

Our Young Folks.

BE AS THOROUGH AS YOU CAN.

Whatever you find to do,
Do it, boys, with all your might,
Never be a little true,
Or a little in the right.
Trifles even
Lead to heaven,
Trifles make the life of man;
So in all things,
Be as thorough as you can.

Let no one speak their surface dim—
Spotless truth and honor bright!
I'd not give a fig for him
Who says any lie is white!
Ho who falters,
Twists or alters,
Little atoms when we speak,
May deceive me,
But belov'd me,
To himself he is a sneak!

Help the weak if you are strong,
Love the old if you are young;
Own a fault if you are wrong.
If you're angry hold your tongue.
In each duty
Lies a beauty,
If your eyes you do not shut,
Just as surely,
And securely
As a kernel in a nut!

Love with all your heart and soul—
Love with eye and ear and touch;
That's the moral of the whole,
You can never love too much!

'Tis the glory
Of the story
In our babyhood begun;
Our hearts without it,
(Never doubt it),
Are as worlds without a sun!

If you think a word would please,
Say it, if it is but true;
Words may give delight with ease,
When no act is asked from you.
Words may often
Soothe and soften,
Gild a joy or heal a pain;
They are treasures
Yielding pleasures
It is wicked to retain!

Whatever you find to do,
Do it then with all your might;
Let your prayers be strong and true—
Prayer, my lady, will keep you right.
Pray in all things,
Great and small things,
Like a Christian gentleman;
And forever,
Now or never,
Be as thorough as you can.

—Good Words for the Young.

VALUE OF A PENNY.

Thirty years ago, there was seen to enter the city of London a lad about fourteen years of age. He was dressed in a dark, smock frock, that hid all his under apparel, and would have seemed to have been made for a person much taller than the wearer. His boots were smothered with dust from the highway. He had an old hat with a black band, which contrasted strangely with the covering of his head. A small bundle, fastened to the end of a stick and thrown over the shoulder, was the whole of his equipment. As he approached the Mansion House, he paused to look at the building, and seating himself on the steps of one of the doors, he was about to rest awhile; but the coming in and going out of half a dozen persons before he had time to untie his bundle, made him leave the spot for the next open space where the doors were in part closed.

Having taken from his bundle a large quantity of bread and cheese, which he seemed to eat with a ravenous appetite, he amused himself by looking at the bundle before him, with all the curiosity of one unaccustomed to see similar objects.

The appearance of the youth soon attracted my curiosity, and gently opening the door, I stood behind him without his being in the least conscious of my presence. He now began rummaging his pockets, and after a great deal of trouble brought out a roll of paper which he carefully opened. After satisfying him that a large copper coin was safe, he carefully put it back again, saying, to himself, in a low voice, "Mother, I will remember your last words—a penny saved is two pence earned." It shall go hard with me before I part with you, old friend.

Pleased with this remark, I gently touched the lad on the shoulder. He started, and was about to move away, when I said,

"My good lad, you seem tired, and also a stranger in the city." "Yes Sir," he answered, putting his hand to his hat. He was again about to move away.

"You need not hurry away, my boy," I observed. "Indeed, if you are a stranger, and willing to work, I can perhaps help you to find what you require."

The boy stood mute with astonishment, and coloring to such an extent as to show all the freckles of the sun-burnt face, stammered out:

"Yes Sir." "I wish to know," I added, with all the kindness of manner I could assume, "whether you wish to find work, for I am in want of youth to assist my coachman."

The poor lad twisted and twirled his bundle about, and after having duly placed his hand to his head, managed to utter an awkward kind of answer that he would be very thankful.

I mentioned not a word about what I had heard in regard to the penny, but, inviting him into the house, I sent for the coachman, to whose care I intrusted the new comer.

Nearly a month had elapsed after this meeting, and no conversation had occurred, when I resolved to make inquiries of the coachman regarding the conduct of the lad.

"A better boy never came into the house, sir, and as for wasting anything, bless me! I know not where he has been brought up, but I really think he'd consider it a sin if he did not give the crumbs of bread to the poor birds every morning."

"I am glad to hear so good an account," I replied.

"And as for his good nature, sir, there is not a servant amongst us that does not speak well of Joseph. He reads to us while we sup, and he writes all our letters for us. O, sir, he has got more learning than all of us put together; and what's more, he doesn't mind work and never talks about our secrets after he writes our letters."

Determined to see Joseph myself, I requested the coachman to send him to the parlor.

"I understand, Joseph, that you can read and write?"

"Yes sir, thanks to my poor dear mother."

"You have lately lost your mother, then?"

"A month that very day you were kind enough to take me into your house, an unprotected orphan!" answered Joseph.

"Where did you go to school?"

