

Children's Department.

DARE TO SAY "NO!"

Dare to say "No" when you're tempted to drink, Pause for a moment, my brave boy, and think— Think of the wrecks upon life's ocean tossed For answering "Yes," without counting the cost; Think of the mother who bore you in pain! Think of the tears that will fall like the rain; Think of her heart, and how cruel the blow; Think of her love, and at once answer "No!"

Think of the hopes that are drowned in the bowl; Think of the danger to body and soul; Think of the sad lives once as pure as the snow, Look at them now and at once answer "No." Think of a manhood with rum-tainted breath; Think how the glass leads to sorrow and death; Think of the homes that, now shadowed with woe, Might have been heaven had the answer been "No."

Think of lone graves both unwept and unknown, Hiding fond hopes that were fair as your own; Think of proud forms now for ever laid low, That still might be here had they learned to say "No." Think of the demon that lurks in the bowl, Driving to ruin both body and soul; Think of all this as life's journey you go, And when you're assailed by the tempter say "No."

HOW TO MAKE LENT PROFITABLE.

We wish we could present to our young readers the idea of Lent just as it really is. It is regarded by so many as a long, dreary, sad season, with no bright spot in it. They, consequently, dread its coming, and are glad when it is over. Now we think this is a very wrong view to take of this season, and we should be glad to correct it. The very meaning of the word Lent is anything but sad. It is a good old Saxon word, and signifies Spring, and Spring, we all know, comes after Winter, and is full of brightness and hope. It is the time when the grass begins to spring up, the leaves to put forth, and the flowers to bloom.

There is something very grand and inspiring about this season of Lent, and we want you all to find this out for yourselves. This is what it means to us: A time for a fresh start; a time to be better; a time for new helps heavenward; a time for taking closer hold of what we know is true, and so every day to grow stronger in and for the right. We want Lent to mean all this to our boys and girls, for Lent is a time appointed by our Church for special thought and prayer. We are so apt to grow careless and to forget our good desires and resolutions, that we all, old and young, need such special times to remind us of what our Heavenly Father wants us to be and to do. Let us all then, take a fresh start together. If we have grown careless in our work and unfaithful in our duties, if we have neglected to pray and read God's Word, let us make up our minds at once to stop all this, to turn right around and begin a better life.

It is a grand thing to grow better. It is the pleasantest feeling in life to know we are making progress, and improving as we go on. Come, then, and let us start together to put down the wrong by doing the right.

There is a beautiful Bible story of a boy who was only eight years old. It was written for the sake of other children, that they might see what this boy was and what he did while he was yet young. "Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet young, he began to seek after the God of David, his father." (2 Chron. xxxiv.)

Only eight years old, and yet a king! How strange it seems! The little boy who is reading this would think it very wonderful if any one should want him to sit on a throne and be a king. But this was what Josiah did; and besides this, God honored him by having the story of his reign written in His own Holy Word, so that it should never be forgotten. And in this story of the child-king it is told that "while he was yet young, he began to seek after the God of his father David."

Now you cannot all be kings, but you all can

be children of God, and serve him faithfully, as Josiah did, in your daily life, and though your names cannot be written in the Bible, as Josiah's was, they will be written with his in the Book of Life.

"Twas a goodly thing
That the Lord should bring
An eight-year child to be a king;
But a goodlier word
Does the tale record:
That the eight-year king was a child of God."

Our young readers must excuse us if we continue to remind them of things which they cannot afford to get. We are anxious, not so much to amuse them, as to inspire within them noble thoughts, and a high and holy ambition. Boys and girls are so apt to think that they are so young, and that there is so much time before them, that they need not trouble themselves yet as to what they are going to be or to do.

This is a very dangerous and cowardly notion which the devil puts into them, and we wish to knock it right on the head. There is not one of you so young or small but that has already made a start, and gone a good way in doing what you are going to do, and in becoming what you are forever to be. You have, therefore, no time to throw away.

The other day we were walking along the street, when we met four little fellows not ten years of age, well dressed, and evidently belonging to what are termed respectable families. Three of these urchins were smoking cigarettes in the most approved style. Not far from them were some other little fellows who hadn't pennies enough to buy cigarettes, and so they were content to puff away at some old stumps of cigars which they had picked up in the gutters. Now, how far do you think these boys got along in making themselves what they are to be? We will tell you: They had got on so far, that there are three chances to one that they will go on from bad to worse, until they make shipwreck of themselves, or until something occurs to open their eyes to see their danger, and then it will take years to undo the mischief they have done. We shall, therefore, continue to warn all the boys and girls, far and near, not to wait till they are half grown up before they begin to think what they are going to do or be in the world. Somebody has said that "the child is the father of the man," and a greater than somebody has said, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."

