

The Nineteenth Century Children.

(As sung by Santa Claus.)

REPORTED BY EMILIE POULSSON IN ST. NICHOLAS.

Reporter's Note, No. 1.

I can't tell where I heard it ;
But yet I can't be wrong.
I must have heard old Santa Claus
Sing something like this song,
Or how could I have told you,
Or ever have found out
That Santa Claus could sing at all,
Or what he sang about ?

SONG.

The children of the present
Are wondrous wise, 't is said ;
No superstitious thoughts are found
In any little head.

("But bless their hearts!" laughed Santa,
Right merrily laughed he.
"They cannot bear to give me up ;
They still believe in me—
Oh, yes!
Some still believe in me.")

They don't believe in fairies—
They don't believe in gnomes.
Enchanted castles they "pooh-pooh!"
And likewise haunted homes.
They don't believe in mermaids
With flowing sea-green locks ;
And brownies they disdain—except
Those made by Palmer Cox.

("But bless their hearts!" laughed Santa,
Right merrily laughed he.
They cannot bear to give me up ;
They still believe in me—
Oh, yes!
Some still believe in me.")

They don't believe in witches,
They don't believe in ghosts ;
They don't believe in woodland nymphs,
Nor in the goblin hosts.
They don't believe in giants,
In magic cloak or hat ;
They only smile at "bogie men"
(I'm very glad of that).

(And then again laughed Santa,
Right merrily laughed he.
"They cannot bear to give me up ;
They still believe in me—
Oh, yes!
Some still believe in me!")

They don't believe in Crusoe !
Nor yet in William Tell !
And some have even thrown aside
The cherry-tree as well !
But every year at Christmas
Their faith in me revives.
"Oh, good old Santa Claus," they say,
"We've loved you all our lives !"

("Yes, bless their hearts!" laughed Santa,
Right merrily laughed he.
"They cannot bear to give me up ;
They still believe in me—
Oh, yes!
Some still believe in me.")

Reporter's Note No. 2.

This song shows how he values
You faithful little folks,
Who still believe in Santa Claus
In spite of many jokes.
So hang your stockings, youngsters,
And write notes trustfully,
And don't you pain the dear old chap
By in-cre-du-li-ty.

("For bless their hearts!" sings Santa,
Right merrily sings he.
"They cannot bear to give me up ;
They still believe in me—
Oh, yes!
Some still believe in me.")

Young People's Societies.

CONDUCTED BY A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S COMMITTEE.

THE CHURCH PAPER.

A Pennsylvania Christian Endeavor Society has given a year's subscription to the church paper to every family in the congregation. A good sort of seed sowing! Better still, if all the families could be induced to subscribe for themselves. There is probably no point at which the young people can put in work that will give a richer return than this. Every pastor knows that, where a church paper comes, there is a household of helpers, for indifference is the child of ignorance, and weekly news of how the work of Christ within the Church goes on prepares an entrance for every appeal from the pulpit. Endeavorers who are readers of their denominational paper are apt to be on the alert to all new methods because they know what others are doing. This is the time of year for effort in this direction and there is no society, however feeble, that cannot secure some additional subscribers. Who will try?

MEN AT WORK.

The *St. Andrew's Cross* for November-December contains a full report of the great convention of the St. Andrew's Brotherhood held in Pittsburg, Pa., in October. The Brotherhood, which is an organization in the Episcopal Church, of men, for men, has now passed the stage of experiment, having been in existence for ten years. It has found friends in the highest quarters amongst the bishops on both sides of the Atlantic, although the organization, as yet, has made little progress in Britain. It aims to set its members to work to reach other men and the President was able to say of the results of the first decade:—"We make bold to state that it has put thousands of effective men into general Church work, and has helped to develop thousands who were already there. Our seminaries, Sunday schools, choirs and other parish organizations contain many Brotherhood men, and we note with gratitude the increasing number called to offices in parishes, dioceses and the general work of the Church. The Brotherhood never seeks to get its men into office, but to make them able to be useful. Therefore this recognition by the Church evidences well for the work done."

THE MINISTER'S PART.

