

### Pennies or Promises.

"If I had heaps of yellow corn  
And fields of waving wheat,  
I'd quickly send a cargo where  
They've not enough to eat.

I'd load a ship myself, alone,  
With grain of every kind,  
And make my harvest offering  
The best that I could find.  
Or if I had just money, why,  
That, too, would do much good,  
For it should go to India  
To buy the children food."

'Twas little Rob who spoke these words,  
So generous and so bold;  
What he would do when he was rich,  
He very often told.

But oh! this same dear little boy,  
When dimes he had to spend,  
Bought something for himself alone—  
Had none to give or lend.  
But I think that if Rob expects  
To be a generous man,  
He'd better practice when he's small  
By giving what he can.

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### THE FIVE PINS.

**A**N Italian lady was in the habit of wearing a handsome locket, but the odd thing about it was that, instead of there being a picture, or some hair, or a rich jewel set in it, there were five rather rusty pins. This curious ornament somewhat surprised the friends of the lady; and in answer to their many questions, she told them the following story.

During some trouble which had taken place in their country, the husband of the lady had been put in prison. The cell in which he was placed was low and dark, and the light only came in through one small window, so high that he was unable to reach it.

With nothing to do or look at, the poor

gentlemen sat thinking of his troubles and misfortunes from hour to hour, from day to day; and he began to fear that if he got no kind of change or employment he would soon go out of his mind.

One day it happened to occur to him that he had about his dress five pins. Why should he not, he thought, find some amusement in his loneliness from these pins? He resolved to throw them about in his cell, which, happily for him, happened to be rather a large one, and then to hunt for them till he had found all the five.

He did so, and then he thought he would throw them about again, and again look for them, *This amusement, which seems to us rather childish, was really a great blessing to the poor prisoner; and he thanked God for it, for by its means he was able to turn his thoughts away from his misfortune.*

This lasted for the space of three years; at the end of that time the gentleman was set free, but he took his precious pins home with him.—*Sel.*

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### The New Leaf.

"He came to my desk with a quivering lip—  
The lesson was done —  
Dear teacher, I want a new leaf,' he said;  
'I have spoiled this one.'  
In place of the leaf so stained and blotted,  
I gave him a new one all unspotted,  
And into his sad eye smiled —  
'Do better now, my child.'

"I went to the throne with a quivering soul—  
The old year was done  
'Dear Father, hast thou a new leaf for me?—  
I have spoiled this one.'  
He took the old leaf, stained and blotted,  
And gave me a new one, all unspotted,  
And into my sad heart smiled—  
'Do better now, my child.'"

—*Selected.*