they hope the Lord would do? Bless and help them.

What did they begin to build next? The temple.

What was done the first thing? A foundation was laid.

What did they hold then? A praise-meeting.

Were all the people happy? Yes, but some wept.

What did both their joy and sorrow show? That they loved the Lord.

TRIGG'S WISH-PLAN.

It was pretty cool, I can tell you, down at the sea-shore; and at the "Sunflower House" the people all huddled together on the southern porch, to get in the sun and to get away from the breeze.

"Chickadees, don't you sit here and shiver," cried a gay young mother. "Run down to the beach with your hoop and baby-carriage; make your feet fly, and you'll soon be warm enough. I'll be along presently, as soon as I give baby his bath."

Off went the little people; but Trigg's head was so full of what her ears had been taking in, that I do not think Angelina Clementina had a very comfortable ride in her small carriage.

"I'm glad mamma sent us away, Ben," said the child, with a pathetic look in her eyes. "Mrs. Denny was telling about a poor girl that had worked in a store and supported her mother, and how weak and tired she was, and I 'most cried."

"Crying wouldn't do her any good," said Ben, with a superior air; "better try something else."

"What could I try?" asked the matter-of-fact little girl, and Ben immediately changed the subject. But Trigg was not to be turned aside. "I've a great mind to try the wish-plan," suggested Trigg timidly. "Don't you know Mr. Pollard told us once that if we kept on wishing good to people something would come of it?"

I'm afraid Ben didn't put much faith in this, but being an amiable fellow, he agreed to the little sister's plan; and when Mrs. Denny and her husband came down to the water's edge, there sat two sober little figures, baby-carriage and hoop behind them, eyes cast down, lips screwed up.

"What are you two about?" she cried. Ben drew a long breath and got up. "There, Trigg," he said. "I've wished myself 'most to sleep. I'm going after shells now."

But something did come of the wish-plan after all. It put the idea of wishing into the big people's heads, and when they all got to wishing, they tried to have what they wished for, and so poor Lucy Caskie was invited down to the sea-shore, to be Trigg's guest; and she never knew, any more than little Trigg did herself, that all the ladies at the Sunflower helped to pay her board.

But the red crept into her white cheeks, and she was stronger all the year through, all from that wish-plan of Trigg's.