



THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL.—SEE LESSON FOR JULY 23RD.

### TWO BROTHERS.

BY PERLEY POORE SHEEHAN.

Oh, Jim, he went to war,  
En John, he stayed to hum  
En beat the kyarpits fer his mar,  
While Jim he beat the drum

En Jim, he worked a gun, b' gosh,  
En seen the Spaniards die;  
John helped his mother do the wash,  
En ca'med her when she'd cry.

Now, Jim was in the very thick,  
Of battle more'n once,  
While John, he nussed their grandad, sick,  
For eight long mortal months.

En Jim came home with shoulder-straps,  
When fightin' all was done,  
En all the gals they sot their caps  
To ketch this widder's son.

Well, Jim, he j'ined his Betty fair,  
But John he's still t' hum,  
A-keerin' o' his mother there—  
A hero, too, b' gum!

### NIAGARA HUSHED.

To awake from sleep to the consciousness of a great or unexplained noise is often appalling, but it may be less fearful to awake to the consciousness of a sudden stillness where the ear has always been used to sound. One who from birth had been accustomed to the roar of Niagara has lately told in a daily paper the story of the morning, now fifty years ago, when the roar of the cataract ceased, and a great stillness settled over the district. He says:

"I was born twenty-five years before, with the roar of Niagara in my ears, and

have lived ever since within a mile of the cataract. I awoke that morning oppressed by a strange feeling, which I found was caused by the astounding fact that the roar of Niagara was gone.

"My first thought was that I had become deaf in the night, but the sound of the ticking of a clock in the next room assured me that my hearing was not affected. The tumult of Niagara was stilled and the unwonted silence was appalling.

"I hastily dressed and ran from the house. Scores of people were hastening toward the falls to learn the cause of the alarming quietness. The sight was a strange one. Where the river had been was now a naked bed of jagged black and slimy rock, and the precipice over which it had hurled its waters was bare from shore to shore. Niagara was dry, or so nearly so that the sound of the water that fell over the rock was as the trickle of a brook.

"People from the Canada side walked along the edge of the precipice, and made their way nearly to Goat Island on the American side, without wetting their feet. A number of ancient gun-barrels were found among the rocks of the river bed above the rapids. People swarmed to see the strange sight.

"This extraordinary condition of affairs continued all day. When the people went to bed late that night Niagara was still silent, but when they awoke the next morning the thunder of the falls was shaking the earth, as usual, and the cataract had returned to its old habit.

"The power which had silenced Niagara was soon discovered. It was in March that the noise of the cataract ceased. The winter had been one of the coldest on record. Thick ice formed on Lake Erie. The break-up came suddenly. Toward the

end of March a stiff, north-easterly wind came up and roke the ice fields, separating them from the shore and driving the ice floes up the lake, piling them in great banks as they moved.

Toward night, on March 30, the wind changed suddenly to the opposite quarter and became a fierce gale. The surface of the lake was packed with miniature icebergs, and the storms hurled them back with such force that a great dam was formed at the head of Niagara River.

"This dam held back the water, and before long the river above the falls was drained and by the morning of the 31st Niagara was silenced. For twenty-four hours its voice of thunder was hushed, but by the morning of April 1 the ice-pack gave way under the pressure of water and the cataract reasserted itself.

### DANIEL IN THE DEN OF LIONS.

Daniel was now over eighty years of age. All the time he had lived in Babylon he had faithfully served his God. King Darius had made him president over one hundred and twenty governors of the kingdom of Babylon, and although he was a captive, he was the greatest man in the kingdom. The governors who were under Daniel were jealous of him, and they wished to get rid of him. They tried to



find some wrong-doing in him, but could not. Then they asked the king to make a new law that if any one should ask a favour or pray to any god or man, except the king himself, for thirty days, he should be thrown into the den of lions. These men knew that Daniel was in the habit of praying to his God every day, and that he would be sure to break this new law.

I'll be a little sunbeam true—  
A tiny ray of light,  
And try in all I say and do  
To make the world more bright.