

The Little Planter

Down by the wall where the lilacs grow,
Digging away with the garden hoe,
Toiling as busily as he can,—
Eager and earnest, dear little man!
Spoon and shingle are lying by,
With a bit of evergreen long since dry.

“What are you doing, dear?” I ask
Ted for an instant stops his task,
Glances up with a sunny smile
Dimpling his rosy cheeks the while:
“Why, it is Arbor Day, you see,
And I’m planting a next year’s Christ-
mas tree.”

“For last year, aunty, Johnny Dunn
Didn’t have even the smallest one;
And I almost cried, he felt so bad,
When I told him ’bout the splendid one
we had;
And I thought if I planted this one
here,
And watered it every day this year,
It would grow real fast—I think it
might;
(And his blue eyes fill with an eager
light);
And I’m sure ’twill be, though very
small,
A great deal better than none at all.”

Then somebody suddenly comes be-
tween
My eyes and the bit of withered green,
As I kiss the face of our Teddy-boy,
Bright and glowing with giving joy.
And Johnny Dunn, it is plain to see,
Will have his next year’s Christmas
tree.

SUGGESTIONS FOR ARBOR DAY LESSONS.

Song—“The Maple Leaf,” and “The Brave Old Oak.”

Reading—Let each pupil obtain a suitable selection from the school library or from his own books.

History—The Druid’s Oaks. Tree Dwellers (Dopp). The New Forest.

Geography—In what countries do the following trees grow: Banyan, euca-

lyptus, bread-fruit, banana, pine, persimmon, walnut, pepper, peach, maple and box. Have a short talk about climatic and soil conditions in these countries.

Composition—“The Life Story of a Maple Tree,” “Story of Useful Trees,” “Story of Food-giving Trees.”

Spelling—Tree names.

Agriculture—Planting seeds.