

There were standing beside Ezra some priests and teachers who explained the hard words so that the children could understand what was meant. The people were very still and tried to catch every word.

When Ezra came to the Commandments, the people began to mourn and to weep, for they knew that they had not obeyed them as they should have done. But Nehemiah and Ezra, when they saw the people weeping,

said that God had forgiven their sins, and told them to stop crying and get ready for a great thanksgiving holiday.

Then Nehemiah showed them one way to be truly happy. He said, "Send some of your good things to those who have none ;" and all the people went home to eat and to drink and to send presents, and to enjoy themselves, because they had understood what had been read from God's book.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Who was Ezra? Ans.—A scribe who wrote out God's law. 2. When did he read it to the people? Ans.—A week after the wall was finished. 3. Where did they make a pulpit? Ans.—In the street. 4. Who told the meaning of the hard words? Ans.—The priests and teachers. 5. How did the people listen? Ans.—Very quietly. 6. What happened when Ezra read the Commandments? Ans.—The people began to cry. 7. Why?

Ans.—They had disobeyed the Commandments. 8. What did Nehemiah and Ezra say to them? Ans.—To stop crying, for God had forgiven them. 9. What did Nehemiah say was one way of having a good time? Ans.—To help others to be happy. 10. What did they all do to show that they were glad? Ans.—They held a great thanksgiving holiday. 11. To whom did they send presents? Ans.—To those who had nothing.

Molly's Half Dollar

Molly's mother had been telling her about some poor children who lived in a dull and grimy city, and who had never even seen a green field. Molly lived in a beautiful farmhouse in the country, and it grieved her to think of those poor children.

She gave her new half dollar to her mother and asked her to send it to them.

Mother sent it, and two days later came a joyful surprise. The money had paid the

fare of one of the little city girls to come to Molly's home, and mother had invited her to stay at the farm for a month.

Was it not nice? Jennie soon grew rosy and plump, playing all day in the green fields and woods, and picking the sweet flowers and the wild berries ; but I think Molly was the happier of the two, because, you know, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."



I HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY THAT

I Should be a Doer of God's Word



Golden Text—The ears of all the people were attentive unto the book of the law.—Neh. 8 : 3.

Catechism—58. How may we get the Holy Spirit? Jesus says that God will give His Holy Spirit to us if we ask Him.

Lesson Hymn

FATHER of mercies, in Thy Word
What endless glory shines!
Forever be Thy name adored
For these celestial lines.

Amen.

—Hymn 118, Book of Praise.