## 180

### Family Reading.

### THE LIGHT OF TRUTH.

"Detestable Phantom ! cried the travel- young one, you have not had the driving of ler, as his horse sank with him into the us home to night, though you think you can morass; 'to what a miserable end have do anything, I know. A precious home it you lured me by your treacherous light !' would have been at the bottom of the

tered the Will-o'-the-Whisp in reply. Always throwing blame on others for troubles you have brought upon yourself. What more could have been done for you, got half-way to him once when I was a unhappy creature, than I have done? All young 'un, but an old neighbour when I was a the weary night through have I danced on the edge of this morass, to save you and and called me back. He's a villain is that others from ruin. If you have rushed in shamefaced Will-o-the-Wisp.' further and further, like a headstrong fool, With these words the farmer struck the in spite of my warning light, who is to pony so harshly with his heavy whip, blame but yourself?'

rejoined the traveller; 'I took your light adventure in the bog, that little Colin was for a friendly lamp, but have been deceiv. thrown up and down like a ball, and the ed to my destruction.'

wisp, anxiously-'I work out my appoin- his wife sooner than the poor pony was in ted business carefully and ceaselessly. the habit of taking him. My light is ever a friendly lamp to the wise. 'They are safe, observed the Will-o-the-It misleads none but the headstrong and Wisp, as the cart moved on, ' and that is the ignorant.

little you do know to whom you are speak- world I live in !' ing! Trusted by my King-honored by my country-the leader of her councilsah, my country, my poor country, who will take my place and guide you when I am by his father's side along the moor. 'I am gone !

Misjudging, misled, and-though wise, us to find our way. Let me go after him, I can walk." Bishop Bedell learned Irish Mrs. Mar perhaps, in the false laws of soicety-igno. can soon overtake him.' And the little boy when sixty years of age. rant in the glorious laws of Nature and of touched his pony with a whip, and in an-Truth-who will miss you, presumptuous other minute would have been cantering Truth—who will miss you, presumptious other influte would have mistaken the light that along after the light, but his father laid a being? You have mistaken the light that along after the light, but his father laid a sudden and a heavy hand upon the bridle. Whitfield, in one of his sermons, gives the Connecticut people the following characwarned you of danger for the star that was sudden and a heavy hand upon the bridle. Connecticut people the following characto guide you to safety. Alas for your country, if no better leader than you can any rate, if you please, my darling.' be found !

The statesman never spoke again, and ing with his hand to the light. the Will-o'.the wisp danced back to the edge of the black morass; and as he flick- smiling; 'and well is it for you that I net horse and mule, without bit or bridle. In ered up aud down, he mourned his luck- only see, but know the meaning of what 1 o her colonies I have paid for my food and less fate-always trying to do good-so see at the same time. That light is neither lodging, but never could spend one p nuy often vilified and misjudged. 'Yet,' said the gleam from a cottage, nor yet a friendly in fruitful Connecticut, whose banks flow he to himself, as he sent out his beams man with a lanthorn, as you think, though with milk and honey, and whose sons and through the cheerless night-'I will not for the matter of that the light is friendly

me to my death !

themselves, you call me "monster." Why along the beaten road as well as they could did you follow a "monster" into a swamp ? by the imperfect light. cried the poor Will.o'-the-wisp, angrily.

to meet me. I mistook your hateful light | Wisp, papa,' murmured the little boy, refor his- Oh, cruel fiend, I know you now. luctantly urging his pony on. Must I die so young, so fair ? Must I be torn from life and happiness and love ! Ay, dance ! dance on in your savage joy.' for the pretty name you have called him,' laughed the father. 'You are of the same

see you perish,' answered the Will-o'. his craft, saidthe-wisp. It is my appointed law to warn