"Sir, my mother had been a widow ever since I can remember. She was a daughter of the village schoolmaster, and having to maintain me and herself with her needle, she took the opportunity of her leisure moments to teach me to read and write, and to cast up accounts."

"And she gave you that penny which was in the paper that I saw you unroll so carefully at the door?"

Joseph stood amazed, but at length replied with emotion, and a tear started from his eye—

"Yes sir; it was the very last penny she gave me."

"Well Joseph, so satisfied am I with your conduct, that not only do I pay you a month's wages willingly for the time you have been here, but I must beg of you to fulfil the duties of collecting clerk to our firm, which situation has been made vacant by the death of a very old and faithful assistant."

Joseph thanked me in the most unassuming manner, and I was asked to take care of his money since I had promised to provide him with suitable clothes for his new occupation.

It will be unnecessary to relate how, step by step, this poor country lad proceeded to win the confidence of myself and partner; the accounts were always correct to a penny. At length he had saved a sufficient sum of money to be deposited in the bank. It so happened that one of our chief customers, who carried on a successful business, required an active partner. This person was of eccentric habits, and considerably advanced in years. Scrupulously just, he looked to every penny, and invariably discharged his workmen if they were not equally scrupulous in dealing with him.

Aware of his peculiarity of temper, there was no person I could recommend but Joseph; and after overcoming the repugnance of my partner, who was unwilling to be deprived of so valuable an assistant, Joseph was duly received into the firm of Richard Fairbrothers & Co. Prosperity attended Joseph in this new undertaking, and never suffering a penny difference to appear in his transactions, he so completely won the confidence of his partner, that he left him the whole of his business, as he expressed it in his will, "even to the very last penny."—*Exchange.*

DUST IN CITIES.

Professor Tyndall states that almost the whole of the dust in rooms is of organic origin, and prominent among these organic bodies is horse manure. The removal of this offensive contamination from the air of infected localities has been the subject of careful experiment and investigation by the London Board of Health. Not only have the droppings been removed from the streets, but the surfaces of the pavements have also been purified by jets of water thrown by steam-power, whereby all the crevices between the stones forming the pavements have been cleansed. In some districts the practice has been adopted of covering all surfaces that are soaked with foul organic materials with a layer of fresh earth. This has been attended with the most satisfactory results. The Val de Travers asphalt pavement is however regarded by Sir Joseph Whitworth, the great English authority on all questions connected with street economy, as offering the most promising relief from such organic dust, since its introduction will tend to hasten the employment of hot-air engines with India rubber tires for all the purposes of street traffic, and the source or cause of the contamination will of necessity disappear.—*Scribner's for May.*

"The difficulty in life," says Arthur Helps, "is the same as the difficulty in grammar—to know when to make the exceptions to the rule."

Sabbath School Teacher.

CLEARNESS IN TEACHING.

The *Sunday School Times* gives the following timely hint to teachers:

"If your own knowledge is vague and uncertain, how can you expect to get the attention of your scholars? They will generally be keen enough to see whether you are well-informed on the subject of the lesson, and if you are not, vain will be your attempt to enlighten them."

"When you explain anything to them, use the simplest words. Explain by asking questions of the class, whenever the thing to be explained will admit of it. Their attention will be much more closely given to you, if you can get some of the talking out of them. One single truth well explained and illustrated, so that the class understands it, is worth more to them than many truths would be, just touched upon, or dimly explained."

REASONS FOR ENCOURAGEMENT.

Rev. Thomas Armitage, D. D., addressing the New York Association of Sunday-school Teachers on the subject of "The Conversion of very young children," said:

"1. The religion of the Lord Jesus is the only religion that wraps a perfect child into its constitution. The Christian religion is the only religion that encloses humanity in the folds of its broad mantle—the only religion in which a child is laid at the foundation of its faith."

"2. The religion of Jesus is the only religion that dares to put its sacred books into the hands of the children. The Christian religion brings all the mysteries of its sacred truth to the mind of the child, and permits it to grasp them by faith. The profound Newton, and the thoughtful Milton, and the inspired Paul, lay hold of them by the same simple faith."

"3. The religion of Jesus is the only religion that boasts its workmanship complete when it works the spirit of the little child."

"4. The religion of Jesus is better adapted to effect the personal salvation of the little child than that of persons in any other period of life."

"5. The faculties developed first and in childhood are those powers which are exercised in conversion. The appeal comes to the will, governing it; it comes to the affections, warming them and making them active; it comes to the conscience, making it sensitive."

THE SIZE OF CLASSES.

We have always been advocates for the small classes, while we have always opposed any very strict limitation of the classes. Of late we are inclined to think that in many cases there might be larger classes. Why should the infant class and the Bible class be indefinitely large while the intermediate ones are strictly limited to about half a dozen pupils? With the present awkward accommodations it would be difficult to have classes much larger than they are. But the Sunday-school of the present will be able to mould the church buildings of the future, and in the future we may be able to have separate apartments for the several classes. Even now the size of many classes might very well be increased.

