

Boys and Girls.

NELLIE DUTTON'S LAMB.

Little Nellie Dutton was only seven years old when she lost her father, who had been a shepherd to a rich sheep-master on the Cheviot Hills. His widow was very sad and very poor, and had a hard struggle to support her one orphan, Nellie, who was too young to help her much. But Nellie knew the Good Shepherd who gave His life for the sheep, and prayed to Him to make her one of the lambs of His flock.

She and her mother lived in a little cottage on the outskirts of the moor, where she kept a goat and a few hens. Mrs. Dutton knitted stockings for the farmers' wives, and sometimes helped in their dairy work in the busy summer time, and in the evening she taught Nellie to read in her father's Bible. Nellie used to help her by picking up firewood and herbage for the goat, and by winding the wool for knitting. When she was between nine and ten years old, she was sweeping away the snow from the doorway one very cold morning in February, when a drover passed the door with his flock, and in his arms was a poor little weak lamb, just born, that looked ready to die with cold.

The drover had known Nellie's father, so he spoke very kindly to her, and seeing how pitifully she looked at the little lamb, he said: "Here, Nellie, take this poor thing, it won't live an hour, but it will make a stew for you and your mother;" and so saying, he put it in her arms, and hurried on to his flock, which the sheep-dog was driving through the snowy road to market. Nellie was filled with joy at the thought of having the lamb for her very own, and she hurried into the cottage to her mother.

"O mother," she said, "see what I have got! Sandy, the drover, gave it to me to make a stew. He said it was dying, but I've warmed a little milk for it, and keep it by the fire, maybe it would recover." Mrs. Dutton had just boiled some milk and poured it on some bread for Nellie's breakfast, and she said, "I have no more milk, Nellie."

"O! I'll share my breakfast with my little pet," said Nellie: and so saying, she sat down by the blazing wood fire, on her stool, and wrapping the lamb in a warm old shawl, she took it on her lap, opened its mouth with her finger, and by degrees got a few spoonfuls of the warm milk down its throat, and after a little the heat and food revived it, and it opened its eyes and gave a feeble little "ma-a." This was sweet music to Nellie's ears, and squeezing her bits of bread out of the basin, and eating them herself, she kept the milk by the fire, and every half hour gave a spoonful or two to little Flossy—as she called her pet—and by evening it was able to stand on its legs without nursing; at night it was wrapped up warmly by the fire-place. Her care was successful; for every day it grew stronger, and soon followed her about like a dog, and by the time the summer came, it was beginning to pick the blades of tender, sweet grass.

It would make our story too long to tell you of all the lamb's pretty gambols, and the delight of kind Nellie Dutton when it skipped about after her wherever she went. The next summer it had a good fleece to be shorn, that, when it was spun, made plenty of warm stockings for Nellie and her mother, as well as some to sell; and the next spring after that, lo and behold! there were two more little lambs, and the kind farmer, Mr. Mayfield, who knew Mrs. Dutton, and helped her in many ways, gave Nellie grass on his sheep-walk for her little flock, and offered to buy them all from her. Nellie sold the two babies, but the mother she would not part with. The lamb brought prosperity to the widow and her child.

Kindness to animals is the sign of a gentle, loving disposition, and it is pleasing in the eyes of Him whose "tender mercies are over all His works."

"STAY AT HOMES."

Many a minister in Canada will fully appreciate the following remarks lately made by "The Christian at Work," on the careful students of meteorology, and sometimes ladies at that, to be found in all congregations, who can go to late parties, eat suppers in the early hours, and brave the rigours of a winter's morning in coming from their favourite dissipation, but who cannot be coaxed out to church if there is a cloud in the sky though no bigger than a man's hand, or a breeze blowing, though no stronger and colder than, on any other day, would be regarded as merely sufficient to put the blood into a pleasant glow while it quickened the step, brightened the eye, and apparently made life for them all the more worth living:

"Ah! how discouraging these stay-at-homes are! If they knew how depressing their absence often is upon the minister, would they not find themselves more regular attendants upon the church services? It is related of Dean Swift that when the Dean's congregation was so small as to include only the sexton and himself, he began the service by saying, "Dearly beloved *Roger*, the Scripture moveth you and me in sundry places to acknowledge," etc. Many a preacher has preached most effectually to a few just as the Great Teacher preached to but one at a time. The minister, then, can do his duty to those that remain, and, if he choose, pray as we once heard a minister pray: "Not, O Lord, for those only who are providentially prevented from being with us, but who have stayed away because of this shower, which would not have kept them from business or a kettle drum."

