



DOWN THE STAIR.

THIS is dear baby—our darling,
Looking so sweet and so fair,
Just washed and dressed for the
morning,
Coming alone down the stair.

Sleep over—bath over—"all done;"
"Now fold your hands and say prayer;
Pray God bless papa and mamma—
Keep baby safe down the stair."

Now step by step o'er the carpet—
"Mind! don't you tumble—take care;"
Mother will warn from the landing,
Father will watch down the stair.

It was a very pretty reply made by a little girl to the statement she heard made that our Saviour was never seen to smile. "Didn't he say 'Suffer little children to come unto me?'" And they would not have come unless he had smiled."

THE POWER OF TRUTH.

A LITTLE girl, nine years of age, was called as a witness against a prisoner who was on trial for a crime committed in her father's house.

"Now, Emily," said the lawyer for the prisoner, "I wish to know if you understand the nature of an oath?"

"I don't know what you mean," was the simple answer.

"There, your Honour," said the lawyer to the Court, "is anything further necessary to show the force of my objection? The witness should be rejected."

"Let us see," said the Judge. "Come here, my child."

Assured by the kind tone and manner of the Judge, the child stepped toward him, and looked truthfully up in his face, with a calm, clear eye, and in a manner

so artless and frank, that it went straight to the heart.

"Did you ever take an oath?" inquired the Judge. The little girl stepped back with a look of horror; and the red blood mantled in a blush all over her face and neck as she answered,

"No, sir." She thought he intended to inquire if she had ever said bad words.

"I do not mean that," said the Judge, who saw her mistake. "I mean were you ever a witness before?"

"No, sir; I never was in court before," was the answer.

He handed her the Bible, open.

"Do you know that book, my child?"

She looked at it and answered, "Yes, sir; it is the Bible."

"Do you ever read it?" he asked.

"Yes, sir, every evening."

"Can you tell me what the Bible is?" inquired the Judge.

"It is the word of the great God," she answered.