What are the conditions that should limit the size of a class?

1. A class should not be so large that the teacher can not successfully keep the attention of the entire class. But a teacher's ability to hold the attention of a whole class depends largely on the teacher's own qualification. It depends also on the suitability of the teacher to that particular class. A teacher who can not touch one class may easily master another. It is also important that the class should be adapted to each other. A class unsuited in capacity and taste to another can not be interested by the same teaching. What is appropriate to one is not fit for the other.

2. A teacher should not have more scholars than can be brought under his direct personal influence. Personal influence is also a matter of personal character. Some teachers will captivate two hundred scholars more easily than others will exert an influence over three.

If we could have separate rooms, blackboards, maps and other conveniences, we might easily enlarge our classes, securing better teachers and perhaps better results. While we are as much as ever opposed to any stiff grading upon the basis of knowledge, we are ready to confess that we believe that fewer and larger classes might be better than the present system.—*Rev. Edward Eggleston, D. D.*

ADAPTATION OF METHODS.

"Children like to repeat their successes." There is in every soul a conscious pride when a purpose has been accomplished. The memory of success is sweet to all alike. Nor is this pride ignoble when it compares its efforts, not with what others are doing, but with high ideals. Let us take this principle in the mind of the child, and not check his pride, but twine it around noble and heavenly things.

Little Jessie is learning to read. I notice if left to herself she invariably turns to the pages with which she is perfectly familiar, and every little while she will cease her rapid rattling of words to say, "How wise I am getting!" This wee child has taught me a lesson. She has given me a key to her little being. The advance pages of her Primer are a combination of new words with those of the preceding pages; then a perfect familiarity with each lesson is the basis of all advancement. It is so with everything in life. God causes the child to recognize the fact with a loving instinct. I see if I would make little Jessie happy as a learner, and what child will learn without it is a pleasant task, I must often let her tell me what she already knows. Not only this, but I must endeavor to find in the new as much as possible of the old. And yet as a philosopher has aptly said, "Every virtue by excess becomes a vice." One must not so far yield to this one characteristic of a child's mind as to render his method puerile, overlooking a desire equally strong, i. e., a desire for knowledge. The former should only be taken as the pleasantest, most direct way to gratify the latter.

How may the Infant Class teacher adapt these principles to religious work?

1. Let there be a connecting thought in all the lessons, so that reference may be helpfully, aptly made to the preceding lessons, blending the old with the new.

2. Set a time apart occasionally for a general review of the lessons recently given.

3. Introduce the lesson with some incident of the home or of the play.

4. Call for the Golden Text of last Sunday to be repeated.

5. Let the little ones sing the songs they best enjoy.

6. Before the prayer, let them tell of the pleasures God has given them during the week. Then let the teacher make the prayer one of thanksgiving, naming as far as possible those things to which the children have referred.

CAUTION.—Never say to the children I will let you do this and so "because you do it so well," but rather "because you want to do for God what you can do well. We like to give him the best we have." Thus we will place pride in success not upon self, but upon a holy purpose.

Scientific and Useful.

A WISE ARRANGEMENT.

It is rather a curious fact that all animals are really two joined together. Every man is corporeally made up of two halves, precisely alike, united in a medial line. Thus, we have two brains, separated by a vertical partition; two eyes, two ears, two hands, two kidneys, two lungs, two arms, two legs and so on. In case of a palsy of one-half of the body, a very common circumstance, the functions of life and mental operations are carried on by the well half. For years, in some instances, one-half the body is dragged about without contributing at all to vitality. Were it not for this beneficent duplication, an attack of paralysis would be death *de facto* of the individual.

THE VIRTUE OF THE SUNFLOWER.

Mr. Martin, in a paper presented by him to the *Societe Therapeutique de France* affirms that the common sunflower, extensively cultivated, has the effect of neutralizing the unwholesome vapors which are so fatal to health and life in marshy districts. The Dutch, who live only by diking and draining their low lands, and are, therefore, good authority, pronounce sunflower culture a specific for intermitting fever, the scourge of Holland. They assert that it has disappeared from every district where the experiment has been tried. It is not yet known whether this is the result of its rapid growth producing oxygen, or whether it emits ozone and destroys those germs, animal and vegetable, which produce that miasma which brings fever in its train.—*Medical Record.*

GAS-BILLS.

People who complain of heavy gas-bills are very much in the habit of doubting the trustworthiness of the meters used, ascribing the overcharge to false measurement. Where contested bills have been carried into court, the results of the most stringent tests have generally shown that the meters record the amount of gas passing through them correctly. But meters do not record the quality of the gas; and there is as much difference in the illuminating power of good and bad gas, as there is in the wearing qualities of a serviceable cloth and the flimsiest shoddy. And here is where the cheat generally comes in. An inferior article of gas not only affords much less light than a good article, but it also passes through the burner much more rapidly; so that the poorer the gas the higher is the price the consumer is obliged to pay for it.

