

NEVER FORGET TO PRAY.

NEVER, my child, forget to pray,
Whate'er the business of the day.
If happy dreams have blessed thy sleep,
If startling fears have made thee weep,
With holy thoughts begin the day,
And ne'er, my child, forget to pray.

The time will come when thou wilt miss
A father's and a mother's kiss,
And then, my child, perchance thou'lt see
Some who in prayer ne'er bend the knee;
From such examples turn away,
And ne'er, my child, forget to pray.

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HAPPY DAYS.

TORONTO, MARCH 17, 1888.

THE FAITHFUL PRAYER.

Two families lived in one house, and each had a little boy about the same age: one was named John, and the other Willie. These boys slept together. Willie's mother was a Christian, and she taught him a prayer and some verses of Scripture, and told him to say them aloud every night before he went to bed. The other boy, John, had never been taught to pray. Now when Willie came to sleep with John, he was very much tempted to jump into bed as John did, without saying his prayers or repeating his verses. But he had learned to obey his mother. He did so on this occasion, and see what good came of it. It pleased God to bless the prayers and verses that Willie repeated every night to his friend John. He was led in this way to think about these things, and to become a Christian.

The two boys grew up to be men. They lived to be old men. They were earnest Christian men, and occupied honourable positions under the government in Washington.

The time came when John was to die. On his dying bed, he sent for his old friend Willie. He told him that it was his little prayer which he used to repeat with a verse of Scripture every night, when they were boys, which led him to become a Christian, and with his dying lips he thanked him for his faithfulness in saying his prayers, as that had been the means of saving his soul. Willie was another little branch of the true Vine, and we see how faithful he was made.

PRAYING AND DOING.

"BLESS the poor children who haven't got any beds to-night," prayed a little boy just before he lay down on his warm cot on a cold, windy night.

As he rose from his knees his mother said:

"You have just asked God to bless the poor children; what will you do to bless them?"

The boy thought for a moment. "Why, if I had a hundred cakes, enough for all the family, I would give them some."

"But you have no cakes; what then are you willing to do?"

"When I get money enough to buy all the things I want, and have some over, I'll give them some."

"But you haven't enough money to buy all you want, and perhaps never will have; what will you do to bless the poor now?"

"I'll give them some bread."

"You have no bread—the bread is mine."

"Then I could earn money and buy a loaf myself."

"Take things as they are now—you know what you have that is your own; what are you willing to give to help the poor?"

The boy thought again. "I'll give them half my money; I have seven pennies; I'll give them four. Wouldn't that be right?"

GETTING NEW SCHOLARS.

A LITTLE girl in the infant class one day said to her teacher, "I want everybody to come to the Sabbath-school."

That was surely a very good desire in this little girl. But she was not satisfied in only expressing her desire to her teacher: she at once began to put forth efforts to accomplish the object of her wishes, and ere long she brought into the infant department thirteen little boys and girls. If all the children would follow the example of this little girl, what a host of little ones would be gathered into the infant departments of all our Sabbath-schools.

"PROMISE ME NOT TO SWEAR."

ONE day a gentleman observed a group of boys, bent on play, strongly urging another boy to join them. He was struck with the very decided "No" which the boy gave to all their entreaties. Anxious to see the result, he stepped into an entry, where he could hear and see, and not be much observed. "That boy has a will to resist the whole band of them," he said to himself. A last effort was made to induce him to go with them.

"Now, James, will you not come? you are such a good player!"

"Yes," he replied; "but on one condition. Give me your hand that you will not swear, and I will go."

They did so; and with joy all ran off to play.

We are sure the game lost none of its interest for want of the swearing. Noble boy! not ashamed to show that he was on the Lord's side, even in the face of ungodly playfellows.

THE HABIT OF SAVING.

CHILDREN who have a little money ought to practice saving something. Many girls and boys of to-day hardly know a higher use for any money that comes into their hands than spending it for some foolish thing as quickly as possible. To such a lesson of self-denial and economy is very important. As go the boy's pennies and dimes, so, very likely, will go the man's dollars and hundreds by and by. Without having the custom of a miser, the person accustomed to save has more pleasure in laying up than a spendthrift ever knows. The way to keep money is to earn it fairly and honestly. Money so obtained is pretty certain to abide with its possessor. But money that is inherited, or that in any way comes without a fair and just equivalent, is almost certain to go as it came. The young man who begins by saving a few dollars a month and thriftily increases his store—every coin being a representative of good solid work, honestly and manfully done—stands a better chance to spend the last half of his life in affluence and comfort, than he who in his haste to become rich, obtains money by dashing speculations, or the devious means which abound in the foggy region lying between fair dealing and actual fraud. Among the wisest and most thrifty men of wealth, the current proverb is, money goes as it comes. Let the young man make a note of this, and see that their money comes fairly, that it may long abide with them.