

THE FIRST LESSON

Is it so hard to learn
This simple A B C?
And yet, my teacher grave and stern
Is "grammatically" to thee.

She teaches with a smile,
The tender smile of age;
And lures thee, with her pleasant wile,
Along the open page.

Thy days are scarce begun,
But in the coming years
Life's higher wisdom must be won
Through weariness and tears.

Through errors not a few,
Through sorrows sharp and sore,
Thy soul shall reach God's knowledge true,
And rest for evermore.

He will thy teacher be
Till lesson days are past;
From strength to strength He leadeth thee
To know Himself at last.

HOW TO BE HAPPY.

"How is it, mamma," said a thoughtful child, "that you are so happy? for I often see other people who are not so. Are you ever unhappy?"

"Well, my dear boy," replied his mamma. "I can truly say that I have not known what it is to be unhappy for a very long time."

"I wish you would tell me the reason why you are so happy, mamma."

"I will do so with pleasure, my dear. It was God who was pleased to teach me how to be happy, and I will tell you how He taught me. He gave me a kind mamma, whose face looked so smiling and sweet that I used to love to watch her while she talked to me. She used often to call me to her side, where I would sit on a little stool. She said that if I wished to be happy, I must try to be like Jesus Christ; and then she would tell me how kind He was; how gentle He was; how forgiving, and how patient, too; that He was more lovely than any one who had ever lived, either before or since. She used to say that she wished I would try, and that if I tried, God had promised to help me, and I should be sure to become kind and lovely too. Then, as soon as I really believed this to be true, I used to wish, O how I should love to be like Jesus! I would think about Him until I could not help crying, because I felt so unhappy at being so unlovely. Then God put it into my heart to ask Him to help me to put away my unkind thoughts, and everything that displeased Jesus. I always found that He did help me, and this led me to ask again and again. The more I asked Him, the more he helped me. The more He helped me, the more I believed He would, and this, mamma said, was having faith in God, which pleased Him. I then began to love God more for putting these desires into my heart; and this was how God taught me to be happy. Will you try in the same way? People who love God are sure to be cheerful and happy, and are able to make other people more so. Happy, contented people are sure to be beloved. Now, dear boy, think about these things, and another time I will tell you something else that will add to your happiness."

ONE OF GOD'S LITTLE MINISTERS.

One night when a family were all gathered around the fire a little girl looked up and asked: "Papa, why

does everybody like Eva, our neighbour's little girl? She has got a weak back, and can't play like the rest of us, and isn't often at school, and yet everybody likes her. How's that?"

"Why," said her father, "look at that lamp, it is a very frail thing, and doesn't make any noise, yet it makes this room very bright and pleasant, does it not? The lamp gives light, and little Eva gives love; and that is why people love her."

Yes, that was it; Eva was always "ministering before the Lord," for they who love do always that. Won't you try, each of you, to be one of God's little ministers?

SPEND YOUR TIME WELL.

Spend your time in nothing which you know must be repented of. Spend it in nothing on which you might not pray for the blessing of God. Spend it in nothing which you could not review with a quiet conscience on your dying bed. Spend it in nothing which you might not safely and properly be found doing, if death should surprise you in the act.

Wickedness may prosper for a while; but in the long run he who sets all knaves to work will pay them.

SCURFY HEAD.

If a child's head is scurfy, do not comb the hair, which is apt to scratch or irritate the scalp, but brush gently. After washing the head thoroughly, dry it, and apply Dr. Chase's Ointment.

Nothing is so contagious as example: we are never either much good or much evil without imitators.

Peterboro, Oct. 22, 1896.
To Messrs. Edmanson, Bates & Co., Toronto.

Gentlemen,—I take great pleasure in testifying to the merits of Dr. Chase's K. & L. Pills. They prove themselves to be just what they are recommended for, and are one of the best selling pills that I have ever handled. J. D. Tully, Druggist.

—To smile at the jest which plants a thorn in another's breast is to become a principal in the mischief.

Souris, Man., Sept. 21, 1896.
Messrs. Edmanson, Bates & Co.

Dear Sirs,—I find your goods taking remarkably well with my customers and they appear to give every satisfaction, as indicated by the fact of our having sold one-half-gross of your Kidney-Liver Pills alone during the month of August.
S. S. Smith, Souris, Man.

—The nerve that never relaxes, the eye that never blanches, the thought that never wanders, are the harbingers of victory.

Listowel, Sept. 22nd, 1896.
Edmanson, Bates & Co.,

Gentlemen,—I have pleasure in saying that Dr. Chase's Ointment, Pills and Catarrh Cure and Linseed and Turpentine are selling well, and are giving every satisfaction. Many of my customers have spoken highly in their praise. Yours truly,
J. A. Hacking.

KEEP UP THE BARS.

When the bars are down, all manner of things can get in. Once in, there is no telling what harm the intruders may do. The wise way is to not let down the bars.

Keep pleasant, and hateful things will be barred out. Unkind, envious, disagreeable thoughts, angry and troubled feelings, will have no chance to get in if the bars are up. How can one person make another quarrel, if the one who is scolded or teased resolutely keeps pleasant?

Keep cool, and hasty and heated temper will not get over the bars. Keep loving, and uncharitableness can't get in. Keep the rules, and disobedience and punishment will have no chance to bring unhappiness. It takes watching, and it takes perseverance, and often self-denial, to keep up the bars, and most of all it needs great help from above; but there is help to be had. Keep the bars up.

—To encourage children in some form of charitable work is a valuable lesson in coming good citizenship. If it is only saving pictures to make scrap-books for hospitals and taking care of toys and books that they may have a second life in some less favoured household, the interest aroused is a healthful one. In a suburban home near Philadelphia the children of the family have, during the summer months, a flourishing vegetable garden whose proceeds are devoted to a special philanthropy in which the family is interested. At English country homes this garden is a part of the establishment, though it is not always kept up for charitable purposes. It is a recognized source of pocket money for the children, who are always paid market prices, and always, too, paid as scrupulously as any tradesman would be.

There are people who would do great acts; but because they wait for great opportunities, life passes, and the acts of love are not done at all.

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