RIGHT KIND OF COOKING STOVE.

The Agricultural humorist of the *Hartford Courant* makes some pertinent suggestions relative to cooking stoves as follows; "A cooking-stove at present

is made to cost the consumer more than twice what it need, if the manufacture were placed upon some settled basis. We don't want a flowery affair in the kitchen, overloaded with ornaments in an ugly mimicry of architecture. Cast-iron flowers are no way lovely. We don't want to pay for them or have them in the way of the blacking and dust-brush. All the unnecessary surface about a cooking-stove gives just so much expanse of black-lead to be burnt into the atmosphere of the room. If the form of a dry-goods box is the most convenient, let us have that; or if there must be here and there a projection, let the corners be rounded, with a few places left for dust to lodge as may be, and done with it."

SUBSTITUTE FOR TEA AND COFFEE.

Tea and coffee are threatened with a Brazilian rival, called guarana. Guarana consists of the seeds of a tree known to botanists as the *Paullinia sorbitis*, which is abundant. The tree produces a fruit the size of a walnut, containing five or six seeds. The seeds are roasted, mixed with water and dried. Before being used they require grinding, when they fall into a kind of powder. The acting principle is an alkaloid identical with that found in tea and coffee, but there is twice as much of it in guarana as there is in tea. The effects are similar to those of tea and coffee.

When a carpet is taken up to be cleaned, the floor beneath it is generally very much covered with dust. This dust is very fine and dry, and poisonous to the lungs. Before removing it, sprinkle the floor with very dilute carbolic acid, to kill any poisonous germs that may be present, and to thoroughly disinfect the floor, and render it sweet.

In a communication to the Royal Physical Society of Edinburgh, on the Extirpation of Venomous Serpents from Islands, Mr. Robert Brown calls attention to the fact that the common domestic pig has exterminated rattle-snakes in some districts of Oregon, and that great antipathy exists between the pig and poisonous snakes in all parts of the world. The animal seems to enjoy, in a singular degree, immunity from the venom of reptiles; and the author is disposed to regard the non-occurrence of snakes in Ireland as attributable to the large number of pigs kept in that country.

SICK ROOM HINTS.

A sick room should have a pleasant aspect. Light is essential. Blinds and curtains may be provided to screen the eyes too weak to bear full day, but what substitute can make up for the absence of that blessed sunshine without which life languishes? The walls should be of a cheerful tint; if possible, some sort of out-door glimpse should be visible from the bed or chair where the invalid lies, if it but the top of a tree or a bit of sky. Eyes which have been traveling for long, dull days over the pattern of the paper hangings, till each bud and leaf and quill are familiar—and hateful, brighten with pleasure as the blind is raised. The mind, wearied of the grinding battle with pain and self, and unconscious refreshment in the new interest. Ah, there is a bird's shadow flitting across the pane. The tree top sways and trembles with soft rustlings—a white cloud floats dreamily over the blue,—and now, oh delight and wonder, the bird himself comes in sight and perches visibly on the bow, dressing his feathers and quivering forth a few notes of song. All the world, then, is not lying in bed because we are, is not tired of its surroundings—has not the back-ache! What a refreshing thought! And though this glimpse of another life, the fresh natural life from which we are shut out—that life which has nothing to do with pills and potions, tip toe movements, whispers, and doctor's boots creaking in the entry—may cause the hot tears to rush suddenly into our eyes, it does us good, and we begin to say with a certain tremulous thrill of hope: "When I go out again, I shall do"—so and so.

Ah, if nurses, if friends knew how irksome, how positively harmful, is the sameness of a sick-room, surely love and skill would devise remedies. If it were only bringing in a blue flower to day and a pink one to-morrow; hanging a fresh picture to vary the monotony of the wall, or even an old one in a new place—something, anything—is such infinite relief. Small things and single things suffice. To see many of his surroundings changed at once confuses an invalid; to have one little novelty at a time to vary the point of observation stimulates and cheers. Give him that, and you do more and better than if you filled the apartment with fresh objects.

It is supposed by many that flowers should carefully be kept away from sick-people,—that they exhaust the air or communicate to it some harmful quality. This may, in a degree, be true of such strong, fragrant blossoms as lilacs or garden lilies, but of the more delicately scented ones no such effect need be apprehended. A well aired room will never be made close or unwholesome by a nosegay of roses, mignonette, or violets, and the subtle cheer which they bring with them is infinitely reviving to weary eyes and depressed spirits.—*From "Home and Society," Scribner's for April.*