

Up Family

Children at Play.

There are children in the yard below;

How many they are!

Running about in the open air,

Their bright little faces all aglow.

How happy they are!

Oh! children, children, how happy and gay,

Do you pass the hours of the living day.

Your sweet child-voiced ring in my ear

So musically!

Your joyous laughter gushes so clear,

Your careless words are so full of good cheer

Oh! children, children, your God made you so,

Your Father who lives up above, you know.

You are free and careless as the air,

You young hearts are all unknown to care.

The sky of your life is very fair,

Oh! children, children, you add my heart,

See! my tears are coming, you made them start.

You, gentle with me, a father's tale,

For you do not sin.

Nor errors your youthful minds bewail,

No wickedness makes your smiles grow pale.

Oh! children, children, you cannot make me

As sinless and innocent as ye.

I would ye might always be so glad,

And never grow old.

For years are frightened with all that's bad,

By and by you will often be sad.

You cannot be so.

Oh! children, children, forever be so,

And you will always be happy I know.

Ye carry me back to the far-off past,

When I was a child.

My tears are falling now thick and fast;

Why, why cannot you forever last?

Oh! children, children, still laugh at play,

Ye have made me sad—but don't go away.

I would have ye, children, linger still,

I love to hear you.

Your voices deep in my ear heart thrill,

Ye can make me happy ye will!

No, no—do not go.

Oh! children, children, I shall not be sad,

Should I ever see you again.

Harry Willoughby.

ON WHAT'S THE USE.

"Harry, my son," said Mrs. Willoughby, "I

wish you would practice your music lesson this

morning."

"Oh, now, what's the use?" interrupted Harry.

"I wish that Chickering had the piano-forte,

and that I had never taken a lesson."

"The use," his mother calmly replied, "is that

you cannot now see, if you never learn any lesson

until you know what its practical use will be, you

will grow up in ignorance, I fear."

"But," persisted Harry, "playing the piano is

just for fun. I want to be out-of-doors—

coasting with the other boys."

"Edward Bliss practices two hours every

morning; he is not out-coasting. The lesson

must be learned at some time."

"Well," said Harry, "if I must, I must;

but I don't want to take another quarter's lesson."

"And he went to the piano to write away

the time that he ought to have devoted to his

lesson."

Instead of practicing, as his mother desired,

and composed him to be doing, he took a small

song-book, and tried to play the air of "The

Star-Spangled Banner," then other tunes, as his

inclination led him; and finally, when that com-

position failed him, he turned to the "Instruction

Book."

All that Harry needed was patience; for he

had a quick ear for music, and his teacher said

he appeared to have a natural skill. But he was

so unwilling to devote his time to science, his

parents yielded to his capriciousness, and per-

mitted him to relinquish the study.

"Two more hours for play now," said Harry

as he went out one morning, after a snow-storm.

Fearing the house in which Edward Bliss lived,

he heard Edward practicing his lesson. "I wonder

what good Ed thinks it's going to do him;

he likes play as well as any of us," he said morn-

Frozen Kindness.

The world is full of kindness that never

is known. It is not much better than

kindness at all. The fact is the store makes

the room warm, but there are great piles of

fallen trees lying among rocks on the top of hills,

where nobody can get them; these do not make

anybody warm. You might freeze to death for

years, if you had no means of getting the wood

home and making a fire with it. Just so in a

family, love is what makes the parents and chil-

dren, the brothers and sisters happy; but if

they take care never to say a word about it, if

they keep it a profound secret, as if it were a

crime, they will not be much happier than if

there was not any love among them; the house

will seem cold even in summer, and if you

live there, you will cry every day, when any one

calls him "poor fellow."—Dr. Halliday.

The New Key.

"Ann," said a little girl, "I believe I have

found a new key to unlock people's hearts, and

make them all happy."

"What is the key?" asked her aunt.

"It is only one little word: guess what it is?"

"But you are no guesser."

"It is please," said the child; "I want to please

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