

## TO A LITTLE MAID

How should little maidens grow,  
When they're ten or over?  
In the sunshine and the air,  
Wholesome, simple, fresh and fair.  
As the bonny daisies blow,  
And the happy clover.

How should little lassies speak,  
When they're ten or over?  
As the birds do, and the bees,  
Singing through the flowers and trees  
Till each mortal fain would seek  
The merry-hearted rover.

How about her eyes and ears,  
At this stage of growing?  
Like the clear, unclouded skies  
Not too eager nor too wise,  
So that all she sees and hears  
May be worth the knowing.

And the little maiden's heart?  
Ah! for that we're praying,  
That it strong and pure may grow;  
God, who loveth children so,  
Keep her from all guile apart,  
Through life's mazes straying.



GOING TO SUNDAY-SCHOOL.

## THE TRUE RICHES.

BY MISS NANNIE B. GAINES.

About twelve years ago a boy from Japan went to America to try his fortune in that great country

He found many people striving after money, and he too wished for money, and with this end in view toiled day after day. This did not give him the pleasure or profit he had anticipated

One day, as he was wandering along the street, he was attracted to a large building, where he saw many people entering, although it was Sunday. He went in and heard the prayer and hymns of praise; then he listened while the preacher read John iii. 16. When he learned that "who soever" meant him, a poor Japanese boy, he thought "Ah! this is better than gold! I have not the money I hoped to send my poor old mother, but I will send this good news to her."

From a Japanese friend he procured a Japanese Bible and some tracts. These he sent to his dear old mother in Japan, and

wrote telling her of his new-found treasure, and urging her to seek the true riches.

The old woman read the Bible and prayed to God to send her a teacher. One day while she was praying some one came saying a foreign missionary was in the city and was preaching a strange doctrine, telling the people to repent and believe on one Jesus, who would save all men.

The old woman said "My prayer is answered. I must see the teacher."

After talking with the missionary, she said "I believe in the one true living God and Jesus, his Son. I want to flee the wrath to come."

She was baptized, and thus was the first Christian in her city.

Don't be too certain. "John, where is the hammer?" "It is in the corn-crib." "No, it is not there; I have just been looking there." "Well, I know it is; I saw it there not half an hour ago." "If you saw it there, it must be there, of course; but suppose you go back and fetch it." John goes to the corn-crib, and presently returns with a small axe in his hand. "Oh, it was the axe I saw; the handle was sticking out from the half-bushel measure; I thought it was the hammer." "But you said positively that you did see the hammer, not that you thought you saw it." There is a great difference between the two answers. Do not permit yourself to make a positive statement even about a small matter unless you are quite sure; for if you do you will find the habit growing upon you, and by-and-bye you will begin to make loose replies to questions of great importance. Don't be too certain.

## A WISE CHOICE.

A good minister, whom we will not name, while sitting at the dinner-table with his family, had these words said to him by his son, a lad of eleven years: "Father, I have been thinking if I could have one single wish of mine what I would choose."

"To give you a better chance," said the father, "suppose the allowance be increased to three wishes; what would they be? Be careful, Charley."

He made his choice thoughtfully: first, of a good character; second, of good health; and third, of a good education.

His father suggested to him that fame, power, riches, and various other things are held in general esteem among mankind.

"I have thought of all that," said he, "but if I have a good conscience and good health and a good education, I shall be able to earn all the money that will be of any use to me, and everything else will come in its right place." A wise decision, indeed, for a lad of that age.

## A GREAT MOTHER.

The mother of John Quincy Adams said in a letter to him when he was only twelve: "I would rather see you laid in your grave than grow up a profane and graceless boy."

Just before his death a gentleman said to him: "I have found out who made you."

"What do you mean?" asked Mr. Adams.

The gentleman replied: "I have been reading the published letters of your mother."

"If," this gentleman relates, "I had spoken that dear name to some little boy who had been for weeks away from his mother, his eyes could not have flashed more brightly, nor his face glow more quickly, than did the eyes of that venerable old man when I pronounced the name of his mother. He stood up in his peculiar way, and said: 'Yes, sir; all that is good in me I owe to my mother.'"

Three years ago I was in that city, and saw the old woman happy in Christian fellowship, for there was a prosperous church with many faithful workers.

And the boy? He kept the faith, became a useful man, and was employed in responsible positions in America. He returned to Japan, where he was honoured, and high positions were offered him under the Government; but he declined all, that he might preach the Gospel to his people. You may hear of him again.

## DON'T BE TOO POSITIVE.

Boys, don't be too certain. Remember that nothing is easier than to be mistaken; and if you permit yourself to be so very positive in your mistakes a great many times everybody will lose confidence in what you say. Never make a positive statement unless you know it as you say. If you have any doubts, or if there is room for any, remove the possibility by examination before speaking, or speak cautiously.