

ten years old, but they had conducted family worship in the absence of their parents. How many older boys and girls are ashamed to do their duty under such circumstances ?

## The Sunbeam.

TORONTO, SEPTEMBER 4, 1880.

### THE ROAD TO SLUMBERLAND.

**W**HAT is the road to Slumberland,  
And when does the baby go ?  
The road lies straight through  
mother's arms

When the sun is sinking low.  
He goes by the drowsy "land of Nod,"  
To music of lullaby,  
When all wee lambs are safe in the fold,  
Under the evening sky.

A soft little night-gown clean and white,  
A face washed sweet and fair ;  
A mother brushing the tangles out  
From the silken golden hair ;  
Two little tired satiny feet,  
From the shoe and the stocking free ;  
Two little palms together clasped  
At the mother's patient knee.

Some baby words that are drowsily lisped  
In the tender Shepherd's ear,  
And a kiss that only a mother can place  
On the brow of her baby dear ;  
A little round head which nestles at last  
Close to the mother's breast.  
And then the lullaby, soft and low,  
Singing the song of rest.

And close and closer the blue-veined lids  
Are hiding the baby eyes,  
As over the road to Slumberland  
The dear little traveller hies :  
For this is the way, through mother's arms,  
All dear little babies go  
To the beautiful city of Slumberland,  
When the sun is sinking low.

### WHY RATS GNAW.

**I** AM going to tell you why the rats gnaw so much. Did you ever see what lots of holes they make ? If you were to sleep in a house that had rats in the walls, you would hear them gnawing away when you woke up. Rats must get tired of gnawing so much, but they must do it. If they did not their teeth would grow so long they could not eat. It is just the same with the pretty little squirrels and rabbits. They have to gnaw to make their nests and find their food. If their teeth were like yours, they would soon wear out, and they could get nothing to eat. But the teeth of these little animals grow all the time, so they can gnaw all they want to. I have heard that once in a while a squirrel gets lazy. He does not want to crack his nuts, he wants his mamma to crack them for him. He does not want to make a hole in the tree to live in next winter. If he does not get over his laziness pretty soon, he can't eat the nuts after they are cracked for him.

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"READ ; TRY."

**S**OMETIMES little boys and girls tease their mothers when they are busy, by asking questions. There was once a very little boy who used to ask his mother a great many questions ; and how do you think she answered him ? "Read, and you will know," said she ; and she would give him books, where he found all he wished to know, sometimes, too, this little boy used to wish that he could do this difficult thing, or that difficult thing ; and instead of discouraging him, this good mother would say one little word, and that word was "Try." The little boy was Sir William Jones, afterwards one of the most learned men that ever lived.

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By revenging yourself on your enemy, you make him your equal ; by pardoning him, you show yourself his superior.