

MUGGINS' CHRISTMAS.

BY ALICE WILLIAMS BROTHERTON.

We called her "Muggins"—just a wee
Light-hearted little neighbour,
Stunted of growth by poverty,
And robbed of play by labour.

"She bothers 'bout that Christmas saint,
To rest she'll hardly let me;"
Her mother said; "An' prays so quaint:
'K'iss K'ingle, don't forget me!"

No feast for her would Christmas bring
Of turkey and cranberry.
One said, "I would be a pleasant thing
To make her Christmas merry!"

So, by her bed, with warm new clothes,
On Christmas Eve placed handy,
Were simple toys and plumped-out hose,
And one wee pound of candy.

And Muggins waking, with round eyes
Where awe and pleasure mingle,
Gazed on her gifts with glad surprise:
"Ou's brought too much, K'iss K'ingle!"

She sighed in tones of grievous doubt;
"Here's mos' enough for twenty,
Some 'nother girl might go without—
I didn't want too plenty."

Ah, not alone in Bible leaf
Is Holy Scripture hoarded—
"More bless'd to give than to receive,"
In child hearts is recorded.

The meaning of the widow's cruse,
And of the loaves and fishes:
Not selfish greed but kindly use
Will cupboards fill and dishes.

That which we share we surest hold;
We lose that which is hoarded—
To dead leaves turned, like fairy gold
In German tales recorded.

Oh, little maids, in happy homes,
Life's best of bliss possessing,
Remember this when Christmas comes
And earn—the Christmas blessing.

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF OUR LORD.

A.D. 28.] LESSON XI. [Dec. 16.

THE TWELVE SENT FORTH.

Matt 10. 5-16. Memory verses, 7-10.

GOLDEN TEXT.

As ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom
of heaven is at hand.—Matt. 10. 7.

OUTLINE.

1. An Apostle's Work, v. 5-8.
2. An Apostle's Spirit, v. 9-16.

EVERYDAY HELPS.

Mon. Read who were called by Jesus.
Matt. 10. 1-4.

Tues. Read lesson verses. Matt. 10. 5-16.

Wed. Learn what the disciples were
sent to do. Golden Text.

Thur. Learn what we are all like.
Isa. 53. 6.

Fri. Learn how to give and why.
Verse 8.

Sat. Find why Christians should not
not look for ease. Verse 24.

Sun. Learn why no disciple need fear.
Verse 29.

DO YOU KNOW—

Whom did Jesus choose to be apostles?
What are apostles? Messengers. What
did he send them out to do? What direc-
tions did he give? Who were God's chosen
people? To whom were the apostles told
to go first? What is meant by "lost
sheep"? Souls wandering away from God
What did Jesus tell the disciples to preach?
What is the kingdom of heaven? What
divine power was given the disciples?
Why did they not have to take money
with them? Could the disciples expect to
have an easy time? Why not? Who can
be as cruel as wolves? What power can
conquer cruelty?

I WILL TRY TO REMEMBER—

That God notices the small gift. Verse 42.
That God cares for the little life.
Verse 31.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

What is your duty to man? My duty to
man is to honour and obey my parents, to
show respect to those above me, to speak
the truth always, and to be just and loving
to all.

How can you do this? I can do my
duty to God and man only by the grace
of God.

LESSON XII [Dec. 23.

THE PRINCE OF PEACE.

Isa. 9. 2-7. Memory verses, 6, 7.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Of the increase of his government and
peace there shall be no end.—Isa. 9. 7.

OUTLINE.

1. The Light of the World, v. 2-5.
2. The Son of God, v. 6.
3. The Kingdom of Peace, v. 7.

EVERYDAY HELPS.

Mon. Read the lesson verses.
Tues. Find how this prophecy was ful-
filled. Matt. 4. 13-16.

Wed. Learn what the true light does.
John 1. 9.

Thur. Learn what Jesus said he came
for. John 12. 46.

Fri. Read about the strength of the
kingdom. Dan. 2. 44.

Sat. Learn the Golden Text.

Sun. Find a true missionary prayer in
Luke 11. 2.

DO YOU KNOW—

Who was Isaiah? When did he li.:?
What did he learn from God? Where
may we find what God told him? What
did Isaiah see? Who was this Light?
When is a world, or a heart, dark? What
ought we to be glad to do? To whom was
all power given by God? What was put
upon his shoulder? What was the badge
of his office? (Isa. 22. 22) What names
are given to Christ in this lesson? Why
is he call'd "Wonderful"? Why is he
called "Counsellor"? How do we know
that his kingdom will grow forever? What
sho'd all Christians do?

I WILL TRY TO REMEMBER—

That I may live in the kingdom of
peace. Eph. 2. 14.

That I may help show the way to others
Matt 28. 19.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

What is this grace? The grace of God
is the power of the Holy Ghost, felt in our
hearts, enabling us to do what otherwise
we could not do.

How are we to seek the grace of God?
We must seek the grace of God by earnest
prayer in private and in the house of God.

ADA'S BIRTHDAY.

ADA had a birthday, and it was a won-
derful thing to her. To be sure she had
had four birthdays before, but she did not
remember them.

"Will I be a big woman to-morrow?"
she had asked, the night before.

Mamma said, "Oh no; not yet, Ada."
But still Ada expected to see herself a
great deal taller on the morrow, and meas-
ured herself carefully, to see how much she
should have grown by morning.

When she awakened, she ran to the glass,
and was much surprised to see that she
looked exactly the same as the night be-
fore, neither taller, nor older, nor in the
least bit grown up. She began to cry, but
mamma came in with a pretty new dress
and a lovely sash for her little girl, and
when Ada was dressed, mamma led her
out to the yard, where was a fine swing,
and a little tea-table, with a set of doll's
dishes upon it, for her birthday presents.
Ada thought a birthday a pretty nice thing
to have, even if it did not make her any
taller.

HOW TO GET BY.

THE saloon is a temptation to a great
many. It is very hard work for men who
have the love of strong drink to pass by.
One little boy who does not mean to be
caught has adopted this plan. He says:
"Papa, I'll tell you how I go by the saloon.
I go first as near to the outside of the
walk as I can, and I hold my nose and
shut my mouth; and then, after I have
got by, I spit before I swallow."

A great many boys like that, grown up,
would be an untold blessing to the land.