• And is that the fool's errand you'd be going after ?. cried he, pointing with his whip to the light. 'It's lucky for you,

the rebel chiefs gathering their armed forces in sorrowful silence, and proceeding with the train of true mourners who bore the "deposit of William Bedell" to its resting-"The same old story for ever !' mut- sludgy pond yonder, for that's where you'd place; to hear them respectfully requesting Mr. Clogy to perform the burial service, "promising that they would not interrupt in the least;" and then firing a general volley over the grave with unanimous shout, "May the last of the English rest in peace; "while the faithful reformed priest, Denis O'Sheridan, who sheltered his last hours, and all the other converts from popery,

stand weeping and unmolested round his open grave, and the Romish priest Edmund twitching the reins convulsively at the "I am an unknoppy creature, indeed,' same time, at the mere memory of his Farrelly, smites upon his breast, and exclaims aloud, "O sit anima mea cum Bedello," O may my soul be with that of Bedell ! In one pithy sentence Mr. Clogy cart rolled forward in and out of the ruts gives the clue to this mystery. "Because, 'Yet not by me,' cried the Will-o'the- at such a pace, that Hobbinoll got home to as the land of Zabulon and Nepthali, Galilee of the Gentiles, that was most oppress-

ed by Jabin and the Midianites, and hence was most rude and ignorant and dark until great point gained ! Nevertheless, I will "Headstrong ! ignorant !' exclaimed the statesman, for such the traveller was the else. But what a rude and ungrateful this his dear servant of Christ, in imitation | 1

'I see a light at last, papa !' shouted a so glad! There is either a cottage or a 'A guide who cannot guide himself! friendly man with a lanthorn who will help Not a step further in that direction at ter :-"They are the wisest of any upon the

'Oh, papa !' expostulated the child, point-

Oh, my son, I see !' cried the father, all sides, and they may be compared to a daughters never fail to feed and refresh the where your deathly swamps. The old natu-near your deathly swamps. The old natu-ralist knows you well—good night, and thank you for your warning.' So saying, the naturalist turned the rein of his son's port the other way, and they both trotted along the beaten road as well as they could by the imperfect light. After all, it was more like a lanthorn 'Ay, ay, I said so ? It is always some thank you for your warning.' S. saying, condemned the Quaker as a blasphemer of one else who is to blame, and never your. the naturalist turned the rein of his son's the holy Sabbath, fined, tarred and feather. self. When pretty fools like you deceive pony the other way, and they both trotted ed him, put a rope around his neck and

"I thought my betrothed had come out than those pictures of the nasty Will-o'the-

'Our friend is not much indebted to you in with the strange announcement that a shark and a turtle were engaged in a fight Fool as you are, it is not joy to me to mind as the poet, who, with the license of alongside. Doubtful and amazed at the account of so unusual and so unequal a

"Yonder phantom only shines combat, we all rushed on deck, and there, To lure thee to thy sure enough, we saw an immense shark 'Yes, papa, and so he does,' interposed and a turtle of venerable antiquity, if one might judge by his size and the profusion persist in disregarding that law, and turn- 'But, indeed, he does no such thing, my of barnacles and other parasites with which he was decorated. Without respect for his age and Quaker-like habits, the shark made furious charges at the poor 'But the shining seems as if he was turtle, who opposed the dangerous jaws of the enemy with full front on his back, on Only because you choose to think so, which no impression could be made. On one occasion the turtle did not turn quite sharply enough, which cost him the greater invites him to approach the dangerous part of one unlucky flipper. Indignant at the perversion of such an aldermanic banquet to the voracious and indiscriminating appetite of a shark, our skipper intervened 13. 'He only knows by teaching and inquiry, with a harpoon, but with such ill judged on the point; whereupon, in our disappoin . ment, we would almost have pitched him swamps and marshes as a land-beacon of after it. It, however, answered the purpose of scaring away the shark for a few moments, which the turtle made the most

# The Church.

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and save those who will be warned. It is my appointed sorrow, I suppose, that the recklessness and ignorance of such as you the boy.

ing good into evil. I shone bright and dear-on the contrary, he spends all his brighter before you as you advanced, en. life in shining brightly to warn travellers treating you, as it were, to be warned. of the most dangerous parts of the swamp.' But, in wilfullness, you pursued me to your ruin. What cruel mother brought you up, inviting them to go after him, papa.' and did not teach you to distinguish the steady beam that guides to happiness, from my dear, and do not enquire. Does the the wandering brilliancy that bodes de. sailor think the shining of the lighthouse struction ?'

"My poor mother !' wept the maiden- rocks on which it is built ?' "What words are these you speak of her? Oh, no, papa, because he knows it is But you in your savage life know nothing, put there on purpose to warn him away," of what she has done for me, her only child. Mistress of every accomplishment that can Arthur; and so you also by teaching and adore and delight society, my lightest word, | inquiry will learn to know that this Willmy very smile, is a law to the world we o'the-wisp is made to shine for us in move in."

