

CHILDREN.

COME to me, O ye children!
For I heard you at your play;
And the questions that perplexed me
Have vanished quite away.

Ye open the eastern windows,
That look toward the sun,
Where thoughts are singing swallows,
And the brooks of morning run.

In your hearts are the birds and the sun-
shine,
In your thoughts that brooklets flow;
But in mine the wind of autumn,
And the first fall of snow.

O what would the world be to us,
If the children were no more!
We should dread the desert behind us,
Worse than the dark before.

What the leaves are to the forest,
With light and air for food;
Ere their sweet and tender juices
Have been hardened into wood—

That to the world are children;
Through them, it feels the glow
Of a brighter and sunnier climate
Than reaches the trunk below.

Come to me, O ye children!
And whisper in my ear,
What the birds and the winds are singing,
In your sunny atmosphere.

For what are all our contrivings,
And the wisdom of our books,
When compared with your caresses,
And the gladness of your looks?

You are better than all the ballads
That ever were sung or said,
For ye are living poems,
And all the rest are dead.

—H. W. Longfellow.

NEWFOUNDLAND DOG.

THE dog belongs to the same family as the wolf, fox, and jackal. But our noble Newfoundland is very different from any of these. He is intelligent, trusty, and kind, a special favourite with children, and a good-tempered play-mate. They will bear almost any amount of mauling about by their little friends. Their toes are partially webbed; so that they are by far the best swimmers of the whole tribe of dogs. They have many a time saved human lives by their heroism in rescuing persons who were exposed to the peril of drowning.

TESTS WITH ALCOHOL.

IN the performance of feats of strength and endurance, as in the case of Weston, the famous pedestrian, alcohol has been avoided; and in the harvest-field and the workshop, and with contestants in ancient Roman games, the advantage has ever been with abstainers. The most conclusive tests have been in armies in severe marches, where accurate observations on a large scale have been made by intelligent medical and commanding officers. In all such tests, whether in hot or cold climates and seasons—in Africa, India, Russia, and United States—in our own country, and everywhere, it has been shown that those soldiers who abstained from alcohol could accomplish and endure more than those who indulged in it, however moderately or freely.

SAID a Moorish caliph: "Fifty years have elapsed since I became caliph. I have possessed riches, honours, pleasures, friends—in short, everything that a man can desire in this world. I have reckoned up the days in which I could say I was really happy, and they amount to fourteen."

THE EARTH AS A STAR.

IT was as a beautiful summer's night. Uncle John and his young visitors had been making a visit to a friend at some distance, and as they were walking home together, George began to talk about the stars, and Frank tried to count them.

"What a strange thing a star is," said George; "I often think of Ellen's rhyme:

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are."

"No need of wonder," said Uncle John; "at least, no more reason for wondering at a star than at a daisy."

"But, uncle, dear," said Ellen, "we know so much more about a daisy than we do about the stars."

"That may or may not be," was uncle's answer. "Have you never been introduced to a star—never made a star's acquaintance?"

"How could we, uncle?" asks Frank. "They are so far off."

"Not all of them."

"Which is the nearest star to us?" asked Ellen.

"That one on which you are now moving," was uncle's answer. "Our earth is one of the star family, of which our sun may be called the head. We may learn a good deal about a family by knowing one of its members; there is a family likeness in stars as well as in human creatures. Regarding our system as a family of stars, can any one of you recollect the names of its members?"

George was ready with the answer: "Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune."

"Yes, these are the principal members of the family; but the smaller members are still more numerous. There are Juno, Ceres, Vesta, Pallas, and others; in addition to which there are secondary kinds of planets—such as I should be inclined to call the servants of the family, but which astronomers have called satellites or moons. Some of the planets have several moons; Jupiter, for example, has four. We have but one. Ruth, you remember the lines in Milton, about the 'Queen of the Night?'"

Ruth repeated:

"Now glowed the firmament
With living sapphires; Hesperus, that led
The starry host, rode brightest, till the moon,
Rising in clouded majesty, at length,
Apparent queen, unveiled her peerless light,
And o'er the dark her silver mantle threw."

"Those verses are very pretty," said Frank; "but who is Hesperus?"

"Hesperus," George answered directly, "means the planet Venus, the brightest star in the sky."

"It is not so bright as the moon," said Frank.

"It is in reality," said Uncle John, "but the moon is so much nearer to us than the star you mention that it appears to us to be much more brilliant, and certainly gives us more light; but judged by this standard, a gas-lamp would give more light than either, to read or work by."

"I suppose," said Lizzie, "that the sun is larger than the moon."

"Yes; if it would take forty-nine such bodies as that of the moon to make one of the bulk of the earth, to make one of the bulk of the sun would require more than fifty million."

"But they look very much about the same size," said Frank.

