

Book Life.

BY ANNIE L. HANNAH.

I wish that I lived in a book,
Where everything's cheerful and nice!
Had I but Aladdin's old lamp,
I would put myself there in a trice!

The fire's always bright—in a book;
The milk's never watery and thin;
The ice on the pond is just right;
In a ball game your side's sure to win.

Such aunts as you have—in a book!
Such uncles, and grandfathers, too!
They think that in all the wide world,
There is not such a fellow as you!

And then the adventures you have!
You'd hardly believe they could be,
Unless you had read for yourself,
Of those exploits by land and by sea!

Yes, it must be fine in a book!
I wish I could go there to stay!
Where everything's cosy and nice,
And there's never one commonplace day!

THE BRAVE WOMEN OF KENTUCKY.

Bryant's Station was one of the most celebrated spots in the annals of the "Dark and Bloody Ground." The stockade fort that once stood there was frequently a refuge from the savages in the early settlement of the country, and its gallant defence by a handful of pioneers against the Indians of Ohio was one of the most desperate affairs of the Indian wars of the West.

The Indians having failed in surprising the Kentuckians, attempted to decoy them from their fastness by presenting themselves in small bodies before it. The whites were too wise to risk a battle, but the fort was unhappily not supplied with water. They were aware that the enemy knew this. They knew, also, that their real force lay in ambush near a neighbouring spring, with the hope of cutting off those who should come to remedy the deficiency. But the heroism of a woman may baffle the address of a warrior. The females of the station determined to supply it with water from this very spring! But how? They reasoned thus: The water must be had. The women are in the habit of going for it every morning. If armed men now take that duty upon them, the Indians will think that their ambushade is discovered, and instantly commence the assault. If women draw the water as usual, the Indians will not unmask their concealed force, but will persevere in attempting to decoy the defenders of the station without its pickets. The feint succeeded. The shots of the decoy party were returned from one side of the fort, while the women issued from the other as if they apprehended no enemy in that quarter. They advanced with composure in a body to the spring, till they were within point-blank shot of five hundred warriors. The slightest trepidation would have betrayed them; but their nerves did not shrink, and they waited calmly for each other to fill their pithers. The Indians were completely deceived, and not a shot was fired. . . . The only water split was as they crowded together in passing the gate. The Indians were eventually beaten back, and, succour arriving, were compelled to retire to the woods once more.

Thus much we learn from "Hoffman's Travels," a work not much known to the present generation of young readers. But the annals of the New World, as well as those of the Old, afford many similar proofs that courage in the hour of peril is not confined to what we are so accustomed to call "the stronger sex." Women can not only endure nobly and patiently, she can also dare and do when the hour of action comes.

When we are young, trials are hard to bear. We have had, on the whole, so much sunshine, so much gladness, that we are surprised at the appearance of sorrow, and it steals on us like a thief in the night. As we grow older, we learn that,

"Sorrow, touched by thee, grows bright,
With more than rapture's ray,
As darkness shows us worlds of light
We never saw by day."

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE HISTORY OF JUDAH.

LESSON XI.—DECEMBER 11.

TRYING TO DESTROY GOD'S WORD.

Jer. 36. 20-32. Memory verse, 32.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The word of our God shall stand forever.—Isa. 40. 8.

OUTLINE.

1. Jehoiakim's Crime, v. 20-26.
 2. Jehoiakim's Sentence, v. 27-32.
- Time.—About December, B.C. 605 or 604.

HOME READINGS.

- M. Writing the prophecy.—Jer. 36. 1-10.
- Tu. Reading the word.—Jer. 36. 11-19.
- W. Trying to destroy God's Word.—Jer. 36. 20-32.
- Th. Despising the word.—Jer. 11. 1-10.
- F. Rejecting God's word.—Isa. 30. 8-17.
- S. Christ's reproof of rejecters.—John 5. 36-47.
- Su. Rejecting and receiving.—Acts 17. 1-11.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. Jehoiakim's Crime, v. 20-26.
What king is here referred to?

What evil would come upon Judah?
What is the Golden Text?

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

Where in this lesson are we taught—
1. To revere God's law?
2. To obey God's commandments?
3. To fear God's judgments on sin?

JESUS A CONSTANT COMPANION.

Make Christ your constant companion. Be more under his influence than under any other influence. Ten minutes spent in his society every day—aye, two minutes, if it be face to face and heart to heart—will make the whole day different. Every character has an inward spring; let Christ be it. Every action has a key-note; let Christ set it. Yesterday you got a certain letter. You sat down and wrote a reply which almost scorched the paper. You picked up the cruellest adjectives you knew and sent it forth, without a pang, to do its ruthless work. You did that because your life was set in the wrong key. You began the day with the mirror placed at the wrong angle. To-morrow at daybreak turn it toward him and, even to your enemy, the fashion of your countenance will be changed. Whatever you then do, one thing you will find you could not do—you could not write that letter. Your first impulse may be the same, your judgment may be unchanged; you will rise from

Cigarette-Smoking.

(A Dialogue.)

BY ELIZABETH T. LARKIN.

