

The Light-House.

BY REV. E. A. RAND.

LIKE taper tall the light-house stands,
Mid waves all foaming white,
With foot of silver through the day,
With head of gold at night.

But see far up the granite pile,
Within the lantern bright,
That patient toiler every morn,
The keeper of the light.

No inch of glass about the lamp
Escapes his vision keen.
Are all reflectors bright as his?
Are burners rubbed as clean?

To-night, upon our stormy coast,
The waves and thunder fall,
But o'er the sea what splendor streams
From out the lantern tall!

One ray of gold it shoots afar,—
This thought makes bright for me:
Each teacher is a light-house set
Close by a stormy sea.

Keep clean thy life, which serves thy lamp
As lens and burner too.
What glory to the truth when flashed
Thy crystal conduct through!

The Scholars' Questions.

THE asking of questions should not be monopolized by the teacher; the scholar should be encouraged to question the teacher in return. In the questions they ask, the teacher will get a good idea of the way the subject of the lesson appears to their minds and of the difficulties they find in its study. It may not be the best to answer all these questions directly; indeed, as a rule, it will prove more profitable to the scholars for the teacher to suggest by a few questions the way out of the difficulty. This, of course, requires skill on the part of the teacher, but practice will bring great improvement.

It is exceedingly unwise for the teacher to discourage questioning on the part of the class. Some of the questions may seem to be foolish and unnecessary, but if they correctly represent the mind of the scholar, they are not to be treated with levity or contempt. A honest soul earnestly seeking the truth is to be helped, even though his mind be sluggish and his manner awkward. A repulse may hinder all future efforts on his part; a little loving help may become to him a source of strength for the future.

An interesting story is given in the English papers concerning the late Robert Browning, which serves to show the kindness of his heart,

and also to illustrate our meaning. The incident occurred not long before the poet's death:

Robert Browning's poem, "Prospice," was selected for an elocution competition at the Birmingham High School for Girls. One of the competitors, not being able to understand some passages in the poem, wrote to the poet, and appended to the passages in question her own ideas of their meaning. Browning returned the poem carefully annotated with brief but lucid explanations, and added, "There, my dear young lady, I have done the little that was necessary, and hope it may suffice.

"Affectionately yours, Robert Browning."

This note was one of the last written by the poet. "Prospice" is one of the best known of Browning's poems, but we may add that it contains the lines:

"I was ever a fighter, so one fight more;
The best and the last.
I would hate that Death bandaged my eyes, and
forefore,
And bade me creep past."

Doubtless that young lady and her friends will long cherish in memory this little act of kindness on the part of the great poet, and so will the teacher be remembered with reverence and affection who, with loving, skillful hand, guides the scholars out of the mazes of difficulty into the clear comprehension of the truth.—*S. S. Journal.*

Why They Can.

THE old proverb tells it, "because they think they can." The superintendent said, "you see our school is small, and our people are poor. We really need every dollar we can raise right here at home. If we do form a missionary society in our school we can't be expected to raise much."

And with this cold welcome the new society came into life, under the stimulus of a young pastor's zeal. But in one short year the young pastor was removed, not, however, until he had seen nearly twenty dollars given by the school to the cause of missions.

This year that same school gives just one hundred and nine dollars and fifty cents.

How is this?

There is a new superintendent, and he has been saying, all through the year, "You can." He said it in a cheery, confident way, and so clearly has he shown how much can be done with the one hundred dollars, that every child's ambition has been stirred to realize that sum. And they have done it, and more!

"They will do more next year," says the man of faith, "for they have just begun to see what they can do."

And they will not do it at the expense of other interests. They will not imagine them-