

## OUR YOUNG FOLKS.

### THE CHILD AND THE BIRD.

"O, where are you going, my dear little bird?  
And why do you hurry away?  
Not a leaf on the pretty red maple has stirred,  
In the sweet golden sunshine to-day."

"I know, little maiden, the sunshine is bright,  
And the leaves are asleep on the tree,  
But three times the dream of a cold winter's night  
Has come to my children and me."

"So good-by to you, my darling, for off we must go,  
To the land where the oranges bloom,  
For we birdies would freeze in the storms and the snow,  
And forget how to sing in the gloom."

"Will you ever come back to your own little nest?"  
"Ah, yes, when the blossoms are here,  
We'll return to the orchard we all love the best,  
And then we will sing to you, dear."

### MINNIE LEE AND HER KITTEN.

Travelling from Attica to Rochester in New York, some years since, I changed cars at Avon. A moment after entering the car a lady and a little girl came in and took the seat directly in front of me. The child's face was radiant with joy, as she frequently raised the cover of a little basket on her arm, and looked curiously into it. Her sweet little face had no wrinkles of care or unrest. As I contemplated it, memories of childhood joys and days made me feel like a child again. My own curiosity was excited by her own constant looking, and I leaned forward to ascertain the cause of so much happiness. The little girl, with the quick intuition of childhood, raised the cover of her basket and exposed to view a kitten. I said, "That is a beautiful kitten; what is its name?" "Daisy," was her quick reply. "I wish you would give me Daisy," I said gently. "Oh! no, sir; I can't give you Daisy—I love Daisy so much." "But Minnie, I want Daisy, and I will give you a dollar for her." "Oh! no, sir; I can't sell Daisy." "Do you love candy, Minnie?" "Yes, sir, I guess I do." "Well, then, you can get your basket almost full of candy for a dollar." "Oh, sir, I love Daisy more than I do money or candy."

She was so simple and happy I was confident she had been taught, in the Sabbath school and at home, to love the Saviour. I then asked her if she went to Sabbath school. "Yes sir, I go to Sabbath school always." "Well, Minnie, do you love the dear Saviour?" "Why, yes sir, I guess I do. Do you love Jesus?" was her quick retort. "Yes, my darling, I do, and I'm so glad to know you love the dear Saviour. He is our best friend; He will go with us if we will let Him, all through life, and love us, and keep us, and save us. Bye-and-bye we'll go where Jesus is, and then sin will not hurt us any more."

Her little face grew bright with joy, and the light kindled in her eyes. Looking at me steadfastly for a little while, she lifted her basket, and with the sweetest voice said, "Sir, you may have Daisy; you may have Daisy." For a moment I hardly knew what reply to make, but said, "No, my darling, I can't take Daisy from you."

The tear came to her eye, as she said, "Why won't you take Daisy?"

"Because you love Daisy more, and will take better care of her than I can."

I trust this beautiful lesson will not be forgotten—at least by the writer. Neither money nor candy could induce the child to give up her kitten; but, because I loved her dear Saviour, she loved me more than her kitten, and was willing to give up her idol to please a friend of her Saviour.

### BE IN TIME.

Be in time for every call;  
If you can, be first of all;  
Be in time.  
If your teachers only find  
You are never once behind,  
But are like the dial, true,  
They will always trust to you;  
Be in time.

Never linger ere you start,  
Set out with a willing heart;  
Be in time.  
In the morning up and on,  
First to work, and soonest done:  
This is how the goal's attained;  
This is how the prize is gained;  
Be in time.

Those who aim at something great  
Never yet were found too late;  
Be in time.  
Life with all is but a school;  
We must work by plan and rule,  
Ever steady, earnest, true,  
Whatsoever you may do,  
Be in time.

Listen, then, to wisdom's call—  
Knowledge now is free to all;  
Be in time.  
Youth must daily toil and strive,  
Treasure for the future hive;  
For the work they have to do,  
Keep this motto still in view—  
Be in time.

### TO THE BOYS.

Boys should never go through life satisfied to be always borrowing other people's brains. There are some things they should find out for themselves. There is always something waiting to be found out. An apple dropped at the feet of Newton, and he took it as an invitation to study the forces of nature, and thereby discovered the law of gravitation. Every boy should think some thought, or do some good deed that shall live after him. A farmer's boy should discover for himself what timber will bear the most weight, what is the most elastic, what will last longest in the water, what out of the water, what is the best time to cut down trees for firewood? How many kinds of oaks grow in your region, and what is each specially good for? How does a bird fly without moving a wing or a feather? How does a snake climb a tree or a brick wall? Is there any difference between a deer's track and a hog's track? What is it? How often does a deer shed his horns, and what becomes of them? In building a chimney, which should be the largest, the throat or the funnel? Should it be wider at the top, or drawn in? The boys see many horses. Did they ever see a white colt? Do they know how old the twig must be to bear peaches, and how old the vine is when grapes first hang upon it? There is a bird in the forest which never builds a nest, but lays her eggs in the nests of other birds. Can the boys tell what bird it is? Do they know that a

hop-vine always winds with the course of the sun, but a bean-vine always winds the other way? Do they know that when a horse crops grass he eats back towards him; but a cow eats outward from her, because she has no teeth upon her upper jaw, and has to gum it?

### TRUE POLITENESS.

A poor Arab going through the desert met with a sparkling spring. Accustomed to brackish water, a draught from this sweet well in the wilderness seemed, in his simple mind, a present to the caliph. So he filled the leather bottle, and, after a weary tramp, laid his humble gift at his sovereign's feet.

The monarch, with a magnanimity that may put many a Christian to blush, called for a cup, and drank freely; and then with a smile thanked the Arab, and presented him with a reward.

The courtiers pressed eagerly around for a draught of the wonderful water, which was regarded as worthy of such a princely acknowledgment. To their surprise, the caliph forbade them to touch a drop. Then after the simple-hearted giver left the royal presence, with a new spring of joy welling up in his heart, the monarch explained his motive of prohibition.

"During the long journey, the water in his leather bottle had become impure and distasteful; but it was an offering of love, and as such I accepted it with pleasure. I feared, however, that if I allowed another to taste it, he would not conceal his disgust. Therefore it was that I forbade you to partake lest the heart of the poor man would be wounded."

### JACK.

Jack is the name of a tame crow owned by a lady living in Seekonk, Mass. All the cats and the dogs in the neighbourhood fear Jack, as if he were a wild beast of prey, for his bill is sharp, and his pecks incisive. Jack begins his work early in the morning, by clearing the barn windows of all spiders. This Fall six men were digging potatoes in the field, and Jack followed them all day long, in order to eat the white grubs they turned up.

Jack is a first-rate mimic. He will imitate the bark of a dog so perfectly, as to deceive the sharpest ears. One morning, not long ago, Jack's owner heard some one whistling in the yard. Surprised that the whistler should remain so long outside, she opened the door, to find Jack sitting on a broomstick, and whistling with all his strength.

A strange man came into the barn a few weeks since. As he wore neither shoes nor stockings, Jack's attention was attracted by his bare feet. He investigated them with such vigorous pecks, that the man roughly pushed him away several times. In a few minutes the man yelled, and jumped three feet in the air. The indignant Jack had stolen behind him and pecked his bare heels. But Jack's impertinence was punished then and there, for the man came down, on one of the crow's claws, and injured it quite severely. Now, when that man appears, Jack hobbles out of sight.