

## Our Young Folks.

### THE MOTHER'S PRAYER.

Starting forth in life's rough way,  
Father, guide them;  
Oh, we know not what of harm  
May betide them;  
'Neath the shadow of Thy wing,  
Father, hide them;  
Walking, sleeping, Lord, we pray,  
Go beside them.

When in prayer they cry to Thee,  
Do Thou hear them;  
From the stains of sin and shame  
Do Thou clear them;  
'Mid the quicksand and the rocks  
Do Thou steer them;  
In temptation, trial and grief,  
Be Thou near them.

Unto Thee we give them up;  
Lord, receive them.  
In the world we know must be  
Much to grieve them—  
Many striving, oft and strong,  
To deceive them;  
Trustful, in Thy hands of love  
We must leave them.

—William Cullen Bryant.

### THE LITTLE HELPER.

What is it to be a "King's Daughter?" exclaimed little Bessie Newton, as she came running in from school one day.

"It is to be a little helper, dear," mamma replied, kissing the earnest little mouth.

"Well, I can help. What do you have to do?"

"I know a certain little girl," said mamma, drawing Bessie closer to her, "who tries to help mamma all she can. She washes the dishes when I am busy with baby. She runs up and down stairs and saves me many steps in a day. She tries to amuse her little brother; and yesterday, as she was reading an interesting book, baby began to fret and she quietly laid aside her book to play with her, so I could finish my work—"

"Oh," interrupted Bessie, "it means just a helper and I can be a little 'King's Daughter' right here and wherever I go. I am not too young, am I?"

"No, little daughter; if you are old enough to lend a helping hand and to be thoughtful for others, you are not too young. Little girls can do much to brighten the home life and lighten the burdens of those around them."

"I think I understand," thought Bessie, as she went slowly upstairs. "If I do all I can to help others, I shall be a little 'King's Daughter.' And I will teach Bertie to be one, too. No," she thought, stopping suddenly in the middle of the stairs and sitting down to think the matter out. "Why, he will be a 'King's Son.' Well, I will teach him to be a helper." And, having settled the question, she went on upstairs.

The next day, on her way to school, she saw some boys tormenting a great white cat in the street. "Boys," she cried, going up to them, "you must not treat poor pussy so. Give her to me."

"To you!" laughed one of the larger boys.

"What will you do with her?"

"I will take her home and take care of her!"

"Take her, then; we are glad to get rid of her." And he put the great cat in her arms.

Bessie's arms ached when she reached home.

Depositing her burden on the kitchen floor beside the fire; she ran to find mamma, and tell her all about it.

"We will call her White," said Bessie, "and she can live in the barn with Blackie. How pretty Blackie's kittens looked this morning when I gave her some breakfast! Their eyes were wide open."

"Good-by mamma," she cried; and off she ran, reaching the school gate just as the bell rang.

"There are two more pretty little kittens in the barn," cried Bessie the next morning; "and my big Whitie is their mamma."

That afternoon, when Bessie and Bertie went to visit their pets they found Whitie dead and Blackie was caring for five kittens instead of three.

"I cannot help thinking of poor Whitie," said Bessie. "What would her poor little kittens have done if Blackie had not taken care of them? And, O mamma, I think Blackie is a real 'King's Daughter'—a helper."

Mamma smiled, and patted the curly head.

A week or so after this Bessie and some of her little schoolmates formed a circle, and called themselves "The Little Helpers."

### THE BOY WITH A FUTURE.

It was a cold morning. The people in the village were almost frozen, and at the little red cottage in the hollow, where the wind had free sweep across acres of meadow land and hillside, it was a great deal worse.

But when Ben Preston jumped out of bed to build the fire for his mother, it was not the cold which worried him most; it was because he knew that in the cupboard there was only scanty provision.

The ladies who brought sewing to his mother could not

come up to the hollow in such weather, nor could she cross these heavy drifts to go to them.

"Well," says Ben to himself, as he danced about to keep his feet from freezing while the fire burned up, "I don't see any way but to take the support of the family on myself for a few days. I can't do much, but maybe I can help a bit. I'll try, that's what!" And he drew himself up looking very manly and strong.

When the little breakfast was eaten—it was nothing but corn cakes with butter, and milk to drink—as they had a cow—Ben carried in a load of wood and a pail of water, and then began to button up his coat.

"Not going out, Ben?" asked his mother.

"Yes, mother; I'm going to look for a job in the village."

"But, Ben, you'll be almost frozen."

"Think not mother. I am as strong as a young horse, and it's a fine morning for sweeping sidewalks and crossings, you know. I'll just shoulder my shovel and see if I can't bring home something to fill up that cupboard."

