

Keep thy father's commandment.—Prov. vi. 20.

The Gospel Ship.

TIME FOR SETTING SAIL.

"Now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."—2 Cor. vi. 2.

WHEN does the vessel sail? When does it weigh anchor? This is what you would hear a person asking if he were going to cross the ocean.

Now, dear children, remember that our life is as a voyage. We are sailing over that which has been called the "Sea of Life." When we go on a voyage we have some place which we desire to reach. So, you desire to reach Heaven. Now then, what is the advertised hour of starting?

Hear it—it is *Now!* Stop and ponder that little word written on the sign-boards of Eternal Truth. It is soon read. It is only three letters; but on these three letters hangs a whole Eternity. *NOW.* It is God's time. It is the best time. It may be the only time! Not to-morrow; to-morrow may come, but it may come too late.

It would never do to go down to the wharf on Tuesday, if the ship were advertised to sail on Monday. God says, *NOW.* Many have put off, and perished. Dear children, don't put this off. Youth is the time to serve the Lord. You have sinned, young though you are. If *you* believe, *you* will be saved, and will receive the gift of God. In other words, you are not too young to set sail on the Gospel ship, and now is the time to get on board.

A DOCTOR writes: "A boy who early smokes is rarely known to make a man of much energy of character. I would particularly warn boys who want to rise in the world, to shun tobacco as a deadly poison."

JONATHAN EDWARDS, when a boy, wrote in his journal: "Resolved to live with all my might while I do live." That was a good resolution, and it was well kept.

"He Never Failed Me."

A GENTLEMAN once visited a public school. At recess a little fellow came up and spoke to the teacher. As he turned to go down the platform, the master said, "There is a boy I can trust: he never failed me." We followed him with our eye, and looked at him when he took his seat after recess. He had a fine, open, manly face. We thought a good deal about the master's remark. What a character had that boy earned! He had already got what would be worth more to him than a fortune. It would be a

passport into the best store in the city, and, what is better, to the whole community. We wonder if the boys know how soon they are rated by other people. Every boy in the neighborhood is known, and opinions are formed of him: he has a reputation either favorable or unfavorable. A boy of whom the master can say, "I can trust him: he never failed me," will never want employment. The fidelity, promptness, and industry which he shows at school are in demand everywhere, and are prized everywhere. He that is faithful in little will be faithful in much.

A LITTLE girl, while walking with her father, on a starry night, looked up to the sky, and being asked what she was thinking about, said, "I was thinking if the wrong side of heaven is so beautiful, what must the right side be?"

Some Things you will not be Sorry for Learning.

FOR hearing before judging.
For thinking before speaking.
For holding an angry tongue.
For stopping the ear to a tattler.
For being kind to the distressed.
For being patient to all.
For asking pardon for wrong.
For speaking evil of no man.
For being courteous to all.

