

A CHILD'S PRAYER.

DEAR Lord, who came from heaven to bring
 Salvation down to me,
 I love to learn thy praise to sing,
 And say my prayer to thee.

I wish to make thy way my choice,
 And every sin confess;
 I long to hear thy gentle voice,
 And feel thy fond caress.

Thou hadst no home with men before:
 How hard it was with thee!
 Dear Saviour, come to earth once more,
 And make thy home with me.

And when before thy throne I stand,
 If I am fearful then,
 Stoop down and take my trembling hand;
 For Jesus' sake. Amen.

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HAPPY DAYS.

TORONTO, FEBRUARY 15, 1883.

GOING TO SCHOOL.

THE important matter to you in beginning school is not how this teacher or that one conducts himself toward you—whether he is partial, incapable, unjust; but how you conduct yourself toward him—whether you are truthful, honest, manly. Forty years hence what will his injustice or incapacity matter to you? But the lie you tell, the cheating to gain high standing, tricky meanness shown to a weaker boy, they will live with you; you will carry their marks with you when you lie stiff and white in your coffin. In a word, boys and girls, it is not parents or schools that are making you; it is you who make yourselves. It is not Legendre or Virgil which the world will see alive in you at middle age, but the trifling actions of your daily life now—the little vices and uncleannesses, or the sweet, high courtesies, kindnesses and courage of your school-day lives.

LITTLE MEN AND LITTLE WOMEN.

AFTER all, men and women are only grown-up children, and we have often seen people who have reached mature years behave very much as do our own little nursery folks. These men or women show plainly by their lack of self-control and of judgment, by their selfish ways and peevishness, and by numerous other traits, the fact that their early training was sadly neglected. Of course it is not easy to enumerate even all of the points at which a child's character needs watching, but one or two may be mentioned; and first, let us look out for that fault called *selfishness*. I suppose all of us, from Eve's first-born down through the ages since, have had this, to a greater or less extent, to battle with. It appears in so many forms that it is sometimes not recognized, but is called by some other and less disagreeable name. There is the child who refuses to share cake, fruit, or toys with his sister, who will not allow another to look at his toys or his books. This little one we all know, and this form of selfishness is usually struggled with by father, mother and relations generally, because, for one thing, it makes a child appear in so bad a light to others, and none of us like our children to be disliked.

Then there is another child who will share his good things or his toys with any one, and who is therefore thought to be a model of unselfishness, and yet that same child will spend half his time in teasing and fretting some other little one, with no end in view except his own selfish amusement. Who has not seen him slyly, and in evident delight, knock down the tower of blocks or the sand-house which his little brother was building, and laugh in glee when he had kicked over the rolling hoop or broken the kite-string? This child is usually reprovved, if at all, in the lightest possible manner, and the adoring mother often laughs at what she considers his smart devices for worrying his playmates and amusing himself. "He can't help teasing, it is born in him," is what is often said as excuse when one child has in this way spoiled the whole morning's play for another. This is a far more deplorable phase of selfishness than the first, because it causes the child to gratify himself at the expense of the rights and feelings of others, and this of itself leads to all sorts of evils.

Then there is that form of selfishness which manifests itself in the strife after the easiest chair, the cosiest corner, the biggest apple, and so on almost without end. Do let us keep a good look out for this many-sided fault.

Next comes *rudeness*—that entire lack of

courtesy which is so common among children, and particularly among those who are members of a large family. This may be in a great measure corrected by the mother. Insist that they shall speak pleasantly to each other; require Susie to say "if you please" to Tom, and Tom to say "thank you" to Susie, and keep it up through the entire list. It is a troublesome task, and often it seems that, no matter how great the effort made, the result is failure; but patience and perseverance accomplish, if not all, certainly most things, and the result is worth striving for.

A BOY'S RELIGION.

If a boy is a lover of Jesus, he can't be a church officer or a preacher, but he can be a goodly boy, in a boy's way and in a boy's place. He ought not to be too solemn or too quiet for a boy. He need not cease to be a boy because he is a Christian. He ought to show the spirit of Christ, and be free from vulgarity and profanity. He ought to eschew tobacco and intoxicating drinks. He ought to be peaceable, gentle, merciful and generous. He ought to discourage fighting. He ought to refuse to be a party to mischief, to persecution, to deceit. He ought to show his colours. He need not always be interrupting a game to say he is a Christian; but he ought not to be ashamed to say that he refuses to do something because it is wrong and wicked, or because he fears God, or is a Christian. He ought to take no part in the ridicule of sacred things, but meet the ridicule of others with a bold statement that for the things of God he feels the deepest reverence.

HAL'S HABITS.

HAL had been complained of by his teacher for being tardy at school. He owns up, but tells his papa that it is because he has no watch to tell the time for starting. How did people manage before watches were made? How does the farmer tell when dinner-time comes when working out in the field? How can the horse tell when it is time to be fed at night? Get hungry, do they? Well, don't you think a healthy boy ought to get hungry for his book about nine o'clock every morning? The trouble is, Hal has a habit of being late, and a watch will not cure a habit—he would as easily forget to look at the watch as forget to start when the first bell rings. Not much—a little thing? Well, it will be no little thing when from this same habit he misses trains, misses getting to the bank before it closes, misses important engagements. Don't miss salvation in the same way.—*Our Morning Guide*.