

PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK.

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A Little Brown Penny.

A little brown penny, worn and old,
Dropped in the box by a dimpled hand,
A little brown penny, a childish prayer,
Sent far away to the heathen land.

A little brown penny, a generous thought,
A little less candy just for one day,
A young life awakened for life, mayhap,
To the needs of the heathen far away.

The penny flew off with the prayer's swift wings;
It carried the message by Jesus sent,
And the gloom was pierced by a radiant light
Wherever the prayer and the message went.

And who can tell of the joy it brought
To the souls of the heathen far away,
When the darkness fled like wavering mists
From the beautiful dawn of the Gospel day?

And who can tell of the blessings that came
To the little child when Christ looked down,
Or how the penny, worn and old,
In heaven will change to a golden crown?
—*Evangelical Messenger.*

AUKS.

Auks, as we might expect from the name, are very awkward, ungainly looking birds. They waddle about in a very ridiculous manner, and their wings are so short they cannot fly. But in their native element, the stormy seas, they are perfectly at home. When ranged along a cliff they look like a lot of school-children with white pinafores on. I was greatly amused at one I saw in the Zoological Gardens at London. He was such a comical looking fellow. They have such a dense covering of warm down and feathers that they can withstand the utmost cold of the arctic seas. The picture on last page shows the manner in which sailors hunt for the eggs of these strange birds.

WHY EVERY BOY SHOULD BE A CHRISTIAN.

BY R. E. BLIGHT.

BECAUSE it is manly. Every boy wants to be a man. That is a great reason why so many boys smoke, swear, take a glass of liquor, or commit sin in any way. But liquor, let me tell you, it does not show your manliness. It takes no courage to swear, it calls for the exercise of no manly principle to enter a bar-room—where everything reeks with impurity and the very atmosphere is foul—to drink, and then lighting a cigar or cigarette, strut down the street feeling you have taken the first step to manliness. Any craven can do that, without any exertion. It means that you have turned your back on what you know is right, closed your ears to the warnings you have heard, and stifled the condemning voice of conscience. On the other hand; it takes a man to be a Christian, to declare that henceforth he will live for God, forsaking the wrong, cleaving to the right. It calls forth the manliness of your nature to withstand the wiles of Satan, and to say "No," when companions invite you to partake of the sparkling glass, or join them in their carousals; but when a boy's will is brought into action, and is backed by power from God, then we see true manliness, in its highest sense.

Because it is the best way. It is the successful way. A boy that is a Christian has a better chance of rising in the world, than one who is not, because by abstinence from drink, tobacco, and other things that injure the body, his brain is clear and body healthy, so that he is in condition to settle down to hard work, and to push his way to the front, which he cannot do if sin is impairing his health, and slowly destroying his energy.

Also a Christian is honest, and scorns to do a dishonest act, or to reach the top by crushing and swindling those who may not be so fortunate as he, and so wins the respect and confidence of the people, and when he reaches the pinnacle of success, they will applaud him as a good and righteous man, who did not rise on the ruins of other lives. In fact, it is the only way to true success.

Remember, the promise is, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." Many boys seek the things of

your voice joins in the grand anthem of praise "unto Him who hath loved us and given himself for us."

Because of the good you may do. Nearly every boy that reads this has an ambition to be something, and whatever profession or trade you may enter, there will be thousands of opportunities to do good, and to live practical Christianity. As a lawyer you may be able to plead the cause of the widow and orphan, or as a business man of integrity, who will not bemean himself to take advantage of the ignorance or necessity of his customer or employee; the states-

God and benevolence to mankind, will close in peace and happiness, without a regret, or a single spectre of past wrongdoing to disturb his closing years; but he will be able to await the end, feeling that he has the smile of God resting upon him, and that when the messenger shall come to call him up higher, he will be ready to go to the city of the King, where he shall receive the reward of his labours, and shall rest—a success from beginning to end.

Boys, do you not think this is worth living a Christian life for? Just think for a few minutes the benefits of being a Christian, and then choose Christ, who is the best Master, and give your life to him now, never to be taken back, but to be his unreservedly. Will you choose now?
Toronto.

"ALMOST FELL."

"MOTHER, I almost fell to-day."
"What do you mean, my son?" asked the weary, care-worn mother.
"Why, I did. I almost fell into an awful sin. I was almost dishonest," and the childish voice was lowered, and the face flushed with shame.
"Thank God, you resisted, my child. Tell me all about it."

"Well, mother, you know I sell papers at the depot every morning, and there is one very pleasant, kind gentleman, who buys a paper of me 'most every morning, and always speaks so pleasant. He always seems to have lots of money in his pocket, and takes out a handful of change. Several times he has only had nickels, no pennies, and has told me to keep the extra three cents for myself. One morning he had nothing but two quarters and two silver dollars. He handed me one of the quarters, and said, in his pleasant way, 'Got any change, my boy?' I looked, but did not have enough. So he said, 'Never mind—you remember it to-morrow.' The next day was Sunday; and Monday, to-day, you know, I was standing outside the depot, and I saw him coming. I thought to myself, he will never remember the twenty-three cents I owe him if he don't see me, and I do want it so much; I will just hide till he has gone. So I went across the street. I somehow could not hold my head up as I usually do, and I went into a blacksmith's shop, and peeped out of a crack. I saw him looking as if for some one, and then he said, 'Where is the paper boy this morning? I will have to buy a paper of the boy on the train. Poor little fellow! I hope he isn't sick—he looks delicate.'

"Oh, mother, you don't know how his kind words cut me, and how ashamed I felt. I had felt ashamed before; but after that, I felt that money was stolen—that I, your Tommy, was a thief. I rushed across the street, and he was still talking to a gentleman, but I pulled him by the sleeve, and gave him the change. He said, 'That is right. I am glad you are an honest boy.' I felt my face getting red. I felt as if he must read how wicked I had been in my thoughts, and how I meant to cheat him."

The mother's eyes filled with tears as she folded her boy in her arms and kissed him.
"Thank God! I still have an honest boy to kiss, Tommy," said she. "Let it be a lesson to you, and the shame you felt at the dishonest thoughts ever stay in your memory, and keep you from falling—or even almost falling—again."

"Pray that ye enter not into temptation." Our dear Lord said these words to his disciples just before he was crucified. He knew just how weak we all are, and only by praying to him for strength can we conquer. In time of temptation, pray from your heart, 'Jesus help me, and he always will hear and answer.'



AUKS.

this world first, and intend to seek the kingdom of God later, but in most cases Satan blinds their eyes until it is too late, but "what shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?"

Because Jesus wants you. He has given his life that you might gain life everlasting. He left the glories of heaven and came to earth to open a way whereby you might be saved, and now he asks you to come, forsaking your sins, and he will be with you, guiding you through the tempestuous seas, and the dangerous shoals of life, until with flying colours and loud hallelujahs you enter the calm haven of heaven amid the shouts of welcome from the redeemed, and

man, in the halls of legislation, raising his voice in protest against political corruption or party greed, or as an employee doing his work faithfully, or in everything and anything that he may undertake, doing it as "unto the Lord"; staying to help a fallen brother, or to say a cheerful word to some sorrow-stricken soul; to live a life of spotless purity in the midst of sin and temptation, which should be the aim of every one.

Then as for a time he lingers to enjoy the success and fame he has won, righteousness will sprinkle the path with flowers, honour will crown the noble brow with laurels, and the life, spent in the service of