## SIX GIRLS

by A. B .
A group of bright eyed maidens gathered one afternoon on the broad shady lawn of the old Lathrop place in the brisk, wide awake, little village of M
Ethel and May settle down into the hammock. Margaret proves her right to be called strong-minded by her companions by showing herself regardless of the possible onslaught of bugs and beetles in taking the green sward for a chnir, and the great trunk of the noble olm for a back to her seat. Lill, bright, audacions Lill, brings grandmin's footstool for her own accommodiation, and with a contented sigh, plants herself at Miss Lathrop's feet, and Bess and Amy and Madge draw close to the centre of the group. Six bright, happy girls, six earnest young hearts just beginning to renlizo that young hearts just begimning to renizo that
being alive moans something more than being aive moans something mores.
eiting and sleeping and frolicing.
"Girls," the tencher began, and the merry chatter ceased, and eyes, blue and gray and brown, turned toward her, "girls, you all heird what Mr. Fremont had to say last Sunday about the state of affairs in Dakota, how girls and boys were crowded into shanties and $\log$ houses wèek after week, while we sat in our comfortable carpoted school-room ; how large neighborhoods in some places are entirely without churches ; and the people, too poor and too busy to go to a distance, grow careless and indifferent, and the littlo children are growing up intogodless American citizens. Now, girls, here we are, seven of us, what can we do to help?' Then Miss Lathrop picked up her crochet needle, and for the space of half a minuto naught was heard but the drowsy, midsunmer insect hum.
Thon a suggestion came from the hammock: "Have a fair, I suppose.
"Oh ! I'm tired nnd sick of everlasting fairs," quoth Lill, "Let's miake some real honest money. I've been thinking a rood deal lately, and I don't believe it's exactly riving to take money from our fathers to buy worsted and lace and ribbons, and then take money from our mothers in pay for the fancy things we've made. I had a long think about it Sunday after tea, and know what I'm going to do, and if tho rest will each do something, we can make it worth while. Let's each go to work, and clo something useful, something that somebody really wants.
"Lill's plan is a good one, I think," said Miss Lathrop, " and I propose we try ench in her own way; meet once a month to report, and perhaps get suggestions one from the other, and then, at the end of six months, we will send the profits to some one place. In the inean time I will try to learn particulars of a needy school, and then wo will feel that we are working for real ginls and boys and not for an object. Lill, let us have the benefit of your ideas. You spoke first.'
A flush crept up into the young girl's face. "You know," she began, "they say I make good home-mado cindies, they always sell well at fairs, and now I mean to let it be understood that I will make them for any one who will buy, and besides, I mean to write out, either in tiny blank books or on stiff cards, about a dozen recipes with very particular directionsabout the making of the candy, and sell those for about ten cents each."
"Crandmar said the other day," spoke up Bess, in answer to a glance from Miss L., "that she would buy cookies from me overy Saturday, if I would take the trouble to make them, for it makes her tired now a-days to stand to roll them out, and in all the forty-five years that Grandma has kept house, I don't believo her cookio pot has been once empty."
"May," said Ethol suddenly to her compinion in the hammook, "do you remember that dreadful grease spot on your sleevo where Hal spilt the ice cream last summer?"
' Indeed I do, and I said good-byo to thint dress till you wrought somo magic with i bit of sponge and an innocent looking bottlo: and from that day to this I have nover seen the spot.:
mide that clennser from a recipe Aunt Mary had," answored Ethel, "and I don't see why I can't make it and sell it I'msure that is something overybocly wants, for as long as there aro boys there will be groase spots."
Then it was Mary's turn to speak, and

## SAMING O'TR THE SEA.


slie eagerly broke in, "Mother told me Upon this work he was fully set even when only yesterdny that, if I would keep Ted he wrought with his hands at tent-unaking. quiet for half am hour crory afternoon and We aro the salt of the earth-a jenetrateach him his letters, so that ho can begin ting, difiusive power for positive good; wo at school in the fall, sho would pay me regularly once a week; I thought then I couldn't, he fidgets so, but I want to do my share for Dikota, and I'll try.'
"You know, girls, I'vo had some missionary hens for it yenr ; I can't neglect little Yank se Miang, or whatever his name is, out in Clina, butI can hare some Dakut: hens, too ; chickens pay better every yoar:" Thus spoke Margaret.
And dainty Bess promised the proceeds of her brush for six months. The ginls all knew that her exquisito dinner carts brought good prices at the store in the city, where her handiwork was always welcomed. Miss L.'s crochet work fell in her lap. Well, girls, we've made a beginning. A word to the wise is sufficient, I see, you have left hardly anything for me to choose, but when your all come here fur weoks from to-day, I think Ill bo ready, and by knowledro abouta church or somo hominite we may help to build. Let us keep hefore us the thought that we aro trying to make good men and women for this, our own dear country, and surely thoy have a right to the glad tidings as well as wo."-Ex.
"ONE THING AT A TIME.
Concentration of effort will succeed Divid said "one thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after:" Jesus snid, "one thing is needful, and Mary hath chosen that good part." Paul snid, "This ono thing I do." There are many necossary dutios whic's demmed our care, and conmand our interest, yet must no bo $h$ engrossing affiuis of life. To Lav ons
should be first. If we are truly seckin- to livo for God's glory, the primary obiect' o Christian lite, we cannot be careless toward the salvation of men. With Paul this lad
becono a passion ; why not with us also?
are the light of tho world, to shine with heavenly splendor, and thereby guide the feet of the wanderer into the way of eternal life. Ho who gashes overy tree in the forest will bring no wood to the market; he who swings his gun toward each bird which dlies will bag no game ; nor will you, fishermin, rushing with feverish haste from pool topool, catch fish.-Gcorge E. Ncedham.

Be noble-that is moro than wealth; Do right--that's more than placo Then in the spirit there is health,
And gladness in the face.
-Georye Maclonald.

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## NEW BIBLE COMPETITION.

blble biogiarhies by young readers, THE DEST To He pRLNTED.
Since the close of our Prize Bible.Competition last year the Editor of the Messengor has been in constant receipt of letters ureng thite the plan be continued. These requests were not responded to at once because of the interest of our readers being largely centred in the "Dominion Prize Competition" and one schemo of the kind was considered enough for our young people at a time. These stories are now, however, all written and the few weeks to be spent waiting. for the results to be mado known, our boys ñd girls will find quito a good timo to launch forth on a new plan of work.
this year js to so direct the study of nur young people that they shall at the end of their term, if we may so call it, be as familiar with the life story of a number of the more prominent characters in the Bible as they are at examination time with any of the kings, queens or notables of whom they have learned in their Canadian, English, or Ancient histories.
our plan
is to take one character at a time and offer first, second and thïrd prizes for the best story of his or her life, written wholly by the boy or girl who sends it in. All competitors must bo under eighteen years. We will begin with
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