WHICH?

" Which shall it be ? Which shall it be ?" I looked at John-John looked at me. (Dear patient John who loves me yet As well as though my locks were jet,) And when I found that I must speak, My voice seemed strangely low and weak ; " Tell me again what Robert said ?" And then I list'ning bent my head. " This is his letter :

" I will give A house and land while you shall live, If in return from out your seven. One child to me for aye is given.' I looked at John's old garments worn, I thought of all that John had borne Of poverty, and work, and care, Which I, though willing, could not spare ; I thought of seven mouths to feed. Of seven little children's need, And then of this.

"Come, John," said I, "We'll choose among them as they lie Asleep :" so walking hand in hand, Dear John and I surveyed our band First to the cradle lightly stepped, Where Liliau, the baby, slept, A glory, 'gainst the pillow white : Softly the father stooped to lay His rough hand down in loving way, When dream or whisper made her stir, And huskily he said. " Not her-not her.

We stooped beside the trundle-bed, And one long ray of lamplight shed Athwart the boyish faces there. In sleep so pitiful and fair : I saw on Jamie's rough, red cheek A tear undried. Ere John could speak. " He's but a baby too," said I, And kissed him as we hurried by.

Pale, patient Robert's angel face Still in his sleep bore suffering's trace. " No, not for a thousand crowns, not him." He whispered, while our eves were dim.

Poor Dick ! bad Dick ! our wayward son, Turbulent, reckless, idle one-Could he be spared? " Nay, He who gave, Bid us befriend him to the grave : Only a mother's heart could be Patient enough for such as he; "And so," said John, "I would not dare To send him from her bedside prayer."

Then stole we softly up above, And knelt by Mary, child of love " Perhaps for her 'twould better be,' I said to John. Quite silently He lifted up a curl that lay Across her cheek in willful wry. The while my heart best audibly.

Only one more, our eldest lad, Trusty and truthful, good and glad-So like his father. " No John, no-I cannot, will not, let him go."

And so we wrote in courteous was We could not drive one child away And afterwards toil lighter seemed, Thinking of that of which he dreamed . Happy, in truth, that not one face We missed from its accustomed place; Thankful to work for all the seven, Trusting the rest to One in heasen!

Birdie in the Home-Nest.

" Have you not forgotten some one?" The child had risen from her kness, and lifted her soft brown eyes to her mother's face.

" Have you not forgotten some one?" A shade of thought fell over the child's coun- water, and rising, said in a clear, ringing voice: Arthur. tenance, as her mother, almost a child herself, gravely repeated the question.

her dimpled hands, and with shut eyes, and acter he more than half suspected, and bowing down the slides that were to carry it into the face upturned, spoke these words to our Father slightly, said :

As the gentle young mother kissed her room, amid the sound of curses in his ears as he with all his might. The crowd broke out into darling, she shut her eyelids tightly to keep the shut the door.

tears from falling over her cheeks. "You must never forget dear papa," said the more had first broken in that company the pushed by the lad were only needed to start it, and away it went into the water. This teaches

was moved by some strong feelings that she we have taid, unless distant, and at the opposition often think that the little you can do is of no extremity of a great city. Hurriedly he walked account. You don't know that. A little word, at first; then his steps grew slower, and his a kind act, however small, may be, and often is, then the down, for painful and self-conthet turning in one's own history, and often of

here to kiss me before I go to sleep. Tell him to kiss me when he comes home—won't you, mamma? May be I'll know it in my dreams."

The mother's shut lids would hold the tears no longer. Large round drops fell on the ride?

child's forehead.

she went to an adjoining room, and sat by an weak and semenal state of the state of and went along the pavement, never catching life than the one he was living.

and her cheek against the face of her little one. heard with strange distinctness, saying :

All was not right with the young mother. happy."

when he was away her heart felt lonely.

when he was away her heart felt lonely.

