

will be lost for ever. It is related of a little Syrian boy that he asked his teacher to instruct him in the law of God, and was told that he was too young. "But, master," said the boy, "I have been in the burial ground, and measured the graves, and find some of them shorter than myself; now, if I should die before I have learned the Word of God, what will become of me?" Now is the time.

"Give me thy heart," the Saviour cries;  
Ye children, hear His voice;  
Now in your early days be wise,  
And make a heavenly choice.

"Give Me thy heart," nor linger more,  
Too soon you cannot give;  
Now on your knees His grace implore,  
Believe, obey, and live.

Come, children, supplicate His grace,  
Let this your answer be—  
"Behold, O Lord, we seek Thy face,  
And give our hearts to Thee."

### WHAT IS A GENTLEMAN?

This is a question often asked and not always satisfactorily answered; for the ideas conveyed to different minds by the word are very different.

To some persons he is a gentleman who wears fine clothes, who does not work, who has an abundance of money, and spends it freely. But in truth, though a gentleman may be rich, well dressed, liberal, and have no need of toil, no one or all of these things give him any right to the name. But the man who is of kind and gentle demeanour to all, who is upright, candid, and truthful, who is loyal to his friends, and needs no bond to hold him faithful to his promise—this man is a gentleman, whether he be clad in broadcloth or homespun; yes, even though he may be so poor that he has no means for prodigal giving, and is compelled by stern necessity to labour hard for daily bread. It is what he *is*, not what he *has*, that makes the true gentleman.

### GOD'S SPARROWS.

A good woman, searching out the children of want one cold day, tried to open the door in the third story of a wretched house, when she heard a little voice say: "Pull the string

up high! Pull the string up high!" She looked up and saw a string, which, on being pulled, lifted the latch, and she opened the door upon two half-naked children all alone. Very cold and pitiful they looked.

"Do you take care of yourselves, little ones?" asked the good woman.

"God takes care of us," said the older one.

"Are you not very cold? No fire a day like this!"

"O, when we are cold we creep under the quilt, and I put my arms around Tommy and Tommy puts his arms around me, and we say, 'Now I lay me;' then we get warm," said the little one.

"And what have you to eat, pray?"

"When granny comes home she brings us something. Granny says God has got enough. Granny calls us God's sparrows; and we say, 'Our Father' and 'daily bread' every day. God is our Father."

So the good lady that God sent fed these little attic sparrows. Remember that not one of the sparrows, or the children, or the men or the women, is forgotten by Him to whom we say "Our Father."

### HOLD ON, BOYS.

Hold on to your tongue when you are ready to swear, lie, or speak harshly.

Hold on to your hand when you are about to punch, scratch, steal, or do any improper act.

Hold on to your foot when you are on the point of kicking, running off from study, or pursuing the path of error, shame or crime.

Hold on to your temper when you are angry, excited or imposed upon, or others are angry with you.

Hold on to your heart when evil associates seek your company, and invite you to join in their mirth, games and revelry.

Hold on to your good name at all times, for it is of more value than gold, high places, or fashionable attire.

Hold on to truth, for it will serve you well, and do you good throughout eternity.

Hold on to virtue—it is above all price to you at all times and places.

Hold on to your good character, for it is, and ever will be, your best wealth.