

Sunday-School Advocate.

TORONTO, MAY 28, 1864.

LITTLE MABEL AND THE BROWNIES.

In the olden time, when your great grandmothers were little girls, most people believed that fairies and brownies haunted the woods and streams, and danced beneath the shade of the toadstool. But those tiny little folk never did live anywhere, but in the fancies of people. They were *imaginary* creatures, as you are wise enough to know. But your great grandmothers believed in them, and told many curious stories about them to their children. I will tell you one of the stories they used to tell.

They said there was a little maiden named MABEL, whose mother said to her one midsummer's morning:

"Mabel, you must go wait on your grandmother to-day. Carry her this wheaten cake and this nice pot of butter. Tell her I can't see her to-day because your father is away, and because our poor Amy is very sick. You must wait upon her, must spread her table, feed her bird, make her bed, fetch her water, carry in the wood, and milk the ewe. But listen, my Mabel! This is midsummer-day, and the fairies are about. When you go to the glen

"Do not pluck the strawberry-flower
Nor break the lady-fern.

"Do not think of the fairies at all, but of poor Amy and how you love us all. When you go to the pine-wood do not break the living branches, but pick up the dead boughs. Think not of the wicked brownies, but only of the good Father in heaven.

"And when thou goest to the spring
To fetch the water thence,
Do not disturb the little stream,
Lest this should give offense.

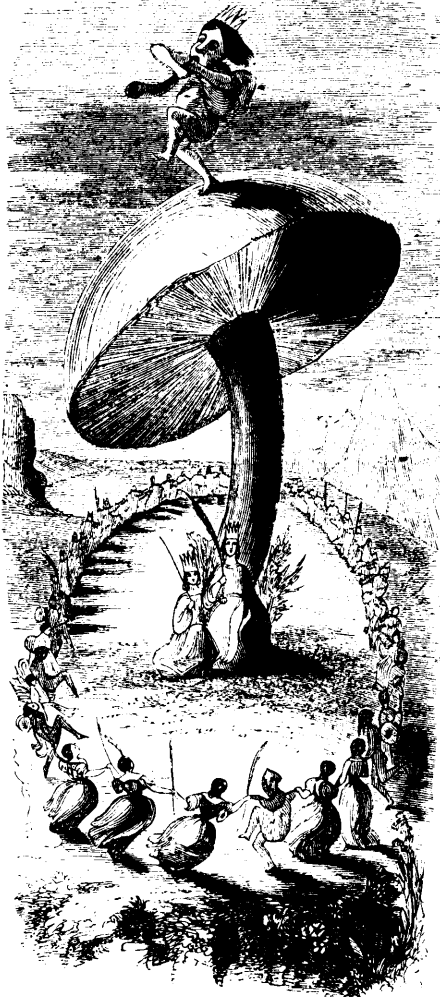
"For the queen of all the fairies,
She loves that water bright;
I've seen her drinking there myself
On many a summer night.

"But she's a gracious lady,
And her thou need'st not fear;
Only disturb thou not the stream,
Nor spill the water clear."



Now Mabel had not the least doubt but that these fairies and brownies were in the glen and the wood. So, like the good girl that she was, she replied:

"Now all this will I heed, mother,
Will no word disobey;
And wait upon my grandmother
This livelong summer-day."



Away tripped Mabel down the lane and past the mowers with light heart and willing feet. She did all her grandmother's work blithely and then went to the spring. There she was careful to fill her pitcher without spilling a drop or stirring up the water. This pleased the "little bright lady," the fairy queen, who, "clothed in green and white," sat by the spring. She praised Mabel's care and said to her:

"Thou shalt do well what'er thou dost,
As thou hast done this day;
Shalt have the will and power to please,
And shalt be loved away."

Mabel was next sent to the wood after some dry sticks for her grandmother's fire. There she saw the wicked brownies, but keeping good thoughts in her mind and being careful not to break the living branches from the trees, she won their favor as she had that of the fairy queen. The brownies admired her "little gown of blue," her "kerchief pinned about her head," and her "little shoe." They threw a "good-luck penny" in her path.

"Now she has that," said the brownies,
"Let flax be ever so dear,
'Twill buy her clothes of the very best
For many and many a year."

Again Mabel was sent out to milk the mother-ewe,

"And when she came to lonesome glen,
She kept beside the burn,
And neither plucked the strawberry flower,
Nor broke the lady-fern."

