

AN INTERESTING INCIDENT.

(Rev. W. H. Porter.)

During my visit to Jamaica a year ago last winter, Pastor Clare of Clonmell became converted to the New Testament teaching concerning the children, and as a result was greatly blessed in his own soul and ministry, and a large number of children were received into the church, bringing much joy and blessing. On my visit last winter, Mr. Clare related to me the following incident, which I thought might interest and benefit some of the LINK readers, and possibly bring blessing and strength to hearts and homes, and even churches and missions, in the future. For, as the shepherd, farmer and horticulturist, etc., find, rightly develop the young and the mature is fashioned.

A (colored) lady, rather more intelligent and well-off than most of the church members, was very painfully sick for a good while, so three of the Christian children, aged respectively 7, 8 and 9 years, visited the sister, with Bible in hand, and love for Jesus in their hearts, to cheer and comfort her. Of the visit, she told her pastor, that those little children talked and read and prayed with her so sweetly and intelligently, and appropriately, that she could only lie and weep with joy and love and gratitude; and, she said: "If the Lord should raise me up again, I am resolved to devote the rest of my life in the church to the little children."

The incident brought anew, and more forcibly than ever to my mind the saying: "Jesus was much displeased" because those who were hindering the little ones from coming to Him, were not only depriving Him of the joy of their sweet, early love and trust; and them of the joy that His love alone can impart, but they were depriving the church of some of its most needed and most valuable, enriching and strengthening influences and services.

In visiting an estate last winter, I inquired of the overseer concerning the raising of those beautifully majestic cocoanut palms. "Oh," he said: "We select the best cocoanuts we can for seed; and the best soil to plant them in; and plant them with particular care. And he showed me just how he did it, which was very interesting, but I fear taking the space to describe it now and

here. But, remembering that "the righteous flourish like the palm tree," I wanted to know particularly how young he took up the young plant and set it out where it was to grow! "Oh," said he. "As young as possible"—the younger it is, transplanted the better it grows."

Of course, I had proved that in setting out young trees myself, but I wanted it confirmed.

"Train up a child not, as so many would, toward the way it should go, and when it is old it will not depart from it."

Our lives, homes, churches, missions, the world, will be, as the course and character of early childhood make them.

HEZEKIAH'S PRAYER.

(Suggested by June Issue of The Link.)

O Lord, this day oppressed am I;

My expectations droop and die:

But Thou wilt hear my earnest cry

And "undertake for me."

Beneath a grievous load I bow;

My heart is crushed with sorrow now:

But I have confidence that Thou

Wilt "undertake for me."

Thou hearest all the words I say;

Thou seest all that marks my way:

Bestow all needful help, I pray

And "undertake for me."

In grief and bitterness of soul,

I seek Thy mercies which console:

Renew my strength and make me whole,

And "undertake for me."

"By all these things" so well combined

"Men live" and are enriched in mind:

In these my spirit life must find;

So "undertake for me."

With thankful heart I softly tread

The path on which Thy light is shed;

For Thou dost banish all my dread—

And "undertake for me."

For health and strength to me restored

Thy name henceforth shall be adored:

Thee will I praise; for Thou, O Lord,

Dost "undertake for me."

—T. WATSON.

Ridgetown, Ont., 1916.