

# LITTLE FOLKS

## A Useful Man.

There was once a youth named Oberlin, who lived in the north-east of France. He showed a gentle and loving spirit, and a desire to do good to others. Many stories are told of the ways in which he tried to make people happy.

One day, when crossing a busy market-place, he saw some very rude lads turn over a basket of fruit

found that the schools were miserable rooms, where the wild, dirty children were crowded together, with men to take care of them who had been used to look after sheep and pigs. He first built neat school-rooms, got proper masters, and soon the children were well taught.

The people had no roads from one place to another, and no bridges over rivers: so he set to work with

Christians. And, under God's blessing, they owed all to the kind heart and willing hand of John Oberlin.

At his death the funeral procession was two miles long, so much was he beloved by the people for whose good he had labored.—  
'Friendly Greetings.'

## Fred's Lesson.

'Come hammer in this nail, my boy, Here's hammer and a plank.'

'It's easily done,' said Fred with joy.

The nail went in, whink, whank.

'Now draw it out,' his father said, And out it came at length.

'That's not so easily done,' sighed Fred,

And takes a deal more strength.'

'But see an ugly hole remains, Come Fred, pull that out too.'

'It can't be done,' the boy complains,

No lad it can't, that's true.'

'So do right first, 'tis easier far Than to correct a wrong

And every wrong act leaves the scar That doth to it belong.'

—Selected.

## How Johnny Helped.

(Frances Hastings, in 'Christian Register.')

It wasn't often that Johnny had to be left alone for a whole afternoon; but Lena was ill with the grip and couldn't even wait on the table, although mamma had four friends to luncheon. He couldn't visit with Harold or Isabel, because they both had the measles. In fact, measles and mumps together had broken up the kindergarten for nearly a week and Johnny had trotted round after his busy mother all the morning as she made the beds, took out the silver, arranged the flowers, consulted with cook and ran upstairs half a dozen times to see if Lena didn't feel just a little bit better, poor thing!

Then, when the 'pretty ladies' came and he was allowed to sit at the table with them instead of having his luncheon with Lena, he was so pleased and proud that he didn't mind at all because they were all going off to the club in the afternoon and he must stay alone.

'Really, I wouldn't go out at all,'



YOUNG OBERLIN'S KIND ACTION.

and eggs which a poor woman had come to sell. Oberlin told the boys of their bad conduct, and then ran quickly home, brought all the pocket-money he had, and gave it to her. The poor old creature cried aloud at this kind act.

At a very early age he used to offer up this short prayer: 'O God, teach me to do Thy will;' and it was his aim through life to make the will of God his own.

A life begun so well was devoted, as he grew up to be a man, to useful and pious deeds. He became a minister of the gospel to a people who lived in a very barren and rocky part of the country. He

found that the schools were miserable rooms, where the wild, dirty children were crowded together, with men to take care of them who had been used to look after sheep and pigs. He first built neat school-rooms, got proper masters, and soon the children were well taught.

He induced their parents to build proper cottages, to plant fruit-trees, to cultivate fields, and even to print useful books, so that the people of the district, from being the most ignorant, idle, and wretched, became polite, wise, and busy, and numbers showed they were true