"You're a good boy, Ben," said the widow, with a deep sigh and a smile at his bright face.

"Ought to be; got a good mother, you know," responded Ben. And then putting on his old hat he darted into the shed for his snow shovel and was off, plunging through the drifts as if it was first-rate fun.

He had no overcoat and his hands were hardly covered by the old mittens; but he put first one hand, then the other, in his pocket to warm them, and trudged along with a cheery whistle, never minding the cold.

When he got to the village he stopped first before Doctor Hutchin's big house. The doctor was just opening his shutters, and Ben hailed him: "Good morning, doctor, don't you want you're walk cleared off?"

"Well, I might," responded the doctor. "Think you're heavy enough for the job?"

"Just you try me," said Ben, beginning to dig away at the piled up snow.

"All right, sonny. Make a good job of it and I'll give you a quarter." And with that the doctor went into the house. Ben worked and tugged, and in half an hour he had that sidewalk well shovelled off. Then he rapped at the door and received his quarter from the doctor's wife.

"Well, that's a beginning," said he, and he trudged on, stopping where he saw a good chance for a job, and in most cases getting it.

Two or three times he was hailed by boys going down to the dam to skate, and asked to go with them; but his only answer was to shake his head and pitch into the drifts with renewed energy.

When noon came he had a dollar and a quarter.

"Pretty good for one half-day," said he. "Guess we can live while the snow lasts, if mother don't sew any."

He ran around the corner to Balzer's grocery and bought a loaf of bread, half a pound of cheese, some tea, sugar, and several other little necessities, and still had a little left. He borrowed a basket from Mr. Balzer, put his packages into it, dashed out, and stepped into the butcher's to buy a juicy steak. Then he took the road to the hollow again. And I tell you his mother's bright face, when he ran into the house with his well-laden basket, well repaid him for the cold morning's work.

"What should I do without my good brave boy?" she exclaimed, as he told her his little story. Ben laughed, and said: "Oh, that is nothing." He was very proud of her praise.

That boy has a future.

### ONE PAGE A DAY.

One page of good literature a day, thoughtfully read, must produce beneficial intellectual results, even though the reader find it difficult to recall at will the full thought of the author, or to reproduce a complete sentence in which that thought, or any part of it, was expressed. Of course, the results of one page a day will be scarcely appreciable. One day's toil will build no temple. But seven days make a week, and four weeks make a month, and twelve months contain three hundred and sixty-five days. One page a day will, therefore, grow in one year into a volume of three hundred and sixty-five pages.

Now, at three hundred pages to a book, one may read in ten years twelve stout volumes. He who in a decade reads with interest and attention, twelve volumes, is no mean student; and if the reading in five minutes of a single page should stimulate thought that keeps hammering or digging or singing in the reader's brain during the day, when he is at work and his book is shut, at the end of ten years such a reader and thinker will deserve some reputation as a "scholar." He may be, in a sense, a master of twelve big books. And if they be the right books no master of a large library can afford to overlook the claim upon his recognition of this man who reads well one page a day.

### A HEALTHY AND DELICIOUS BEVERAGE.

Menier Chocolate. Learn to make a real cup of Chocolate, by addressing C. Alfred Chouhrou, Montreal, and get free samples with directions.

MINARD'S Liniment for sale everywhere.

## Sabbath School Teacher.

### INTERNATIONAL LESSONS.

April 17,  
1892.

### GOD'S WORKS AND WORD.

{ Psm. xix.:  
1-14.

GOLDEN TEXT.—The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul.—Psalm xix. 7.

#### INTRODUCTORY.

The authorship of this beautiful psalm which sets forth the perfection of God's twofold revelation to man, His Word and Works, is ascribed to David, the sweet singer, the divinely-inspired poet of Israel. The love which David had for the glory of God as displayed in creation is manifest in this and in several of the other psalms. He did not, like some modern poets and scientific men, content himself with what Nature could alone teach him. The devout king studied the Word of God with great fervency that he might know the will of God as revealed in the Scriptures.

