

ONE'S AIM IN LIFE.

WHY seek ye to be great, boys?
Seek rather to be good;
Be noble, kind, and brave, boys,
Scorn the spirit of a slave, boys,
And fear not man, but God.
Hate falsehood and deceit, boys,
They cannot bring but ill;
Keep a tender heart within, boys,
And a conscience free from sin, boys,
And a self-controlled will.
Bear with you into life, boys,
Through all the coming years,
The innocence of youth, boys,
Its frankness and its truth, boys,
Its joys, and hopes, and fears.
At times it may be hard, boys,
To keep this rule of right;
But he who gave the word, boys,
Your Saviour, and your Lord, boys,
Will keep you in the fight.
Thus on your side shall be, boys,
Almighty strength and love;
Your life be bright and fair, boys,
Your death without despair, boys,
And after,—rest above.

MY MOTHER.

WHO can be compared to a mother? The Bible gives the first place to a mother's joy and to a mother's grief; and the Bible is as true in this as in everything. "I don't see how any one can live without a mother!" says a young daughter who, while her-self a mother, has a daughter's sense of dependence on her mother. And life is always darker, and this world is always lonelier, when one's mother is dead. If your mother is still living, love her, and show your love for her, as for one you never saw the like of, and never will find equalled in her place.—*H. C. Trumbull.*

Honour thy father and thy mother.

GEM ALPHABETS.



HERE are two gem alphabets in common use,—one of transparent stones, the other of opaque ones. The transparent stones are: Amethyst, Beryl, Chrysoberyl, Diamond, Emerald, Fluorspar, Garnet, Hyacinth, Idocrase, Kyanite, Lynx-sapphire, Milk-opal, Natrolite, Opal, Pyrope, Quartz, Ruby, Sapphire, Topaz, Uranite, Vesuvianite, Water-sapphire, Xanthite, Zircon.

The opaque series is:—Agate, Basalt, Cacholong, Diaspore, Egyptian pebble, Fire blende, Girasol, Heliotrope, Jasper, Krokidolite, Lapas-lazuli, Malachite, Nephite, Onyx, Porphyry, Quartz-agate, Rose quartz, Sardonyx, Turquoise, Ultramarine, Verd-antique, Wood-opal, Xylotile, Zuilite.

Substitutes for many of these you can easily find.

The Apostolic jewels are:—Andrew, a sapphire; Bartholomew, a red carnelian; James the great, a white chalcidony; James the less, a topaz; John, an emerald; Matthew, an amethyst; Matthias, a chrysolite; Peter, a jasper; Philip a sardonyx; Simeon, a pink hyacinth; Thaddeus, a chrysoptase; Thomas, a beryl—as emblematic of faith, martyrdom, purity, delicacy, gentleness, sobriety, truth, solidity, amiability, kindness, serenity, and cautiousness.

ALMANACS.

AT this season of the year it is customary for business firms, Insurance and Railway Companies, to issue Calendars or Almanacs. It may interest "our" Boys to learn that Almanacs were first published in 1150, by a man named Solomon Jarchi. The first English Almanac was published by Richard Pynson, in 1497. It was called the "Shepheards' Kalendar."