CONFIRMATION.

Confirmation or the rite of laying of hands, has come down to us from the days of the Apostles. It is mentioned in Heb. vi. 2, as one of the first principles of the Christian religion.

The essential points in Confirmation are these; 1st. It must be administered by a Bishop. No one else is authorized to administer it.

2nd. The candidates must first have received Holy Baptism.

3rd. They must have reached the years of discretion, so as to understand the solemnity and importance of the transaction.

4th. They must have sufficient knowledge of the truths of religion.

5th. They must have a sincere purpose, with God's help, to live a Christian life.

The preface to the Confirmation service shows why the rite is administered. The question asked by the Bishop and which every candidate must answer for himself is a solemn and searching one and although the answer is the simple "I do" yet no one can consider what it means without being deeply impressed with its significance.

"I do" what?

1st. I do renounce the devil and all his works, the vain pomp and glory of the world, with all covetous desires of the same, and the sinful desires of the flesh, so that I will not follow or be led by them.

2nd. I do believe all the articles of the Christian faith as contained in the Apostles' Creed.

3rd. I do promise to keep God's holy will and commandments, and walk in the same all the days of my life.

What great promises these are! And yet how

utterly unable we are to keep them! But what words follow? "Our help is the name of the Lord." We are not to keep the promise in our own poor strength, But the Chief minister and the Church implore for us the help which comes from Him who made Heaven and earth.

There are few moments more impressive than those spent by the candidate as he kneels before God's altar with the hands of the Bishop upon his head, and the prayer ascending heavenward for the Holy Spirit.

How can any one consider Confirmation a mere form or enter into it lightly? Surely it is one of the most important transactions in any life, and if entered into with a right spirit, must result in the securing of heavenly blessings, in confirming good resolutions, and in the consecration of heart and life unreservedly to God for ever more.

THE LITTLE WREN.

The following story of a little wren in connection with the Battle of the Boyne, which was fought in Ireland many years ago, will bring to mind the words of Jesus, that not a sparrow shall fall on the ground without the knowledge of our Heavenly Father. Little things often bring about great consequences:

It was in the month of July, a hot summer's day. Just before the battle, the sentinels of King William's army felt uncommonly tired and sleepy, and very much inclined to take a nap, notwithstanding the near neighborhood of the enemy. Of course, if grown-up soldiers fell asleep, a little drummer boy could not be expected to keep awake. While he slept, his companions nodding around him, a little wren spied some crumbs upon his drum-head, and straightway hopped upon it to pick them up. The noise of her little feet and her beak tapping on the parchment woke the lad, who spied the enemy advancing, and instantly gave the alarm. But for this little bird the sleepers might have been surprised, and the events of the day altered. As it was, the skill of William won him the victory, and James fled beaten from the field.

NEW SECTS.—The tables published by the registrar-general show that there are now in England, outside of the established Church, 163 religious sects. During the past year no less than nine new sects have been added to their number. Each of these bodies has registered places of worship of its own, for it is only because of licenses issued for them that they become recognizable by the registrar-general. The new bodies thus added to our already numerous sects are, "Advent Christians," "Believers meeting in the name of the Lord," "Christian Disciples," "Free Evangelical Christians," "Open Baptists," "Protestant Trinitarians," "Reformed Episcopal Church," "Reformed Presbyterians," and "The Order of St. Austin." Commenting upon these facts the *National Church* says: "It is sad to think that each of these bodies professes to teach a purer Gospel than the rest, and sadder still to remember that these religious divisions have done more for Rome than all the arguments of her most powerful and subtle theologians. They form one of the greatest blots in the religious history of England."

It is position and not possession that renders us happy.—Montaigne.

Births, Marriages and Deaths.

NOT EXCEEDING FOUR LINES, TWENTY-FIVE CENTS.

MARRIAGE.

At St. Mary's Church, Summerside, P.E.I., on Wednesday morning, the 19th ult., by Rev. T. S. Richey, Robert Hogg, Esq., of Charlottetown, to Miss Jessie Gourlie, of Summerside.

DEATHS.

Departed this life on Feb. 12th, at Lee, Kent, England, Eliza Carnegie Gordon, widow of the late Lieutenant-Colonel Algernon H. Gordon, Madras Native Infantry, sister of Mrs. Gemley, of London, Ont., and of the Rev. G. J. Low, Rector of Merrickville, Diocese of Ontario.