

IF I KNEW.

If I knew the box where the smiles are kept,

No matter how large the key
Or strong the bolt, I would try so hard—
'Twould open, I know, for me.

Then over the land and sea broadcast
I'd scatter the smiles to play,
That the children's faces might hold them fast
For many and many a day.

If I knew a box that was large enough
To hold all the frowns I meet,
I would try to gather them every one,
From nursery, school and street.

Then, folding and holding, I'd pack them in
And turn the monster key;
I'd hire a giant to drop the box
To the depths of the deep, deep sea.

LESSON NOTES.

SECOND QUARTER.

WORDS AND WORKS OF JESUS AS RECORDED
IN THE GOSPELS.

LESSON VIII.—MAY 20.

DEATH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST.

Mark 6. 14-29. Memory verse, 20.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess.—Eph. 2. 18.

LESSON STORY.

It is a sad, tragic story, that of the death of John the Baptist.

Herod, the king, gave a great dinner on his birthday. Of course everything was very grand. There were many costly things to eat and drink. After the meal was eaten the king and his friends sat around the table and drank wine until they were drunk and excited. Then the daughter of the king's brother's wife came in and danced very prettily. The king was so pleased with her that in his drunken jollity he promised her anything she asked, even to the half of his kingdom. The damsel ran off to her mother, who, having a grudge for John the Baptist, had had him put in prison. He had been brave enough to say it was wrong of her to marry Herod. The Queen soon said, "Ask for the head of John the Baptist." When the young girl told Herod what was her request he was sorry, but as he was proud, and ashamed to show pity before his guests, he ordered the poor prisoner's head cut off. And it was handed to the wicked queen on a silver tray.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

1. Who gave a grand dinner? Herod, on his birthday.
2. What happened? He got foolish with wine.
3. Who danced? A young damsel.
4. What did he promise her? Anything she asked.
5. What did she ask? The head of John the Baptist.
6. Who told her to? Her wicked mother.

SECOND QUARTER.

LESSON IX.—MAY 27.

FEEDING THE FIVE THOUSAND.

Mark 6. 30-34. Memory verse, 41.

GOLDEN TEXT.

My Father giveth you the true bread from heaven.—John 6. 32.

LESSON STORY.

What a beautiful picture comes before our mind when we think of the scene of this wonderful miracle. On the green hillside overlooking the deep blue sea, with a fair blue sky above, many people had gathered. They heard that Jesus had gone hence to this quiet place, so they sought him out, many coming on foot a long distance.

When Jesus saw them he was moved with compassion towards them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd.

In the late afternoon the disciples began to feel anxious, for there was nothing to eat and the people were getting hungry. Jesus knew all this and asked how much food they had with them. Just five loaves and two fishes, which the disciples thought was as nothing among so many. But Jesus told them to bid the people sit down, and to start with what they had, which he blessed, and lo, when it was divided it fed all, and there were left over twelve baskets full, and this crowd numbered about five thousand.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

1. Where had Jesus gone? To a quiet desert place.
2. What for? To rest.
3. Who followed him? A great crowd.
4. Did they get hungry? Yes.
5. Had they food? No.
6. Were the disciples alarmed? Yes.
7. What did Jesus ask? How much food they had.
8. What had they? Five loaves and two fishes.
9. Did it feed all? Yes.
10. What was left over? Twelve baskets full.

"They must have good parents," was the remark concerning certain children who attracted the attention of some strangers by their becoming deportment. So we glorify our Father in heaven by Christian living.

HER FIRST PAIR OF SHOES.

The terrible evil of intemperance affects not only the wretched victim of the habit, but every one near and dear to him.

Among many interesting incidents connected with the closing of the saloons in Kittanning, Pa., a leading merchant tells the following:

A woman came into his store very timidly. She was evidently unaccustomed to trading.

"What can I do for you?" inquired the merchant.

"I want a pair of shoes for a little girl."

"What number?"

"She is twelve years old."

"But what number does she wear?"

"I do not know."

"But what number did you buy when you bought the last pair for her?"

"She never had a pair in her life. You see, sir, her father used to drink when we had saloons; but now that they are closed he doesn't drink any more, and this morning he said to me, 'Mother, I want you to go up-town to-day and get Sissy a pair of shoes, for she never had a pair in her life.' I thought, sir, if I told you how old she was you would know just what size to give me."

EASTER.

BY REV. S. A. BRACN.

The Easter bells are ringing
With sweet and joyful sound,
Anew the message bringing
That hope for man is found!
To all whose hearts by sadness,
And grief and toil are pressed,
A message full of gladness,
A message that brings rest.

The Easter lilies meet us,
Arrayed in snowy white,
With sweetest smiles that greet us,
And thrill us with delight.
Of the first Easter morning,
And of the empty tomb
They speak, this day adorning,
And scatter all our gloom.

Each hearty Easter greeting
Along life's rugged way
Reminds us of a meeting
In realms of endless day;
Reminds us of a greeting
From loved ones gone before,
Where all that's vain and fleeting
Shall trouble us no more.

The risen Christ brings gladness
Where'er he enters in,
His smile will banish sadness,
His power will conquer sin.
To all who heed his story
There'll come an Easter Day;
Lighted with God's own glory,
'Twill never pass away.