Where was he? What held him away from he could make the prayer a means of conviction patient from lethargy. In a fit, the feet should his wife and little one, now that the day was and repentance. So the good Lord is ever using be placed in warm water with mustard added, over? Why did the darling of his heart pray us, whether we are children or grown-up men and the legs briskly rubbed; all the bandages removed from the neck, and cool aperient profor him at bedtime instead of giving him her and women, and using us by thousands of differ-

duty? Ab, if we could answer, Yes! But we And we are always better instruments in his

Across the great city, in a room miles away selfish and evil; for, in some way that we do not Lookout for the Agents of TAYLORS PAhands, if we are pure and good, than if we are from that in which angels watched lovingly over clearly understand, our loving desires actually The following beautiful home-circle poem is intended for the fsmily-circle. It is founded upon an incident where a rich neighbour offered to make a poor family comfortable and provide the poor family comf

company to a young man whose clear eyes, together, and looking upward, exclaimed, calm mouth and smooth forehead, gave no "O Lord, I am not worthy of anything so signs of an evil or depraved life. Looking at pure and precious as this child—one of the april 10. him, and then at his companions, any one would little ones whose angels are ever before thy have seen that he was out of place and in face."

A deep quiet fell upon his soul as he bowed "Nothing more at present," answered the his head once more and walked, still moving young man, who had already taken, with his slowly, onward. And now, contrasted with the supper, as much wine as he felt it prudent to innocence, sweetness and purity of his wife and child, stood out before him an image of Without heeding this reply, the one who had himself that made shame spots burn on his

addressed him filled the young man's glass and cheeks as if fire had touched them. They so loving and unselfish; so true to him in all also his own. "To birdie in the home-nest!" he said, lifting things; so free from earthly taint, and he so

The young man thus challenged, raised the and giving his thoughts to what was mean and wine and held it between his eyes and the sensual, instead of to things good and noble!

"To birdie in the home-nest ! Ah, the life." he prayed, as he moved along the street. tempter miscalculated the power of that sen, "This night have I turned my back upon the tence. He meant evil to the young man, but evil that was opening its jaws to devour me. God had put this thought into his mind that he This night I set my feet in a new way. Let Thy might use him as an agent of good. Just then power, O Lord, pass into my poor resolutions, birdie in the home-nest was saying, "Bless and I shall be saved." dear papa, and make him good and happy," and Home at last. It had taken him nearly two God, who is ever trying to lead his erring chil- hours from the time he turned so resolutely dren into right ways, heard the prayer, as he away from his dissolute companions. Entering hears all prayers that true hearts offer up, and very quiet'y, he went first to the bath-room, answered it in his own best way.

where he washed his hands and face, and care-As the young man held up the glass of amber- fully cleansed his mouth to remove, if possible, coloured wine to the light he saw in it the pic- all smell of liquor or tobacco smoke. ture of a kneeling child. The face, beautiful How silent it was. How strangely he felt as the face of an angel, was tender and very Softly he opened the chamber-door and stood in earnest; the large brown eyes had in them a the presence of his wife and child. How peace shade of sadness. While he looked, the face fully they slept ! Their faces lay close together and form grew more and more distinct. He both so young and fresh-so tender and sweet saw the sweet lips move, and heard them say, that they looked like sisters, instead of mother as cleanly as if the words had been spoken in and child. his outward ears :

" Bless dear papa, and make him good and them. Great waves of tenderness came sweeping over his heart. They had never seemed so

lovely and precious. Stooping, at length, for The glass of wine did not touch his lips. "Not to drink to that !" exclaimed his tempt- he could no longer restrain himself, he touched r, in surprise, as he saw the untasted wine. his lips to the fair forehead of his wife. Then "Thank you for the toast," answered the he kissed the little one who had said, ere she young man, rising. " I must look to my birdie went to sleep, " Tell him to kiss me when he comes home, mamma, won't you? May be I'll in the home-nest."

And bowing to the company he hastily retired. know it in my dreams." One laughed, another sneered, and another An angel must have told it to her now, for made a coarse jest; while a fourth said, with while yet the touch of his lips was warm on her a gravity of manner that was felt by the rest lips, a glad light flooded her countenance. As the light faded slowly off, her lips moved, and as a rebuke :

"Our young friend is right. His place is she said, still sleeping, yet speaking out clearlyat home with his wife and child, and not here. "Bless dear paps, and make him good and And there are some of us who, in my opinion, happy." might take a lesson from his example."

