

CHILDREN AND FORBID THEM NOT TO COME

PEACE ON EARTH

GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN

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For the Sunday-School Advocate.

THE FOOLISH VIRGINS.

THE above picture and the one in your last paper represent the beautiful parable of Jesus, which is recorded by St. Matthew in these words:

"Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto

the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came: and they that were ready, went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not."

Isn't that beautiful? Do you understand it? No? Do you want to understand it? Yes? Very good. Read on. Who are the ten virgins? All people who call themselves Christians. You are one of them, because you are a Christian boy or girl.

Who are the foolish virgins? Persons who are Christians in name only and not in heart. Such

persons carry a lamp, (of profession,) but have no oil in their vessels; that is, no grace in their hearts. The Spirit of Jesus does not dwell in them. Wise virgins are those who are Christians both in name and reality.

The bridegroom is Jesus. His coming is the end of the world. Then the foolish virgins will be refused admission to his beautiful heavenly city, and the wise ones will go in to enjoy it forever. How joyful they will be! How sad the foolish ones will be!

I hope you are one of the wise virgins, my sweet little maiden, and you, too, my noble little boy. Are you? Yes? Praise the Lord! No? I'm sorry. I beg you to pray, "Lord Jesus, make me a wise virgin by putting thy Spirit into my heart."

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