Too many are found who rather seem to glory in these stay-at-home tendencies, and who, of course, excuse their conduct by alleging that there is little inducement for them to go to church for all the good they receive there. Such talk is well enough for those who make no pretensions to religion, but surely on the lips of such as profess to know God and to worship Him, it is strange and inconsistent indeed. We cannot do better for the benefit of all such than give another paragraph from the paper we have already referred to:—

"There are Christians and Christians;—those who always may be seen in their places in church; and there are fair-weather believers, who stay away—we had almost said whenever there is a heavy dew. May the Lord bless the sermon addressed to the gathered few on these rainy Sundays; and may He bestow His richest blessing upon these dainty stay-at-homes, who are either not sufficiently interested in religion to attend church on a stormy day, or have so much of the article at home that they can get their tulle there, and consequently have no occasion to expose themselves to the inclemencies of a humid atmosphere by going to church when umbrellas and waterproofs are in demand."—*Canada Presbyterian.*

MINISTERIAL POPULARITY.

Among the cursed blessings that are conferred on preachers, is that popularity which makes them for the time the centre of attraction and the topic of general conversation. Out of a thousand or ten thousand ministers not more than two or three at any time are likely to be famous, and it will be a mercy if those do not speedily come to be infamous.

Most famous men are over-estimated, and their popularity causes unpleasant comparisons, breeds envy and distrust, leads to criticism, slander and fault finding; causes every error to be magnified,

and every fault to be proclaimed; and if, in some unexpected hour, the praised and flattered pet of society shows himself to be a man of like passions, infirmities and sins, with others, how soon every toul bird of prey will peck his gay plumage, and turn his glory into shame. Many a popular preacher has finished his course in shame, in sorrow, or in crime.

Young man, do not fret because your kite does not fly quite as high as your neighbour's. Hold on to the string, and you may keep it out of the ditch. It may be very pleasant to see your name in print, but that depends largely upon what is printed under it.

Keep low. Before honor is humility. Be true to God and man, and if you miss fame you may also escape shame; if you do not hear hosannas shouted to-day, you may not hear the cry, "Crucify him!" to-morrow; and if you can serve your generation in this life, and get quietly into your grave without bringing reproach upon yourself, your friends, and your Lord, you will have a fine opportunity for fame and appreciation in the day when the righteous shall "shine forth like the sun in the kingdom of their Father." Wait and see if it is so. *Armory.*

SOME people's idea of "the higher life" expresses itself in that style of "perfect trust" which does nothing, and lies down on one's hard-working brethren for support. We venture to suggest that high as that sort of life is, it would hang up a peg or two more with entire *Congregationalist*

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The First Object—Is to produce the greatest amount of heat from a given amount of fuel, and is gained by an arrangement of the three-way draft passage and some twelve feet of flue pipe, which is bent down and around the base, and the heat is absorbed by the atmosphere through direct radiation from every part of the stove. Another object of the invention is to secure for heating purposes the greatest possible benefit of the fire contained in the stove, and accomplished by placing around the body of the stove a series of internally projecting pockets overlapping the fire pot, and so formed that the air of the room is admitted into the lower end of the pockets, and, after passing through them, re-enters the room, having become intensely heated through contact with the inner sides of the said pockets, which are immediately over the hottest part of the fire, thereby producing far greater results from a given amount of fuel than any other stove. *Second Object*—An evaporator which is a part of the stove. The cover becomes a water tank, and is an effective evaporator; the pivot on which it turns is an iron tube screwed into the base of the tank, while the lower end is closed and rests in a pocket inside the dome, thereby producing a greater or less amount of vapor in proportion to the intensity of the heat. *Third Object*—There is a double heater, by means of which heat can be conveyed to an apartment above, and supplied with sufficient vapor from the tank. *Fourth Object*—A combined hot air and steam bath can be obtained by closing the damper in the water tank, and causing all the vapor to mingle with the ascending heat. *Fifth Object*—

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The Editor is aided by a Committee composed of representatives from the Congregational, Methodist, Episcopal, Presbyterian and Baptist denominations.

Send 1c. postage stamp for sample number.

CHRISTIAN HELPER PRINTING AND PUBLISHING COMPANY, 30 Adelaide St. East, Toronto

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S. R. Briggs, Willard Tract Depository, Shaftsbury Hall, Toronto, is our authorized Agent.