

SHORT SERMONS FOR LITTLE PEOPLE.

Most boys and girls do not like sermons; they say they are too long for their highnesses. Perhaps they may like these short sermons. They will give food to think over, and must not be read too hastily.

A Swedish little boy fell out of the window and was badly hurt, but with clenched lips he kept back the cry of pain. The King, Gustavus Adolphus, who saw him fall prophesied that the boy would make a man for an emergency. And so he did, for he became the famous General Bauer.

A boy used to crush the flowers to get their colour, and painted the white side of his father's cottage in the Tyrol with all sorts of pictures which the mountaineers gazed at as wonderful. He was the great artist Titian.

An old painter watched a little fellow who amused himself making drawings of his own pot and brushes, easel and stool, "That boy will beat me one day." So he did, for he was Michael Angelo.

A German boy was reading a blood-and-thunder novel. Right in the midst of it he said to himself, "Now, this will never do. I get too much excited over it. I can't study so well after it. So here goes," and he flung the book into the river. He was Richter, the great German philosopher.

Do you know what these little sermons mean? Why, simply this, that in boyhood and girlhood are shown the traits for good or evil that make man or woman good or not.—Irish Ecclesiastical Gazette.

England's drink bill for last year was £2,047,895 in excess of the previous year's, according to the reckoning of averages adopted by Temperance reformers. The total was £124,953,680, being equal to an expenditure of £3 7s 6½d per head, or £16 17s 8½d for each family of five in the United Kingdom. Mr. Goschen attributes the increase to the Jubilee celebrations. It would appear, therefore, that Her Majesty's health was mainly drunk in beer, the increased expenditure on this beverage no less than £1,598,408. Some of this increase, however, must be put down to the activity of the Treasury in prosecuting publicans for adulterating their liquors.

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