I. **God in Nature.**—The impressions of Nature at once led the mind of the Psalmist to contemplate the majesty, the wisdom and the power of the great Creator. The sun by day and the sky by night, illumined by the light of the moon and stars, reflected the perfections of God whose handiwork they are. In David's day the knowledge of science was limited. The true theory of astronomy was unknown; the telescope had not been invented; the vastness of the starry universe was but dimly comprehended; yet with all such disadvantages the devout mind could see in the undimmed beauty and splendour of heaven and earth the reflected glory of Him who is wonderful in counsel and excellent in working. With all the increase of knowledge in our day, the vastness and grandeur of the material universe are not diminished, they are greatly expanded. How much more clearly ought we to see the glory of God, who created all things, than could those who lived in the earlier ages of the world. Next the Psalmist refers to the teaching of Nature. He says: "Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge." The witness Nature bears to her Lord is continuous. There is no break in its manifestation. As night succeeds day it makes still more impressive the fact that God rules over all, and thus unceasing testimony is borne to the wisdom and power by which the universe is upheld and governed. The translations of the Authorized and the Revised versions differ considerably in the verse that follows. The Authorized version says: "There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard;" while the Revised reads: "There is no speech nor language; their voice is not heard." The difference of reading is occasioned by the insertion of two italic words in the old version, while they are omitted in the new. The Psalmist's meaning is not materially altered, but is, if possible, rendered more impressive by the reading the revisers have given. The lessons which Nature teaches are universal, but they are uttered in no formal language. The impressions are made on the mind in silence. The stars revolve in their vast orbits in silence, the sun moves on his course majestically without sound, yet all Nature powerfully impresses every thoughtful beholder and deepens the conviction that finds expression in the words, "great and marvellous are Thy works, Lord God Almighty." The Psalmist uses the language of emotion, not the strict terminology of science. He pictures the sun as he appears to the ordinary observer, coming out of the east in the early morn as the bridegroom leaving his chamber, then as to the athlete who runs a race.

II. **God in His Word.**—The Word of the Lord is described in this Psalm by six different terms. It is called the law of the Lord, the testimony of the Lord, the precepts of the Lord, the commandment of the Lord, the fear of the Lord and the judgments of the Lord. The Word contains God's law; it bears testimony to His truth; it records the statutes and the commandments of God, and it produces in the mind of all who reverently read it the fear to offend, and it also records the judgments of God. Each of these different terms is separately characterized. The law of the Lord is perfect—not like the laws of man's making. The testimony is sure; it can at all times and in all circumstances be relied on. The precepts of the Lord are right. They can be received as the dictates of unerring wisdom. The commandment of the Lord is pure; it is based on infinite holiness and love. The fear of the Lord is clean, pure in its origin and clean in its effects. The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether; they accord with infinite righteousness, and are therefore infallible. Then the law of the Lord restores the soul. The testimony of the Lord imparts wisdom. The precepts of the Lord bring true joy to the hearts of all who receive them. The commandment of God enlightens the eyes. It enables us to understand God's will, and it illumines the conscience, enabling us to see what is right. The fear of the Lord is enduring in its effects; it purifies the soul. The righteous judgments of the Lord have for their effect the reproduction of righteousness in the hearts and lives of men. These statements concerning the Word of God can be tested by personal experience. These are the fruits they produce on all who believingly apply them. The preciousness of God's Word is shown by the comparisons that follow. Few things are more eagerly coveted than gold, yet the Word of the Lord is far more to be desired "than gold, yea, than much fine gold." The symbol here used of what is sweetest to the taste is honey. The purest and sweetest pleasure on earth is the loving study of God's Word and obedience to its teaching. It brings happiness here and everlasting joy hereafter. The law of God is the only true and sure guide of life. "Moreover, by them is thy servant warned." Good counsel is very helpful to us. It is dangerous to follow our natural impulse and unbridled inclinations. The best possible guide of human life is the Word of God. "In keeping them there is great reward." This reward is now, and here upon earth. In obedience to God's command only is a happy life possible. Then the blessedness experienced here is the prophecy of that unending blessedness which is realized through the atoning work of Christ. Because He died for our offences and rose again for our justification He has met all the requirements of the law of God for us. In the light of God's perfect law the Psalmist asks, "Who can understand His errors?" and then prays directly, "Cleanse thou me from secret faults." The meaning of this is that we need the cleansing of the atoning blood for the sins we unconsciously commit in our ignorance. This is apparent from the next petition in the prayer with which the Psalm ends: "Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins." That obviously means those direct, wilful and defiant transgressions of God's clearly-revealed will. With God's grace, and only with that, can we be restrained from the commission of many and grievous sins. With God's grace the Psalmist feels confident that he can be kept in innocence and free from such transgression. He prays also for inward purity, so that thought and speech may be such as will be acceptable in God's sight. He closes his prayer with an ascription to God as his rock, the only sure and firm ground on which he can stand and as his Redeemer.

#### PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

Let us study Nature reverently and intelligently, for it is a glorious revelation of the power, wisdom and goodness of God.

Let us earnestly, prayerfully and lovingly study the Word of God, for it reveals the love, mercy and righteousness of God.

Let us take God's Word for a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.