

## Children's Corner.

### MY KINGDOM.

A little kingdom I possess,  
Where thoughts and feelings dwell,  
And very hard the task I find  
Of governing it well;  
For passion tempts and troubles me,  
A wayward will misleads,  
And selfishness its shadow casts  
On all my words and deeds.

How can I learn to rule myself,  
To be the child I should,  
Honest and brave, and never tire  
Of trying to be good?  
How can I keep a sunny soul,  
To shine along life's way?  
How can I tune my little heart  
To sweetly sing all day?

Dear Father, help me with the love  
That casteth out my fear;  
Teach me to lean on Thee, and feel  
That Thou art very near;  
That no temptation is unseen,  
No childish grief too small,  
Since Thou, with patience infinite,  
Doth soothe and comfort all.

I do not ask for any crown,  
But that which all may win;  
Nor try to conquer any world  
Except the one within.  
Be Thou my guide until I find,  
Led by a tender hand,  
The happy kingdom in myself,  
And dare to take command.

### THE CONIES: WHAT THEY TEACH.

The conies are but a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in 'the rocks.' What are conies? Some think them to be a kind of rabbit, but, though like, they are quite different. They have no tail, and resemble a guinea-pig in form and size. They are not so big, or strong, or well furnished as a rabbit. Their toes are so soft that they cannot burrow and make holes in the ground. Because they are so feeble and defenceless, they resort to deep clefts in the rocks, and find a safe shelter there. If they are but a feeble folk, yet they have a lively eye in their head, and can be very happy and gay. A score or more of them will come out into the sunshine, and frisk about as if they had found their long-lost tails. But they keep near the rock, and at the slightest sound

or appearance of danger they are off in a moment, safe within the clefts. What do the conies teach us? They say, "Hide in the rock God has provided for you, and be safe." Now the meaning of this illustration is very plain. Here we have another aspect or principle of faith. The ants tell us to provide for the future, and be diligent in the use of means; the conies tell us how frail and unprotected we are, how unable we are to defend ourselves, how completely we must look away from ourselves to some shelter elsewhere. The ants teach us the lesson of self-reliance; the conies teach us the lesson of dependence. We are to be both self-reliant and dependent in this world, but not with regard to the same things. Heaven helps them who help themselves, like the little ants; and heaven helps them, too, who do nothing but keep within the safe hiding-place in the time of danger, like the little conies.

There are circumstances around us, there are experiences we meet with, that make it clear we live a life defenceless and exposed to many a storm and many a change. We are frail creatures in this great universe. A poet says, "I feel as weak as a violet, alone 'neath the awful sky.' But he thought deeply, and came to see a divine Providence that gathered around him, thought and cared for him, and then he could sing again,

As weak, yet as trustful also;  
For the whole year long I see  
All the wonders of beautiful Nature  
Still worked for the love of me.  
Winds wander, and dews drip earthward,  
Rains fall, suns rise and set;  
Earth whirls, and all but to prosper  
A poor little violet.

Yes, that is true, and to rely on that truth is to make one's house in the rock; but what about the actual dangers that threaten to crush us? Storm and tempest may sweep down on us at any moment. Our sins make our situation dangerous; they separate us from God, and leave us unprotected amidst the misfortunes that are without number in this world. Is there a place of defence strong enough to keep us in all danger? Yes! there is one, and only one, and you know it. It is the Lord Jesus, the Rock of Ages. Christ is our Rock. Out of Christ we are nothing but feebleness, but in Him we are safe and strong. Children, trust in the Rock, and make your house there. No condemnation can reach you, and no evil can touch you if you abide in Christ. What-