

Spring.

THE buds are bursting into bloom,
The grass is fresh and green,
And everywhere throughout the land
Spring's tokens can be seen.

Her graceful footstep through the fields
Daisies and buttercups calls to birth;
Oh, what a glorious, wondrous change
Spring makes on this bare earth!

And there's a lesson taught herein,
Which merry bluebirds ever sing;
'Tis this: when life and death are o'er,
Then comes the blest Eternal Spring.

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Pleasant Hours:

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK

Rev. W. H. WITHROW, D.D., Editor.

TORONTO, APRIL 27, 1889.

WORLD'S SUNDAY-SCHOOL CONVENTION.

THE great Sunday-school gathering will be held in London, England, on July 2, 3, 4, and 5. The day meetings will be held in the Sunday-school Memorial Hall, a large and handsome building on Farringdon Street, near St. Paul's Church. Very great interest is being exhibited on both sides of the sea in connection with this Convention, from which most important results are expected. The following is the programme outlined by B. F. Jacobs, Esq.:

I. THE WORK REPORTED.

Organized Sunday-school work:

- In Great Britain.
- On the Continent of Europe.
- In America.
- In other Lands.

II. THE WORK EXAMINED.

The Value of Existing S. S. Organizations:

- For Consultation and Comparison.
- For Co-operation and Consecration.
- For Extending the Work:
 - a By Conventions and Conferences.
 - b By Institutes and Normal Classes.
 - c By other Agencies.

III. THE WORK TESTED.

The Bible, the Sunday-school Text Book:

- Its Place, Permanence, Power.
- Faithful Bible Study essential to spiritual life.
- The best methods of Study:
 - For Teachers alone, and with others.
 - For Scholars alone, and with the class.

The International Lesson Plan:

- The Lesson Committee.
- The Selection of Lessons.



THE BOYS AND THE BIRD'S NEST.

The Published Lesson Helps.
The Home Reading Lessons.
The Daily Bible Reading Alliance.

IV. THE WORK ADVANCED.

Approved Methods of Work:

- Conventions and Bible Institutes.
- Normal and Teacher Training Classes.
- Sunday-school Assemblies.
- Training School for Christian Workers.
- Paid and Voluntary S. S. Missionaries.
- House-to-House Visitation.

Management of Church Sunday-schools:

- Graded Classes and Departments.
- How to retain Adult Members.
- Home Classes for the Absent.
- Memorizing the Lesson.
- Systematic Beneficence.
- The Place and Power of Music.
- Written Examinations.

Management of Mission Schools:

- Systematic Visitation.
- Securing Regular Attendance.
- Application of Kindergarten Principles.
- Helping the Poor.
- Rewards and Festivals.

V. THE WORK EXTENDED.

- The Reasons for Extension.
- The Means by which it can be done.
- The Field that invites us.
- The Results that will follow.

Dr. Withrow has so arranged his excursion to Europe as to be in London during the whole period of the World's Sunday-school Convention, and facilities will be afforded for attending its meetings.

For persons desiring to attend the Convention, returning to Montreal in six weeks, board at a good hotel in London will be provided, and all expenses of travel, strictly first-class, from Montreal back to Montreal, will be paid, for \$165.

If the journey be extended to Paris, returning to Montreal in six weeks, entertainment will be provided at good hotels in London and Paris, and six carriage drives given in Paris, for \$235, including first-class travel from Montreal and back to Montreal. If second-class railway carriages be used in Europe, and the carriage drives be omitted, a considerable reduction can be made.

This furnishes a very favourable opportunity to attend a most notable Sunday-school Assembly in the greatest city in the world, and to visit the World's Art and Industrial Exposition in the city of Paris, under personal guidance, and at very low rates. Full information on the subject will be furnished to any one writing to the Rev. Dr. Withrow, Toronto.

THE BOYS AND THE BIRD'S NEST.

THE story of this picture is thus told:—

Two boys were strolling through a field, when they saw a bird's nest on the branch of a tree. "I'll have it!" said Ned, the elder of the two; and in a moment he had climbed the tree and brought the nest down.

He put it on the ground carefully; and then the boys lay at full length on the grass, and looked at the nest together. There were three young birds in it.

"Don't be afraid, you cunning little chaps!" said Frank. "We have no thought of hurting you, have we, Ned?"

"No, indeed," said Ned. "We'll be as kind to them as their own mother."

Just then Ned heard a chirping above his head. He looked up, and saw the two parent-birds fluttering about in great distress. They flew in circles over his head, and made a grievous noise, that seemed to say to him: "You have robbed us of our children. Give us back our children."

Ned and Frank were kind-hearted boys; and now they both began to be very thoughtful. They looked at each other a moment; then Frank spoke out: "I tell you what, Ned, I don't know about this business."

"Well, I know about it," said Ned. "It's shameful; that's what it is! I feel like a sneak."

"So do I," said Frank.

"What right had I," said Ned, "to go and tear down the house of these poor birds?—and to take away their young ones, too! Why, I'm worse than a burglar."

"But we meant to be kind to the little birds, you know," said Frank.

"Yes; so we did," answered Ned; "kind to the young ones, and cruel to the old ones—all for our own fun."

"Well, Ned, I'm just as bad as you are," said Frank; "but what can we do about it?"

"We'll put the nest back as well as we can," said Ned.

So Ned climbed the tree again, and Frank handed the nest up to him very gently. Ned put it back in its place, and the old birds flew back to it in delight.

"They will soon repair damages," said Frank.

"Yes," said Ned; "but if they were to send in a bill to us, it would serve us right."—*Aims and Objects of the Toronto Humane Society.*

OUR hearts are to be vessels into which shall be received the measure of gospel grace we need for all times and circumstances. Some people close the heart to the reception of God's grace, and hence they are barren and unfruitful in the Lord.