John.

What is't you say there, little Nett,
" 'Tis wrong to smoke a cigarette?"
How is it you're so wondrous wise,
And why that sparkle in your eyes?

Nettle.

Yes, 'tis, 'tis wrong, I dare to say;
Papa said so the other day.
He says there's poison in them all,
Although they are so very small.

He says they're made of poison stuff,
And I believe him, sure enough.
And boys and men who smoke them, too,
Some day the act will surely rue.

My father says they hurt the mind,
And make some people colour-blind,
He says that they affect the heart,
And do no good to any part.

He is a doctor, John, you know;
And when a doctor says 'tis so,
It surely somehow seems to me,
It ought to be believed, you see.

John.

And so you think, my little Nett,
I'd better drop the cigarette?
If what your father says is true,
Why, that is just the thing I'll do.

If I were lying sick in bed,
And sent for him, what'er he said
I should believe, I'm very sure,
And should expect he'd work a cure.

So here it goes. No more I'll smoke,
No, child, believe it is no joke,
I mean the very words I say,
I've smoked for the last time to-day.

—The Banner.



PARTRIDGE AND YOUNG.

What did the princes do with the prophet's roll?
What did they tell the king?
What did the king do?
Where did this interview occur?
As Jehudi read what did the king do to the roll?
How did the act affect the king and his servants?
Who remonstrated against burning the roll?
What command did the king give?
Why was not the command executed?
What was the king's crime?

2. Jehoiakim's Sentence, v. 27-32.
To whom did the Lord send a message?
What was Jeremiah bidden to do?
What had the king said to him? Verse 29.
What was Jeremiah to say to the king about his crime?
What was the king's sentence?
Who also were to be punished with him?

your desk an unavenged, but a greater and more Christian man.—Prof. Henry Drummond.

PARTRIDGE AND YOUNG.

Look at the poor little partridges nestling under their mother's big feathers, to keep as much out of the cold as possible. She has turned her back to the driving snow, and feels the cold very little. But she well knows that her little ones have not got half such warm feathers as she has, so she makes a cosy hole for them in the snow, and they tuck themselves away inside, and are as warm and happy as can be, in spite of the weather.

Lawyer (speaking technically)—"What you want to do is to meet your creditors." Client—"No, I don't. They're the very people I want to avoid."

Fathers and Mothers

Have you watched the faces of the children at Christmas, as you handed them a "right new book"? If so, why not see that face brightened oftener by an occasional presentation of one of the many beautiful volumes that are now being issued. Do not wait until the child has a liking for pernicious literature; commence with good picture-books, read them the stories, and as they grow up they will appreciate and thank you for your efforts. Peruse carefully the subjoined list.

- New Testament Stories, Illustrated. By E. A. Macdonald. \$0 50
- Uncle Remus; or, Brer Fox and Brer Rabbit. By Joel Chandler Harris. Illustrated. Cloth. 50
- Bony and Ban. The Story of a Printing Adventure. By M. H. Catherwood. Cloth. 50
- Labour of Love. A Story for Boys. By Julia Magruder. Cloth. 50
- A District Messenger Boy. By James Otis. Illustrated. Cloth. 50
- Allan the Hunter. A Tale of Three Lions. By H. Rider Haggard. Illustrated. Cloth. 50
- The Cruise of the Albatross. A Story of the Pacific. By Grant Allen. Cloth. 50
- The Engene Field Book. Verses, Stories and Letters for School Reading. Edited by Mary E. Burt and Mary B. Cable. Cloth, net. 60
- Childhood's Songs of Long Ago. By Isaac Watts, D.D. With Pictures by Blanche McManus. Quarto. Cloth. 1 25
- Bible Stories. By Lawrie Loving. Fully illustrated. Board covers. 25
- Child Stories and Rhymes. For the Little People of Nursery and Kindergarten. By Emile Poulssen. Illustrated by L. F. Bridgman. Quarto. Cloth. 1 25
- Rhymes and Songs for My Little Ones. By A. C. Hingst and Esther J. Ruckay. Illustrations by George W. Picknell. Quarto. Cloth. 1 25
- The Pleasant Land of Play. By S. J. Brigham. Illustrated by Mary A. Lathbury. Cloth. 1 25
- Little Mr. Van Vere of China. By Harriet A. Cheever. Illustrated by Etheldred B. Barry. Cloth. 1 25
- Cot and Cradle Stories. By Mrs. Catharine Parr Traill. Edited by Mary Agnes FitzGibbon. Illustrated. Cloth. 1 00
- Snap Shots from Boy Life. By F. C. T. O'Hara. Illustrated. Cloth. A book every boy should read. 75
- A Puzzling Pair. By Amy Le Favre. Author of "Probable Sons." Cloth, 70 cents. Cloth, illustrated. 1 25
- Little Folks' Speaker. Recitations, Selected for Little Girls and Boys. Illustrated. 62

WILLIAM BRIGGS,

Methodist Book and Publishing House,
Toronto.

C. W. COATES, MONTREAL.

S. F. HUESTIS, HALIFAX.