"They do, and that is accounted

for by the difference of their distance from our earth; the farther an object is removed, the smaller it appears to our gaze; now the sun's distance exceeds the moon's by above four hundred times."

"Do you remember, uncle," said Frank, "about the two old men disputing which was the most useful, the sun or moon, and settling it that the moon was really the best, because it shined in the dark, whereas the sun always shined in the day-light, when it was not wanted?"

"Yes," I have heard the story, and the poor man had appearances in his favour. He only knew what he saw; about the principles of astronomy he would have to say, as the witty school-boy did when posed by a difficult question, 'Short of information on the topic.' The man did not know that we should never have what we call daylight without the sun; and that the moon's light was merely lent to it by the sun."

"How do you mean, uncle," asked Lizzie, "that the sun lends its light to the moon?"

"I mean that when the sun no longer shines in our part of the world its light is thrown into the surface of the moon, and from the moon reflected back to us. The moon does not give light; it merely reflects it."

"I should like to go to the moon," said Frank, very seriously.

"It would be a long journey—about twelve months, at the rate of sixty miles an hour, twelve hours a day! And the end of the journey might scarcely reward your toil."

"I wonder what sort of a place it is?" said Frank, in an absent way, as if he had some idea of starting on the journey. "I should like to know. I wonder whether one could go in a balloon."

"No, certainly not; but you may go through a telescope. By help of a powerful telescope, a building as high as St. Paul's would be readily discernible on the moon's surface. If there were people on the moon, who knew how to use lenses, they might discover several buildings on our earth—cathedrals and pyramids—and might, if they liked, read learned papers about them, at the meetings of some Lunar Royal Society. However, from all that we can learn about the moon, it does not appear that we should find any society at all. It seems to be a barren rock. Those cloudy appearances, which the children sometimes call the features of the man in the moon, are in reality deep valleys or the shadows of lofty mountains. Supposing that we could reach the moon, and wander over its surface, it is possible we should be more alarmed than gratified. We should find mountains of awful height; huge masses of rock, with bare summits and rugged flanks, rising to an altitude of several miles; we should find these rocks torn by fissures, and jagged blocks of stone hurled in confusion at their base: we might ascend one of these mountains, parched with thirst, almost blinded by the intolerable light of the sun, our hands torn and bleeding, and reaching the top in hopes of finding a pleasanter descent and more fertile country on the other side, shake with terror at the sight of a precipice thousands of feet deep—a circular precipice that shuts in an immense extent of bleached, barren country, unrelieved by a glimpse

of green, unrefreshed by a drop of water. Placed on such a summit, looking down into a blackness of darkness that no eye could penetrate, or gazing with awe at a gigantic mountain rising in the centre of the inclosed space, the stoutest heart would quail. I am not," said Uncle John, "drawing a fancy picture when I describe the rocky desolation of the moon. This has been placed beyond a doubt. The telescope has shown us much; photographers have taken the moon's likeness, and then, by the aid of magnifying lenses, men of science have wandered over it at their leisure. Believe me, Master Frank, for visiting the moon the telescope is the best conveyance."

"Then there is no living thing—much less a man—in the moon?" said George.

"Certainly not; there is no air, no water, nothing but rugged rock."

"My respects to the moon, then," said Frank; "it will be as well for me to stay where I am."—S. S. Visitor.

HOW BOYS MAY SUCCEED.

If you have no leaning towards a trade, and no work offers at home, you must find it elsewhere. If you do not want to end your days as a labourer you must make up your mind in advance of any step to be diligent and faithful—to be honest and economical. By observing the first three maxims you will hold any place you may secure, and have the good will of your employer to follow you into new fields. By observing the fourth you can, in a few years, accumulate sufficient capital to enable you to enter into business for yourself.

What boys have done other boys can again accomplish. Eight out of every ten of our rich men were poor boys and made their own way. As for those who began life with plenty of money, not one out of eight has been anything like a success. Detroit, Cleveland, Buffalo, Albany, St. Louis, and every other city contains men who began life by working for smaller wages than will ever be offered to you, and who are now worth from \$50,000 to \$1,000,000 apiece. Some of the old growlers will tell you that it was all in luck. Don't you begin your career by believing in luck. It leads to the poor house by the straight road. What the lazy man calls luck is simply diligence, economy and management.

Pick out the laziest, poorest man in your town and you will find him growing about luck. When he comes to explain his career you will see that he planted potatoes and waited for luck to come around and hoe them while he sat on the grocery steps and talked politics. The ill-luck he grows about has come more through his own shiftlessness and bad management than from any other cause! Diligence makes luck; economy makes luck; honesty makes luck. It is too late in the day to make the world believe that some folks were born to be rich and others to be poor. It rests solely with the boy and man.

Nine cases out of ten the boy who is thoroughly determined to make something of himself will succeed. He may have to encounter rough usage, but the resolution which carried him out into the world will carry him safely through any crisis.