

Dr. Wilbur Crafts' Child Stories

Dr. Wilbur Crafts, of Washington, whose work for the Sunday School and for all reforms is so well known to most of our readers, has concluded his third lecturing tour in this country. His most popular lecture is, "That Boy and Girl of Yours," and delivering this in the north of London the other night, the doctor told some good stories, not unlike one that appeared in our last issue. "I was staying one Sabbath," he said, "in a minister's home, and made friends with a little girl of eight, whose brother Tom was a good deal of a tease. When Tom had left the room I said to the little girl, 'Is Tom a good boy?' 'Well,' she replied very slowly, 'Tom is not as good as God—but he's not as bad as the devil!' I heard of another little girl who, asked in the usual way by a lady visitor, 'Are you a good girl?' replied, 'Not very good, and not very bad—I'm just a comfortable little girl!'"

"You may have heard," said the doctor, "of the little boy who prayed, 'O, God, make me a good boy, and if at first you don't succeed, try, try again.' The Heavenly Father needs no such encouragement, but some earthly fathers do. One of them said 'Amen!' when I told that story the other night! One father is reported to have said: 'I can't see how it is my boys ain't good boys. I tell 'em to go down on their knees and pray, and if they don't go down, I knock 'em down. Still, they ain't good!'" Dr. Crafts, who has lectured all over the world, often through interpreters, once had an amusing experience in his own country. A distinguished man was in the chair. Dr. Crafts told his story of the woman who was out with her eight children, and was asked, "Are they yours, or is it a picnic?" She replied: "They're all mine, and it's no picnic." When Dr. Crafts told this the audience laughed for so long that he did not quite understand it—until he learned later that the wife of the distinguished chairman, with her eight chicks, was sitting behind him.—*Sunday School Chronicle.*

A well-known dean of Norwich tells the following story against himself. Some few weeks ago he came to a sabbath in a field which was occupied by a farm lad, who was eating his bread-and-bacon lunch. The boy made no attempt to allow his reverence to pass, so was duly lectured for his lack of manners. "You seem, my lad, to be better fed than I am," he said, "I answer you, by slicing off a piece of bacon, 'for ye teaches OI, but OI feeds myself."—*Exchange.*

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