

went to heaven could strike a ball till it soared out of sight, and in the race, far as you could see, you would find his red tippet coming out ahead. Look out for the boy who never has the fingers of a good laugh tickle him under the diaphragm. The most solemn-looking mule on our place had kicked to pieces five dashboards.

There are parents who notice that their daughter is growing pale and sick, and therefore think she must be destined to marry a missionary and go to Borneo, although the only recommendation she has for that position is that she will never be any temptation to the cannibals, who, while very fond of cold missionary, are averse to diseased meat; or, finding their son looking cadaverous, think he is either going to die or become a minister, considering that there is great power of consecration in liver complaint, and thinking him doubly set apart who, while Presbytery are laying their hands on his head, has dyspepsia laying its hands on his stomach.

Oh for a religious literature that shall take for its model of excellence a boy that loves God and can digest his dinner in two hours after he eats it! Be not afraid to say, in your account of his decease, that the day before you lost him he caught two rabbits in his trap down on the meadow, or soundly thrashed a street-ruffian who was trying to upset a little girl's basket of cold victuals. I do not think that heaven is so near to an illy-ventilated nursery as to a good gymnasium. If the Church of God could trade off three thousand hogsheads of religious cant for three thousand hogsheads of fresh air and stout health, we should be the gainers, but the fellow with whom we traded would be cheated mercilessly and forever.

An antidote for much literary poison is *THE BEAUTIFUL STORY* here presented. The young reader will not by it be fired with an ambition—such as is kindled by much juvenile literature—to run away and scalp Indians on the Rocky Mountains. Nearly all the boys that have run away from home, after being brought back, have confessed that they got their inspiration for the foolish deed from some of the books or periodicals for young people. But this "Beautiful Story" is just as thrilling and inspiring for the right as the other books I speak of are for the wrong. Much of it is dramatic in style—and that is the most impressive of all styles. The Bible is full of it. Here it is in the Book of Judges: The fir tree, the vine, the olive tree, the brambles—they all make speeches. Then at the close of the scene there is a coronation, and the bramble is proclaimed king. That is a political drama. Here it is in the Book of Job: Enter Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar, Elihu, and Job. The opening act of the drama, all darkness; the closing act of the drama, all sunshine. Magnificent drama is the Book of Job! Here it is in Solomon's Song: The region, an Oriental region—vineyards, pomegranates, mountains of myrrh, flock of sheep, garden of spices, a wooing, a bride, a bridegroom, dialogue after dialogue, intense, gorgeous. All suggestive drama is the Book of Solomon's Song! Here it is in the Book of Luke: Costly mansion in the night, all the