

possible, it should be pulled out and allowed to hang down in projecting points and masses. On branches and leaves the effect of snow may be obtained by coating them with strong, colorless gum, and then sprinkling them thickly with flour. For frost, drop gum upon the wool wherever frost would naturally form, and sprinkle coarse Epsom salts upon it. Frosted glass, ready crushed, can be purchased from the chemist for the same purpose. A more inexpensive mode is to break glass bottles, and then crush them with a heavy roller; the effect is lovely, as they glitter and sparkle beautifully.

Mottoes are greatly used in decoration, and if tastefully arranged produce the happiest effects. Nothing can be more artistic than the illuminated mottoes which can be painted at home or purchased in beautiful designs. For scrolls, thin deals, strong paste-board or, best of all for illuminating purposes, zinc plates form the best foundation. For the back-ground, Turkey red twill, Canton flannel, or glazed linen can be used and where the motto is placed high up paper does equally well. A deep red is a good tint for the back ground, but your selection of color, both for background and letters, must necessarily depend upon the surroundings amidst which your motto is to be placed. Against old oak panelling a light shade goes best; not white, which would present too violent a contrast, but a pale gray with a crimson edge. The letters might then be boldly relieved with black. For stonework, red is the most telling. With very dark green, pale blue is charming. When the walls and draperies are very dark, as is so much the fashion at present, the most brilliant effects in mottoes are permissible. In hanging mottoes and scrolls be careful not to hang them too high; if they are not suspended within the range of vision, and require an effort to decipher their meaning, much of the beauty of design is lost.

The letters and bordering are first cut out in strong cardboard and then ornamented in various ways. The smaller the letters the more simple should they be in design; antique or fancy characters are only desirable in a very large size, and when the motto is to be hung very low. It is important that all the letters should be exactly of a size. Cut a number of pieces of cardboard the same size; if one is used for each letter, the proportions of all will be precisely alike. The border of a motto should never be so obtrusive as to divert attention from the sentiment which it frames. A double or treble row of leaves makes a pretty border; each leaf must overlap and conceal the stalk of the preceding one. Broken walnut shells, sprinkled upon a coating of strong, colorless gum, also make a good bordering; looking, if skillfully arranged, like an edging of carved wood. Ivy or delicate fern leaves can also be utilized as a border; indeed it may be said of both letters and bordering that they are as numerous as individual taste can plan or individual skill can execute. It may be added that the more simple the design the more effective it usually is.

Moss sewed on in tufts, and arranged with the fingers until the surface looks uniformly covered, forms a pretty foundation for flowers, everlastings, or letters of straw or scarlet berries. Pretty letters in imitation of coral are made by coating the shapes with colorless gum and sprinkling them with rice or tapioca and painting them red. They will require at least two coatings, and the first should be allowed to dry perfectly before the second is added. Letters with very small leaves sewed over them look well, but it is a tedious task, as they must first be covered with paper or cloth. Very lovely silvery letters can be made of tinfoil. Cut out the shape of the letter in tinfoil, but considerably larger than the foundation letter, crumple it in the hand until it is well creased, then place it lightly over the card letter and fasten it at the back. Letters of white wool, Canton flannel, or cotton batting are very effective upon a crimson background. Paste the card letters upon sheets of the best white wadding. The flat side of the wadding adheres to the pasted side of the letters so that you can cut the wadding out the clear shape of the paper. The effect is as if the letters were formed of snow. A narrow edge of delicate green to the white letters is sometimes considered an improvement. Letters of all kinds can be fastened in the same manner as wreaths and garlands, with flour, glass, or Epsom

salts sprinkled upon gum. A motto in the shape of a scroll, in white wadding, edged with frosted leaves, with letters of pressed ferns bent into shape, is exceedingly attractive, as is also one with a background of pale green cambric, edged with dark green leaves, the letters composed of bright crimson everlastings. Silver letters are charming upon pale blue, dull green, or deep red; letters covered with crimson velvet are effective upon old gold sateen. Small banners can also be utilized in Christmas decoration. In these modern days so many persons paint tastefully that no directions are required for their construction except that they should be appropriate in character and sentiment, and there are so many designs from which to choose that individual taste can alone direct a selection.—*Christian Union.*

WHAT MOLLIE DID FOR JESUS.

BY RUTH ARGYLE.