'Even so! Accomplished in fleeting danger. The laws of nature, which are and fantastic arts that leave no memorial the acted will of God, work together in this behind them-unacquainted with the beau- case, as in all others, for a good end. And ty and purposes of the realities around it is left to us as both a privilege and a you, which work from age to age in silent pleasure, to search and trace out, and then mercy for gracious ends, and put to shame avail ourselves of the mercies as well as the toil that has no aim or end. Oh, that the wonders of the Great Creator. Can you had but known the law by which I you think of a better employment? The fire was very bright, and the tea live !?

The maiden spoke no more, and then was warm and good, that greeted the she ceased to struggle. The Will-o' the. travellers, father and son, on their arrival Wisp danced back yet another time to the at home that night. Many a joke, too, edge of the black morass, 'For,' said he, passed with mamma as to the sort of tea "I may save somebody yet. But what a they should have tasted, and the kind of bed they should have laid down in, had foolish world I live in !' Ish world I hve in ! they only gone after the Will-o'the-wisp,

• The old squire should mend these here as young Arthur had so much wished to do. roads,' observed Hobbinoll, the farmer, to And for just a few days after these events his son Colin, as they drove slowly home -not more at that time, for children's from market in a crazy old cart, which wisdom seldom does, or ought to, last much shook about with such jerks, that little Co- longer-Arthur had every now and then lin tried in vain to keep curled up in a a wise and philosophical fit, and on the corner. It was hard to say whether the principle that, however much appearances fault was most in the roads-though they might be to the contrary, the laws of nature were rather rulty, it must be owned-or were always working to some good and in the stumbling old pony who went from beneficent end, he sagely and gravely side, or in the driver, who seemed unable reproved his little sister for crying when at times to distinguish the reins apart, so it hailed : 'For surely,' said he, though we that he gave sudden pulls, first one way cannot go out to day, the storm is doing and then the other. But through all these good to something or somebody sometroubles it comforted the farmer's heart to where.'

lay all the blame on the squire for the bad , It was a blessed creed! though it cost roads that led across the boggy moor. him, for awhile, a struggle to adhere to it, Colin, however, took but little interest in when the lightning flashed round him, and the matter; but at length, when a more the thunder roared in the distance, and he violent jerk than usual threw him almost saw from the windows dark clouds hanging sprawling on the bottom of the cart, he over the landscape. When some one said jumped up, laid hold of the side planks, the storm had been very grand, he thought, and began to look around him with his half yes, but it was grander still to think that sleepy eyes, trying to find out where they all these laws of nature, as they are called were. At last he said, 'She is coming, -this acted will of God-was forever working, night and day, in darkness and father.' in light, recognized or unheeded, for some

"Who's coming ? shouted Hobbinoll.

wise and beneficent end. 'Tis mother,' answered Colin. Yes! when he was older he would try "What's she coming for, I wonder,' said Hobbinoll; we've enough in the cart with- and trace out these ends-a better employment could not be found. \* \* \*

out her.' 'But you're going away from her, Meanwhile the Will-o'-the-wisp had father, expostulated Colin, half crying. I heard the kind good night that greeted him see her with the lanthorn, and she'll light as the travellers passed by on that dark us home. You can't see, father; let me evening. And his light shone brighter than ever, as he said, 'I am happy now. have the reins.'

But Hobbinoll refused to give up the I have saved the life of one who not only reins, though he was not very fit to drive. is thankful for it, but knows the hand that In the struggle, however, he caught sight saved him.' With these words he cheerily In the struggle, however, he caught sight saved him. With the spointed post - Rev. Dr. Lett, once a week, in the school. Scottish Ecclesiastical Journal. ther's lanthorn.

of to scuttle to the bottom, where he was safe from the attack of his ravenous admirer.- Voyage to India. -----

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A GEM. - Who wrote the following beautiful epitaph upon an infant? It speaks to the heart :--

Beneath this stone, in sweet repose, Is laid a mother's dearest pride ; A flower that scarce had waked to life, And light and beauty, ere it died. God in his wisdom has recalled

The precious boon His love had given : And though the casket moulders here, The gem is sparkling now in heaven.

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