A dead silence followed. One looked at anc- already to bear this without losing his self-conther; and crimson spots burned on cheeks that trol. A sob heaved his breast. Then clasping had on them no sign of shame a little while be- his arms about his sleeping treasures, he hugged them passionately to his heart

"No more wine for me," said the last "God bless you and keep you from all evil, And shook his head. "Nay, love, not thee." speaker, replying to an invitation to fill his and make me worthy of you my darlings!" "I've no patience with this kind of stuff," that met the ears of his waking wife and

spoke out one of the company, almost angrily. child. What has the wine been ordered for, if not to ed the young wife's heart when the full meaning drink ?" He who said this was a gambler in the dis- of all this came like a great light into her guise of a friend. He wished to steal away the soul. She never sat lonely in the night watches

reason and conscience of his young companions with wine that he might rob them of their mo- again, waiting with a shadowed spirit for the loved but absent one, in fear of the very ney at cards. As he spoke he filled one glass to the brim, thoughts that went out after him. And few and then pushed the bottle towards his neighbour who filled his glass in turn. But when angel of their home asked that a kiss might it came to the third in the circle sitting be given which she could feel only in her around the table, he passed it on, leaving dreams.

his own glass empty. The fourth and fifth Little ones, pray for them who are dear to filled their-glasses. Said the one who first your hearts. The angels are nearer to you, passed the bottle, lifting his glass as he spoks: because of your anocence than they are to " Here's to good fellowship." And all but those who are older and less pure, and they can one repeated his toast and drank as he drank. often give to your prayers a power for good that Then the third in the circle filled his glass with will fall in blessings on those you love.—T. S

" Here's to birdie in the home-nest !" Frowns darkened on his companions' faces. A Little Boy Moves a Great Ship. "Who, mamma?" she asked; then, before Raising the water to his lips he drank it slowly. As he set down the empty glass, he looked at did forget," and dropping on her knees, clasped the angry face of the gambler, whose real charimmense multitude assembled to see it glide immense multitude assembled to see it glide

"I" also thank you for that toast; and I water. The blocks and wedges were knocked "Bless dear papa, and make him good and happy."

I also thank you for that toast; and I away, but the massive hull did not stir, and there was disappointment. Just then a little happy."

Then bowing low to the company he left the sound of curses in his ears as he had began to push the ship

The young man whose refusal to drink any vessel was almost ready to move, the few pounds able to speak with a steady voice, for her heart away, turning his steps homeward. He was, as an important lesson to every boy and girl. You was moved by some strong feelings that she we have said, miles distant, and at the opposite often think that the little you can do is of no always do pray for him. Oh, I wish he were demning thoughts were in his mind. A streethere to kiss me before I go to sleep. Tell him to kiss me when he comes home—won't you.

No, that was not the reason. He had drank like a train of cars. The little frog or tongue child's forehead.

"O, mother dear!" the little one exclaimed, throwing her arms about her mother's neck, what makes you cry? Is it because I forgot that a new light had come into his mind and he papa in my prayers?

Oh, I'll never forget saw, as in a mirror, a true image of himself, he limited what makes and huri it down a steep bank to papa in my prayers?

No, that was not the reason. He had drank too freely at the supper-table, and he knew that his breath was tainted with liquor; and now that a new light had come into his mind and he engine aside and huri it down a steep bank to fearful destruction. So the smallest word may was shocked to discover that he was less a true. papa in my prayers? Oh, I'll never forget him sgain. I can't tell what made me."

For a little while arms were clasped tightly around the child, and her head held closely against her mother's breast. Then good-nights was the reason why his steps were slow and were said, and good-night kisses were exchanged to discover that he was less a true fearful destruction. So the smallest word may start the mind on a right or wrong track. Dear young friends, your little words, little thoughts, and little words are important. Strive earnestly to be right, noble, generous, at all times, in secret and in public. When in the future we cret and in public. ed. Soon after, the only sound heard in the room was the soft breathing of a child asleep.

