

EASTER MORNING.

O LILIES sweet, O lilies rare,
Why stand ye here so tall and fair,
Breathing such fragrance on the air
Upon this Easter morning?
The earth is covered warm and deep
To keep all other flowers asleep;
It is not time for you to rise;
Did you fall out of paradise?

Not so, sweet child, our home is here.
We bloom for you through all the year,
To keep the breath of heaven near
Upon an Easter morning.
We are the sign of that sweet One,
Who when his life of pain was done
Gave us a home in heaven above,
Where all is peace, and light, and love.

The story's old, the story's new;
We bloom for you the whole year through,
To bring its lesson home to you
Upon an Easter morning.
Be sweet and pure, and lift your voice
With all who do this day rejoice,
For that new life that never dies,—
A life with Him in paradise.

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TORONTO, APRIL 10, 1897.

A PERFECT LITTLE GENTLEMAN.

BY B. V. CHISHOLM.

CHARLIE HARPER'S father lived next door to Miss Jemima Nichols. His mother was on good terms with the spinster, at least as good as any of the neighbours, but Charlie had never ventured across the division fence. Miss Jemima did not like boys, and the boys did not like her, and sometimes they annoyed her very much by playing tricks upon her. Charlie never joined in their pranks. But one day when he was trying his new sling-shot the pebble flew wide of the mark and struck

Miss Jemima's cat, sleeping lazily in the sunshine of her own yard.

In his pity for the dumb animal, Charlie forgot his fear, and hopping over the line fence was by the suffering cat as soon as its mistress.

"You cruel, wicked boy," cried Miss Jemima, angrily. "You have killed my poor Tabby, and I want you to get out of my yard this very minute."

She would not listen to Charlie's explanation of the accident, and told him to carry the cat out of her sight, as it would die.

Glad to escape he took it home, and, with the help of his mother, bound up its broken leg.

A few days later he adopted another cat and four frisky kittens, saying he wanted them for Miss Jemima. No one objected, but when he went to present them, the crabbed spinster frightened him so badly by her rough manner that he began to cry.

Charlie wanted to tell her how he and his mother had tended Tabby, and how much improved the poor kitty was by all their kindness. But Miss Jemima's unkind words drove the thoughts out of his mind.

"Never mind," she said, more gently. "I am sure by the way the cats follow you that you are a gentle boy, but I could not find room for six cats. I will take old Tabby and one of the kittens, and you keep the rest. They are so fond of you, and you can harness them up and drive over to see my cats every day. If you were like other boys I would not invite you to come, but your kindness to my Tabby assures me that you are a perfect little gentleman, and there is room everywhere for such boys."

Then Miss Jemima did a very strange thing—for her!

She asked Charlie to "come in;" and he had a very pleasant call.

THE RUNAWAY.

BY ALICE H. RICH.

"SPEAK! speak! speak, I tell you," said James Anton to his dog Fido; but Fido would not speak. "Speak! speak, or I'll have to whip you," James continued.

Fido looked knowingly up into James' face, cocked his head a little to one side, half-opening his mouth as if to bark; then shut his teeth close together again.

"Please do speak, Fido; I can't tell a lie, and I'll have to whip you if you don't." James voice trembled, for he dearly loved his dog.

Fido shook his head, and James raised his whip, but before he could touch the dog, Fido was running as fast as his legs could carry him to the barn, where he hid, so James could not find him.

James went to his mother, and told her the story, and she said, "Well, dear, I don't think dogs are so very different from boys. Do you remember last week your teacher wanted you to speak a piece in school, and you came home and told me

that you would rather stay away from school than speak it? And what would that have been but running away, like Fido?"

"But that was different mamma; I had to speak before my teacher and the whole school, and the piece had four verses. I wanted Fido to give three short barks, and those only before me."

"Yes, dear; but you are a boy, and he is a dog," replied Mrs. Anton. "You know we expect more from boys than dogs."

"That's so, mamma; I'll try after this not to want to run away from things I don't like to do. I couldn't really run away from speaking the piece, because you would not let me. If it had not been for that, I might have done the same as Fido."

"And if you are patient with Fido, I think he will learn this lesson also," said mamma. "Patience tells with dogs, as well as with boys, my son."

EASTER.

WHEN in the starry gloom
They sought the Lord Christ's tomb,
Two angels stood in sight,
All dressed in dazzling white,
Who unto the women said,
"Why seek ye the living among the dead?"

His life, his hope, his heart,
With death they had no part;
For this those words of scorn
First heard that holy morn,
When the waiting angels said,
"Why seek ye the living among the dead?"

O ye of this latter day,
Who journey the self-same way
Through morning's twilight gloom
Back to the shadowy tomb:
To you as to them was it said,
"Why seek ye the living among the dead?"

The Lord is risen indeed,
He is here for your love, for your need—
Not in the grave, or the sky,
But here where men live and die;
And true the word that was said,
"Why seek ye the living among the dead?"

Wherever are tears and sighs,
Wherever are children's eyes,
Where man calls man his brother,
And loves as himself another,
Christ lives! the angels aid,
"Why seek ye the living among the dead?"

A QUEER NEST.

IN South Africa there is a peculiar variety of the bird known as the hornbill. This bird has peculiar nesting habits. The nest is built in the hollow limb of a tree, and the opening is closed with plaster, leaving a hole through which the male bird feeds the female. When the mother bird leaves the nest the plaster has to be broken away. She moults during nesting time and becomes almost naked, but gets very fat, the male bird feeds her so constantly.