Rev. Dr. F. E. Clark, in an interview given to the *Christian Endeavour* of London, England, speaks these wise words as to the minister's part in Endeavor meetings:—"Most ministers are crowded with work; but by mingling with the young they get refreshment and help that well repays the extra effort. I think the minister should, if possible, not only attend, but take part in the meetings of the society as one of its members. He should not always take charge of the meeting, or usually take up much of its time, though, of course, frequently it may be wise for him to give an address or to lead the minds of the young people in a special direction. The ordinary meeting ought to be in the hands of the young people, so that they feel their responsibility for it. If the minister takes all upon his shoulders, the very object of the organization is defeated, because then the young people will not be developed. The only way to develop strength is to use it. Generally speaking, the minister should keep behind the curtain and exercise his power, in part at least, through others. If he so chooses, it is usually well that he should be president; this gives him a direct connection with the society, which he can influence through an acting president or other official. It is of the essence of the organization that it helps the minister. It is sometimes called the Pastors' Aid Society, many Christian Endeavor Societies choosing that as their sub-title."

A woman styled Sister Dora gave up her life to nursing sick people. At the head of her bed a bell was fixed by which sufferers could summon her at any hour of the night. As she rose at the sound of the signal she used to murmur these words, as if they were a charm: "The Master is come, and calleth for thee." It was, says *North and West*, as if the sick sufferer faded away and in the couch she saw the face that was once marred with the world's anguish. Christ's face across her fancy came, and gave the battle to her hands.

One Spiritual Truth I Have Learned This Year.

REV. W. S. M'TAVISH, B.D., DESORONTO.

Dec. 27th.—Psalm xc. 1-17.

The topics which we have had under consideration during the past twelve months have been of a most interesting, instructive and practical character, and we must have been dull indeed if we did not learn a great deal from them. Some of them were topics which are not often discussed in the pulpit or on the platform; thus, in our reading, we have been led along new lines. We are very much mistaken if any one can glance over the topics which have been discussed in the Christian Endeavor Society and not find that several new truths have been learned. If we did not learn anything new, it must have been either because we did not carefully study the subject or because we did not pray that God would enable us to understand it.

It is manifestly impossible to give a list of the topics which we have had under discussion, but even a glance over them will show that they were intended to give us larger and broader conceptions of Christianity; to deepen our spiritual life; to strengthen our faith in Christ; to intensify our love for missions; to stimulate our flagging zeal; to excite us to do our best; to enable us to practise self-control; to bring before us the duties we owe to Christ and the Church; to cultivate a taste for good literature; to foster a spirit of patriotism; to sweeten our home life; to keep our pledge in spirit and in letter; to draw us nearer to God, and to prepare us for death. Surely when we have traversed such a wide field we must have picked up and treasured more than one precious gem of truth.

But God has many ways of teaching. In Old Testament times He sometimes taught by means of visions, as when He enabled Jacob to see that wondrous ladder, whose base rested upon the earth, and whose top reached to heaven. Sometimes He made known His will by means of dreams, as when He permitted Joseph to see the other sheaves making obeisance to his sheaf. Once He made known His will directly. This was when He gave Moses the two tables of stone upon which was inscribed the moral law. Sometimes He revealed His plans and purposes by means of the Urim and Thummim, but how this operated, we have no means of ascertaining now.

God has many ways of teaching still. He speaks to us through His own precious Word. He impresses His truth upon us through pastors and teachers; through His Sabbaths; through the ordinances of the Church; through His Providences and through the Holy Spirit. If we have not mastered new truths it certainly cannot be because we have not had ample means—in fact, so ample are the means provided that we are without excuse. When sickness lays us low He is reminding us that the issues of life and death are with Him, and that He is Jehovah Rophi—the Lord, the physician. Each recurring Sabbath reminds us that Christ has been raised from the dead to die no more. Easter proclaims that Christ has been raised from the dead, and is become the first-fruits of them that sleep. The Christmas season reminds us of God's great gift to the world. When death visits our neighborhood He reminds us that we should be ready for the coming of the Son of Man. Each falling leaf declares that we all do fade as a leaf (Isa. lxiv, 6). Had we only eyes to see, ears to hear and a heart to understand, we would "find sermons in stones, books in running brooks and good in everything." Some one has said "Oh! did we understand things aright, did we see them as they really are, every mountain the world over would be to us a Sinai from which God yet thunders forth His law; every valley would be a vale of Sharon, where roses and lilies bloom; every tree would be to us an acacia wrapped in flame from which God is yet speaking; every orb of light shining in the heavens would be a Star of Bethlehem pointing to the manger."

It would be sad indeed if we permitted a whole year to pass without learning any new truth. It would indicate a deplorable lack of spiritual and moral perception, and it should wring from us the prayer, "Open Thou mine eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law."