

'The Land of "Pretty-Soon."'

'I know of a land where the streets are paved
With the things which we meant to achieve;
It is walled with the money we meant to have saved,
And the pleasures for which we grieve.
The kind words unspoken, the promises broken,
And many a coveted boon,
Are stowed away there in that land somewhere—
The land of "Pretty-Soon."

There are uncut jewels of possible fame
Lying about in the dust,
And many a noble and lofty aim
Covered with mould and rust.
And oh, this place, while it seems so near,
Is farther away than the moon;
Though our purpose is fair, yet we never get there—
To the land of "Pretty-Soon."

'The road that leads to that mystic land
Is strewn with pitiful wrecks,
And the ships that have sailed for its shining strand
Bear skeletons on their decks.
It is farther at noon than it was at dawn,
And farther at night than at noon,
Oh, let us beware of that land down there—
The land of "Pretty-Soon."'

Rev. C. A. S. in The Independent.

BOY CHARACTER.

It is the greatest delusion in the world for a boy to get the idea that his life is of no consequence, and that the character of it will not be noticed. A manly, truthful boy will shine like a star in any community. A boy may possess as much of noble character as a man. He may so speak and so live the truth that there shall be no discount on his word. And there are such noble, Christian boys; and wider and deeper than they are apt to think is their influence. They are the kingly boys among their fellows, having an immense influence for good, and beloved and respected because of the simple fact of living the truth.

Dear boys, do be truthful, Keep your word as absolutely sacred. Keep your appointments at the house of God. Be known for your fidelity to the interests of the Church and Sunday School. Be true to every friendship. Help others to be and do good.—*Sel.*

HIS MOTHER'S MEMORY.

A city missionary was taking some boys to the country to find homes. One boy who had a new hat given him went into the corner with his old hat and tore the lining out of it. The missionary said, "What are you doing with that hat? You don't want that old lining." "Oh," said the boy, "that was made out of my mother's dress. She loved me very much before she died, and I have nothing to remember her by but this lining," and the boy tore it out and put it in his pocket.

PILLAR OF RHEIMS.

The famous trembling pillar of Rheims presents a curious problem to architects. The church of Saint Nicaise is surrounded with pillars constructed to prevent the walls from straining. At the entrance of the church is a bell tower. On one of the bells in this tower the phenomenon of the trembling pillar depends. When this bell is rung or even touched the top of this pillar sways.

It goes and returns about seven inches on each side, although the base of the pillar is immovable, and the stones are so firmly cemented that it seems like a solid piece of stone.

An authority who states that no satisfactory solution of this peculiarity has been given, writes: "What is very singular to that although the four bells are about the same distance from the trembling pillar only one of them has any effect on it. The others may be rung singly or all together without moving it.

In 1775 a little window was made in the roof of the church opposite the pillar. A board was placed on top of the pillar, and on it were put two glasses of water. Then the bell was rung. Immediately the pillar began to sway, and at the fifth stroke of the bell, the two glasses were thrown off.

The ringing of this bell has no effect on the pillars between the phenomenal one and the tower, nor on any of the others. But formerly it was the first pillar which swayed, then it became immovable, and some years ago the one next to it became the eccentric one.—*Youths Companion.*