

ward; and he thought if he could see that young nun once more that she would tell him to stay and try to imitate the example of his Master. The little coil of strong rope and the small, sharp file lay unnoticed on the ground.

(To be Continued).

FOR THE YOUNG FOLKS.

WHICH LOVED BEST?

"I love you, mother, said little John; Then, forgetting his work, his cap went on, And he was off to the garden swing, And left her the wood and the water to bring.

"I love you, mother," said rosy Nell, "I love you better than tongue can tell." Then she teased and pouted full half the day, Till her mother rejoiced when she went out to play.

"I love you, mother," said little Fan, "To-day I'll help you all that I can; How glad I am that school does not keep?" Then, stepping softly, she fetched the broom, And swept the floor and tidied the room; Busy and happy all day was she, Helpful and happy as child could be.

"I love you, mother," again they all said— Three little children going to bed; How do you think that mother guessed Which of them really loved her the best?

ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY AND HIS JEWEL.

It was Sunday evening. Twelve young students were seated, care-free and joyful, around a well served table, each one amusing himself after his own fashion, though in all propriety. Suddenly one of them, in a mysterious tone, announced that he had conceived a project for which he asked the concurrence of the company. Not one refused. Then he said:

"Let us return hither this day week, and we will tell stories and sing merry songs; but especially each of us must bring some jewel or trinket from his betrothed, and he who brings the least beautiful shall pay for the supper of the whole party."

All applauded this singular proposition.

Among these students was one whose thoughts never dwelt on any daughter of Eve. His young heart was absorbed in love for a Virgin whom he served in public or in private. This Virgin was none other than Mary. After his com-

panions had left him this good young man who had no betrothed, as they had, seated himself upon the tender grass, and, with folded hands, thought to himself: "Fool that I was, so lightly to have made a promise which will cost me so dear! The whole cost will fall to me, and I must spend in one day my whole year's income!" He commenced to weep bitterly, for he was not rich, and the loss which he feared would be a real misfortune to him. During the whole week he worried himself in endeavoring to hit upon some plan of escape; but in vain! and already it was Saturday, and then would come Sunday. What was he to do? Finally, in his secret desolation, he entered a church, and there heard Mass. When the crowd passed out he approached the altar of the Virgin, to confide his trouble to her and to beseech her aid and assistance.

On his knees, profoundly absorbed in prayer, he reminded her with what fidelity he had served her from infancy, without ever having wished to love any other woman than her upon earth. In fine, he asked of her a jewel as a reward. In his simple and confiding piety, he also besought the Infant in the arms of His Mother to join with him in his prayer to obtain it. O power of faith and prayer! A voice spoke from the Virgin's image, and this voice said to him: "Arise, my faithful servant, and approach thy Lady!" The student, in an ecstasy of joy, arose and approached her statue, thanking her for the words she had vouchsafed him.

Very soon he remarked that the Divine Infant held in his hand a casket; His Mother desired Him to give it to him who had so often watered her feet with his tears of love. The Infant obeyed, and Mary gave the casket to the student, who kissed it with the warmest expressions of gratitude.

Toward midday the joyous company assembled at the rendezvous. Each displayed, with pride, the token he had received. The first had a ring of gold; the second, two silken suits; the third, an embroidered dressing-gown; the fourth, a magnificently adorned girdle; the fifth, a purse, embroidered in gold, and perfumed; the sixth, a silken cap; the seventh, a rich bracelet, &c. All these presents were most beautiful. At