Chambermaid in a large boarding-house, what could she do for the Master? Listen and you will learn. Besides the unconscious influence which the purity and consistency of her daily life exerted, she faithfully used every occasion which presented itself, striving to make each word, each act of life, tell for Jesus. Every evening which she could call her own she spent in a house situated a short distance from the boarding-house where she worked. A poor decrepit widow occupied a room in this house, and was quite willing that Mollie should gather all the little girls of the neighborhood in it "of an evening," and whenever it was Mollie's "afternoon out," while she tried to assist in the work of teaching the wretched little creatures to read and sew.

It would be difficult to imagine, unless, indeed, you have seen the experiment tried, how much good was accomplished by means so humble and unpretending. The children soon began to take an interest in keeping themselves tidy, and used what influence they possessed at home to induce their parents to try and keep the miserable places as comfortable as they could, and in some cases succeeding too.

But one thing more Mollie wanted—that was to supply the poor children with comfortable clothing and with Bibles. She made this subject, as, indeed, every other, a subject of earnest prayer. Finally she made her wants known to a lady boarder in whose wisdom and Christian principle she had perfect confidence. This lady was much surprised upon learning how great a work Mollie had already accomplished, and did not rest until she had interested all her friends in this good girl and her work. The result exceeded Mollie's highest dreams. A sum of money was soon placed in her hands sufficiently large to admit of the purchase of clothing and Bibles, and yet leave enough with which to buy food and medicine for those needing such things. Happy indeed was our good Mollie now, for she could relieve the suffering for which a kind word had been almost her only gift. Nor was this the end of her labor of love; for, through the lady to whom she had first appealed, her work and character became known to others, who made Mollie the almoner of their bounty and finally succeeded in starting an industrial school in the very neighborhood which had been so long the scene of her unpretending labors. Of this school Mollie became the matron, and oh, with what a grateful heart did she watch over her flock of poor little waifs! As she had been faithful in the tiny room where she met the children of want and sorrow, so now she strove to be still more so in her enlarged sphere of usefulness.

Verily, she had her reward in seeing so many of the children committed to her charge go forth from her teaching to wage war against the enemies of truth and goodness, to labor for the Lord with soul and might; and when they had accomplished great results and had become powers for good in the world, what joy filled the humble Mollie's heart upon being told that she was the first person who had inspired them with high resolves and holy aspirations—that but for her and her efforts in their behalf, they would have remained to the end sunk in degradation and vice. Verily, God's pay is always sure, always safe.—*American Messenger.*

WHAT A MODEST REBUKE DID.

We are told that the Christian training of a Scotch boy, who never afterwards attained any high position, and whose very name is now forgotten, was the real beginning of the mighty spiritual movement that, early in the present century, in the hands of five great and godly men, saved to the world the fruits of the Reformation.

This Highland boy grew up strong in reverent faith and earnest practice of his early gospel lessons, and served many years as a marine in the British navy.

Once during a fearful battle at sea, his commander Captain James Haldane, became enraged at the momentary quailing of the gunners, and with an awful curse, wished them all in everlasting perdition. Our Highland sailor, shocked beyond measure at such profanity, touched his cap, and said solemnly:

"Captain Haldane, God hears prayer; if He should answer that, where would we be?"

However the words may have affected the excited commander at the time, when the battle was over they fastened on him with resistless power. The thoughts they awoke within him melted his rough nature into penitence, and led him at length to give his heart and his whole life to the service of Christ. Through his influence, his infidel brother, Robert Haldane, became as decided a Christian as himself. James and Robert began to labor for the good of men, and the two were among the most powerful and influential preachers of their time.

Robert removed to Switzerland and while working in Geneva, where the Protestant faith and doctrines were in a decline, he was the means of awakening to a new religious life three young students, Felix Neff, Henry Pyt, and Merle D'Aubigne. The grand zeal and self-denying labors of these men brought back to Geneva, and to Europe, the glory of the Church of Christ, which the successors of Luther and Melancthon had suffered to grow dim.

The name of D'Aubigne, the historian of the Reformation, is almost as familiar as a household word. As the author of those immortal volumes, and as president of the most important Protestant theological school of Europe, he stands second to few in the roll of sacred fame.

One is almost amazed at the thought, but that for the poor boy, trained in the Highlands at his mother's knee to the reverence for God and love of his Saviour which prompted him to reprove a profane sea captain, the world would have had no Merle D'Aubigne.

Add what parents can know of how much good they deprive mankind when they neglect such pious education of their children?—*Sentinel.*

JACK'S SCAR.

