

My dear young reader, do you wish to be like little Willie? Though he is in heaven, and you are on earth, yet if you live as he did, you will be like him, and enjoy his society forever. Whenever you hear of music and heaven, think of little Willie.

### The Amazons of Africa.

BY A. A. ROOTE, C.S.A.

In Dahomy, a considerable portion of the national troops consist of armed and disciplined females. They are known as being royal women, strictly and watchfully kept from any communication with men, and seem to have been trained through discipline and the force of co-operation, to the accomplishment of enterprises from which the tumultuous warriors of a native army would shrink.

A late English author (Duncan) says, 'I have seen them, all well armed, and generally fine, strong healthy women, and doubtless capable of enduring great fatigue. They seem to use the long Danish musket with as much ease as one of our grenadiers does his firelock, but not, of course, with the same quickness as they are not trained to any particular exercise; but, on receiving the word, made an attack like a pack of hounds, with great swiftness. Of course they would be useless against disciplined troops, if at all approaching to the same numbers. Still their appearance is more military than the generality of the men, and if undertaking a campaign, I should prefer the female to the male soldiers of this country.'

The same author thus describes a field review of the Amazons, which he witnessed: I was conducted to a large space of broken ground where fourteen days had been occupied in erecting three immense prickly piles of green bush. These three clumps of piles, of a sort of strong brier or thorn, armed with the most dangerous prickles, were placed in line, oc-

cupying about four hundred yards, having only a narrow passage between them, sufficient merely to distinguish each clump appointed to each regiment. Those piles were about seventy feet wide and eight foot high. Upon examining them, I could not persuade myself that any human being, without boots or shoes, would under any circumstances, attempt to pass over so dangerous a collection of the most efficiently armed plants I had ever seen.

"The Amazons wear a blue-striped cotton surtout, manufactured by the natives, and a pair of trousers falling just below the knee. The cartridge box is girdled around the loins.

"The drums and trumpets soon announced the approach of three or four thousand Amazons. The Apadomey soldiers (female) made their appearance at about two hundred yards from, or in front of, the first pile, where they halted with shouldered arms. In a few seconds the word for attack was given, and a rush was made towards the pile with speed beyond conception, and in less than one minute the whole body had passed over this immense pile, and had taken the supposed town. Each of the other piles was passed with the same rapidity, at intervals of twenty minutes. When a person is killed in battle, the skin is taken from the head, and kept as a trophy of valor. I counted seven hundred scalps pass in this manner. The captains of each corps (female) in passing, again presented themselves before his majesty, and received the king's approval of their conduct."

### Denation for Irish Schools.

With great pleasure we acknowledge the receipt of two dollars for the Irish School Society, from "A Member of the Established Church of Scotland." Brompton.