He did not take the car, and pass quickly home-come to see the great map of human action and influences spread out, it will then be found that still chamber alone with her nutle one. Then his wife and child, and so revealing to them the For over an hour the young mother sat in the his tainted lips upon the pure brow and lips of still chamber alone with her sittle one. There has who and count, and count, and count, and sat by an weak and sensual side of his character which there, sisters, playmates, upon your parents,

the sound for which her quick ear hearkened. Slowly he continued to walk, still with bowed push at the ship, do a good deed, no matter Often she sighed: but she spoke no words of head and busy thoughts and memories. Sudand trust to God for the result .- American denly there came before him, even more clearly,

Another hour passed, when, returning to one if possible, than when he saw it in the amber room where her child slept she undressed her- wine, the image of his kneeling child; and again self, and lying down with an arm under the head, the voice, so full of sweet music for his ears, was says: In many cases of disordered stomach a tablespoonful of salt is a certain cure. In a

"Bless dear papa, and make him good and violent internal pain termed cholic, a teaspoonful of salt dissolved in a pint of water, taken as such tears as she held so closely beneath her shut lide, that they might not fell shut lide, that they might not fell shut lide, that they might not fell shut lide. shut lide, that they might not fall, are not tears loving child for her father in any better or more remedies known. The same will relieve effectual way than by sending the words of her son who seems almost dead from a heavy fall; One loved by her, oh, so tenderly !—the father of her sweet child—was absent; and always gel? He could not make him good and happy when he was away her hart felt lovels. good-night kiss? Had business taken him to ent ways, in the work of leading others from the lungs, when other remedies failed, Dr. Rush nother city? Was he absent at the call of evil courses into paths of virtue and peace. Excelsior Spinner

MACHINE.

which supper had been served. They hal eaten we love, even when they are away from us, and drank, and now sat smoking. Waiters will be for good. We shall be magnets, consumption on the child, if one of the seven was given to him. Some one who has felt the pangs of poverty, and yet been a father, with all the deep and holy feelings of a parent has clothed it in postion attituded to make a poor family comfortable and provide and drank, and now sat smoking. Waiters will be for good. We shall be magnets, consumption of the aven was given to him. Some one who has felt the pangs of poverty, and yet been a father, with all the deep and holy feelings of a parent has clothed it in postion attituded to wind the white spinning. A real is attached to wind the white spinning. A real is attached to wind the white spinning. A real is attached to wind the way or good. We shall be magnets, consulting the magnets, consulting the pangs of poverty, and yet been a father, with all the deep wine, and glasses.

More wine! Had they not been drinking angels of mercy.

such startling clearness, so touched the father's the Provinces.

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Provinces. "Let me fill your glass," said one of the heart that he clasped his hands passionately Province, County, and Town rights for said-Brunswick Foundry and see this Machi-



selfish and worldly, yielding to gross appetites,

"Give me atrength to lead a new and better

A little while he remained bending above

The father's heart was too s rongly moved

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"Behold, b From the a In thesfar ch

To where he Beyond the Is to be bles la mo When the aw

On every side the es The breath o Of taght and Their sucred v

Round God's At break of da Sparkling wi Crowns Of peace and We marvel at We need not a Whilst we wer As stars of me Their sad eyes So restless all t Their ceaseless Upon her bosot

With fragrance On stainless her Of heavenly mu Of midnight wir On sleeping sea From da God gives his cl

And mournful,

That light their

Of glory lift the

Descend to visi

ing break And rouses them For joy of heart aweet. And full of peace Some faint reflec And the soft win At daybreak, fin Some trace of fo Our morning so

And throt

There is no silen

Some soul is pra Standing victori Upon the battle-With awful trius Still full of storm His mailed hand The God of battle With night of we Of shadowy hair, A sadder light th Steals to the Say Her most swest o With heavenly for Of the kingdom A song of Zion-Of battle's thund Sound in the sim His full cup ranne Thus every hour Sweet praise to G

In a deep, grand hoarse After the battle a Falling, with tear Most sacred; and Singing between : On high.

But who sh

The night that lay

Of men, and hush

The calm of death And the oppressor From troubling. Ab, who shall t Night, That stretched m shore. Till silent-lie the a Beneath the shade

> The night-winds a Is with us; lo! the Abideth in the fiel His flock by nigh For this sweet ser The name of God

And wonderful sw

Angels con

And in the temple By mortal hands. Before the altar. The vastness of the And breathless Sp In all his power; Of organ-harmoni The shadowy plac And all the Temp those

Who worshipped To take their res To sing the praise His Name at mid Lo! a ban

the crown They lift their ha Whilst we are al-Has measured or

Of sorrow, and e By its own restle To whom the nig With His dear lo

Are waking in H

Yet joyful priests The altar, where In the breathless