BY MARY CLARK JOHNSON.

Almost every boy has some kind of a scar. Theodore has a scar upon his cheek, made by falling against the stove; Albert a scar upon his foot, cut with a hatchet; Franklin a scar on his shoulder, where a horse, named Lucy Lolly, bit him; but Jack's scar is not like these.

I heard about Jack's scar at the prayer-meeting last night, and a voice in my heart whispered, "Tell that story to all the boys you know."

Though, to be sure, Jack is not a little boy. He is a young man; a conductor on a railway train.

A great railway has its headquarters in our town, so almost everybody is either at work for the railway company himself, or else he has a father, or a brother, or a cousin who is.

Last week a conductor was killed,—somebody is killed nearly every week. While Jack, with a group of his comrades, stood sadly talking about the conductor's death, one of their number, a Christian gentleman, remarked: "There is hardly a man in the railway service but has been in some way hurt—carries some scar." Whereupon Jack proudly replied that he had been in the employ of the railway company for years, and he had never been hurt,—he carried no scar; and, to make his statement stronger, he used some very wicked words; for, alas, alas! Jack had learned to swear.

The gentleman looked sorrowfully at the young man. He knew his history; knew

that Jack had not been brought up to swear, but that he had kept company with profane boys and men until he had fallen into the habit almost unconsciously, scarcely knowing when he did swear. The comrade thought of all this, then said earnestly: "Jack, you do carry a scar." But Jack again asserted with an oath that he did not; he was very positive there was no scar upon him. "Ah, Jack, Jack!" answered the Christian friend, "you have a bad scar—in your mouth!"

And girls, too, sometimes have ugly scars. I know a lady who says she has a scar on her heart, made by listening to some bad stories one day, when she was a girl at school.

Dear boys and girls, you may not be able to prevent the scars of accidents upon hands and faces, but I implore you to strive earnestly, all the time, fervently seeking the help of the Saviour, to keep your mouths and hearts free from the scars of sin.—*S. S. Times.*

IF YOU WANT knowledge, you must toil for it; if food, you must toil for it; and if pleasure, you must toil for it. Toil is the law. Pleasure comes through toil, and not by self-indulgence and indolence. When one gets to love work his life is a happy one.—*Ruskin.*

There's a song in the air,
There's a star in the sky,
There's a mother's deep prayer
And a baby's low cry;
And the star rains its fire
While the beautiful sing,
And the manger of Bethlehem
Cradles a King.
—*J. G. Holland.*

Question Corner.—No. 24.

BIBLE QUESTIONS.

1. A besieged people willing to surrender desired the terms. What were the base and barbarous conditions offered and by whom?
2. Under what circumstances were men, faint with hunger, afraid to taste honey which was abundant in the woods where they were?
3. Who disguised himself and accompanied by two servants went to have his fortune told?
4. What man was slain while taking his noonday nap?
5. Who saved the life of her nephew by hiding him and his nurse in the temple from the murderous malice of his grandmother? Name the three.

OUR WONDERFUL HOUSE.

A wonderful house have I,
That God has made for me,
With windows to see the sky,
And keepers strong and free.

The door has a tuneful harp,
A mill to grind my bread,
And there is a golden bowl,
A beautiful silver thread.

A fountain is in the house;
A pitcher lies at hand,
And strong men God has given,
To bear me o'er the land.

The keepers must work for God;
The harp must sing his praise;
The windows look to heaven;
The strong men walk his ways.

And when this house shall fall,
And death at last shall come,
The good have a better house
Above in Jesus' home.

ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUESTIONS IN NO. 22.

1. Benjamin. Gen. xxxv. 18.
2. Eliphaz. Job iv. 1.
3. Oil. Ex. xxx. 23, 33.
4. Follow me. Matt. iv. 19.
5. Goliath. 1 Sam. xvii. 4.
6. Offering. Hebrews x. 14.
7. Onion. Num. xl. 5.
8. Dove. Gen. viii. 8, 9.
9. Calc. Luke xii. 23.
10. Hosannah. Matt. xxi. 9.
11. Eli. 1 Sam. ii. 27, 33.
12. Eden. Gen. ii.
13. Rain. Matt. v. 45.
14. Be of good cheer. John xvi. 33.

CORRECT ANSWERS RECEIVED.
Correct answers have been received from Cora M. McIntire, and Clara E. Folson.