

The Home Department.

WHY DOST THOU WAIT?

Poor trembling lamb! Ah, who outside the fold
Has bid thee stand, all weary as thou art?
Dangers around thee, and the bitter cold
Creeping and gnawing to thine inmost heart;
Who bids thee wait till some mysterious feeling,
Thou knowest not what—perchance may'st never know—
Shall find thee where in darkness thou art kneeling,
And fill thee with a rich and wondrous glow
Of love and faith; and change to warmth and light
The chill and darkness of thy spirit's night?

For miracles like this who bids thee wait?
Behold, "the Spirit and the Bride say, come."
The tender Shepherd opens wide the gate,
And in his love would lead thee gently home.
Why shouldst thou wait? Long centuries ago,
Thou timid lamb, the Shepherd paid for thee
Thou art His own. Wouldst thou His beauty know,
Nor trust the love which yet thou canst not see?
Thou hast not learned this lesson to receive,
More blessed are they who see not, yet believe.

Still dost thou wait for feeling? Dost thou say,
"Fain would I love and trust, but hope is dead;
I have no faith, and, without faith, who may
Rest in the blessing which is only shed
Upon the faithful? I must stand and wait."
Not so. The Shepherd does not ask of thee
Faith in thy faith, but only faith in Him.
And this He meant in saying, "Come to me."
In light or darkness see to do His will,
And leave the work of faith to Jesus still.

Church Journal.

"ONLY ONCE."

"Come Harry, and let us take a walk this afternoon. I'm tired of Sunday School; and besides, nobody thinks of going any longer when they get to be as big as us. Let's go down to the river."

Thus spoke Calvin Sharpe to his young companion Harry Holmes. They had both been sent to Sunday School that afternoon as usual, and had got almost to the door, when Satan suddenly flung his coil of temptation around them, and Calvin was led captive at once. It was the first time he had ever thought of playing truant on Sunday, and probably had he paused a moment to think of the lying, and disobedience, and Sabbath-breaking involved in such a step, he would not have yielded to the tempter; but the wicked thought was no sooner suggested than it was adopted, and not choosing to ramble with no other companion than an accusing conscience, he wished Harry to join him.

If the truth must be told, Calvin's Sabbath School teacher was neither very regular in his attendance, nor yet very engaging in manner when he was there;