

## THE TREE.

The Tree's early leaf-buds were bursting their brown:

"Shall I take them away?" said the Frost, sweeping down.

"No, let them alone

Till the blossoms have grown."

Prayed the Tree, while it trembled from rootlet to crown.

The Tree bore its blossoms, and all the birds sung;

"Shall I take them away?" said the Wind, as it swung.

"No, let them alone

Till the berries have grown."

Said the Tree, while its leaflets, quivering, hung.

The Tree bore its fruit in the midsummer glow;

Said the girl, "May I gather thy sweet berries now?"

"Yes, all thou canst see,

Take them, all are for thee."

Said the Tree, while it bent down its laden boughs low.

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## Sunbeam.

TORONTO, MARCH 3, 1906.

## JESUS WHISPERING.

"What is conscience?" said a Sunday-school teacher one day to the little flock that gathered around to learn the words of life.

Several of the children answered—some saying one thing, and another, another—until a little timid child spoke out—

"It is Jesus whispering in our hearts."

Does Jesus whisper in your heart? When you do right does he approve? When you do wrong, does he rebuke?

Does he make your heart sad when you have sinned, and happy when you have done rightly? Be thankful, then, for this; and remember always to heed the Saviour's whisper, and then you will be safely guided to his heavenly home at last.

## SOME SMART RAVENS.

The celebrated Dr. Franklin once had a raven named "Jacob," which showed wonderful powers of mimicry. It would imitate the crowing of a cock, the mewling of a cat, the barking of a dog, the sound made by the rattle for frightening birds from a corn-field, or the cry of a baby.

On washing days he was very fond of taking off the pegs from the clean clothes hung up to dry, and when they fell on the ground would indulge himself with gleeful croakings.

The story is told of an awkward horseman who was thrown from his seat, while a raven perched in a tree above him cried out in a solemn voice, "How silly!"

Many years ago the landlord of a hotel at Mansfield had a tame raven in his stable-yard. I always frequented this inn when I had occasion to go to Mansfield, and whenever I drove or rode into the yard, Tom the raven was sure to be about, and if the hostler was not in sight he invariably called out, with a hoarse but distinct voice, "Hostler, come and take the gentleman's horse!" bustling about all the time in a pompous, amusing manner, as if he had sole charge of the yard.

Some time ago there was a raven at an inn at crossroads, where the coaches used to stop for dinner. But one day, when the coach was about arriving, and dinner was being carried in, what was the surprise of the waiters to find that all the cutlery and bread had disappeared from the table!

The mystery was, however soon explained. The door of the dining-room had been shut, but the window was left open, and through it the raven had entered, for on a heap of rubbish in the yard the spoons, knives, forks, and mats were carefully set out, and the raven was regaling a numerous company of poultry with a dinner of bread.

Dogs and ravens are usually very good friends; and a story is told about a dog and a raven, by a gentleman who some years ago stopped at a country hotel in England.

"Coming into the hotel yard," he says, "my carriage ran over and bruised the leg of a favorite Newfoundland dog; and while we were examining the injury, Ralph, the raven, looked on also, and was evidently making his remarks on what was being done, for the moment the dog was tied up under the manger with my horse, Ralph not only visited him, but

brought him bones, and attended him with particular marks of kindness.

"I spoke of it to the hostler, who told me that the bird had been brought up with the dog, that the affection between them was mutual, and that every one in the neighborhood had noticed the many acts of kindness performed by one to the other.

"In course of time Ralph's friend, the dog, had the misfortune to break his leg, and during the long period of his confinement the raven constantly waited on him, carried him provisions, and scarcely ever left him alone. Once, by accident, the stable door had been shut, and Ralph had been deprived of his friend's company all night, but in the morning the hostler found the door so pecked away that had it not been opened Ralph would in another hour have made his own entrance."

## GOING TO CHURCH.

"I don't see why little girls have to go to church. It's only for big people," said Rose Kennedy.

She was all ready to go to church with her mother, and was waiting for her to put on her bonnet. As she spoke she looked at her dolls in the corner, and her new picture book—oh, if she could only stay at home and have Sunday plays with them!

Her mother took her little girl by the hand, and off they went into the bright sunshine and the beautiful world.

"Rose," she said, "the old Jews didn't know about our loving Saviour, yet their children were all taught to go to church and worship God. Don't you think little folk nowadays ought to want to go more than they? Jesus' parents took him to the great temple when he was little."

"Did they?" asked Rose, much interested. Then she sighed: "Oh, mother, I can't understand the sermons, and I just keep wishing it was over," she said.

"Now let us see if we can't do better than that," her mother replied brightly. "Of course there is much you can't understand, Rose, but I think that a little girl who has been two years in the kindergarten ought to remember something she has heard in church. Just try it to-day."

As soon as Rose was on the way home again she began eagerly: "Oh, mother! I did remember something. They sang 'Nearer, my God, to Thee,' and the minister prayed that 'everybody there, even the little children, would love to keep God's commandments.' And then in his sermon he said: 'God wants us to give cheerfully, not holding back,' and I remembered how I hated to give Jamie my little black donkey, and how I cried at first when you sent my mittens to that poor little boy out West. I'm going to give better next time."

And Rose gave a little skip. "I believe I like church," she said.