Then the fairy folk gathered about her, and a little voice said:

"The lady-fern is all unbroke,
The strawberry flower unta'en!
What shall be done for her, who still
From mischief can refrain?"

"Give her a fairy cake," said one,
"Grant her a wish," said three;
"The latest wish that she hath wished,"
Said all, "whate'er it be."

Thus Mabel won the blessing of both good fairy and wicked brownie. Her kindness, industry, and willingness to obey brought her good fortune.

A pretty story, is it not? I have written it to let you see what people believed in the olden time. You know that there are no fairies except the birds in the glen; nor

brownies, except they be squirrels, in the woods. No, God never made such creatures as fairies and brownies. He is everywhere himself, can care for you everywhere, and loves to see you kind, industrious, and obedient. He will give you his blessing, too, whenever you tread in the footprints of Jesus. He will be grieved when you do not.

Are you not glad to live in an age which is too wise to believe in fairies and brownies? If you are you will show it by living a better life than the children of the olden time. For, though there be neither fairy nor brownie in the world, yet

"'Tis good to make all duty sweet,
To be alert and kind;
'Tis good, like little Mabel,
To have a willing mind."

OUR CONVERSATION CORNER.

"Mr. Editor," says the corporal, "I have just examined a new invention from Mr. Craig which delights me exceedingly. It is called the 'Bellevue Stereoscope.' It is portable, and when folded fills a box only six inches long and two inches wide. It is as powerful a magnifier as the most expensive stereoscopes, and is far preferable, because, having a slide, the focus can be adapted to every eye. It is a splendid invention, sir."

That Mr. Craig is a public benefactor. His cheap microscope is doing much toward furnishing children instructive amusement. This stereoscope is a step in the same direction. I recommend it most heartily. Parents cannot purchase the means of so much instructive amusement for the same money in any other way.* Now for the letters, corporal.

"Here is the answer to the anagram in our last Advocate: 'Ethiopia shall soon stretch out her hands unto God.' Psa. lxxviii, 31. And here is a Scripture enigma which I found in a magazine:

"Within the Christian's heart I dwell, his guide and inner light,
His anchor on life's stormy sea, his lamp in sorrow's night.
Viewed by my light his griefs are known as blessings, and by me
He looks beyond the things of time, and sees eternity.
Who seek to read my name aught the initials must combine—

Of one who trembled, taught by me the power of truth divine;

Of one who more than other men in trial I sustained;
And one, made strong by me in prayer, who a new name obtained;

Next one, who knew me not; to him the truth did seem a lie—

A Saviour risen from the grave impossibility;

Last one, who having held me, shipwreck made and let me go,

On whom the apostle in his zeal pronounced a fearful woe.

Who read my name aright, by finding names of these,
Must ask this 'gift of God,' if God they seek to please.

"Here is a line from FRANK, of —. He says of himself and his school:

"We have taken three pledges: 1. That we would always go to Sunday-school. 2. That we would always abstain from the use of intoxicating liquors. 3. That we would never use tobacco. The whole school wants to be admitted into the Try Company.

"Fall in, my lads and lasses!" says the corporal with a most gracious smile, and he adds, "I have no fear that you will bring disgrace on my notable army—only to make you really first-class soldiers I wish you to add another pledge to your list, namely, We do all give our hearts to Jesus Christ."

I approve your suggestion, my corporal. Read on, sir!

"JULIETT D. S., of —, writes:

"As Daniel was a wise man in his day to solve questions, we would ask our wise editor's opinion. We have a small society in this place, and no place but a school-house to worship in. Five young ladies have united and pledged themselves to pay a stated sum monthly, to solicit donations on all suitable occasions, and to work for a festival to be held once a year for the purpose of erecting a church in this place. Don't you think we ought to belong to your Try Company? We all take your paper—please let us know through its columns."

My five pretty punsters are respectfully informed that the corporal thinks very highly of their endeavors, enlists them, and promises to promote them to the rank of sergeants if they succeed in building a chapel without leaving a heavy debt upon it. Is not the corporal as wise as Daniel?

*The "Bellevue Stereoscope" costs \$2 50. With six views the price is \$4 50; with twelve it is \$6 00. Address Henry Craig, 180 Center-street, New York.