

Choice Miscellany.

FORWARD.

Push on, brave heart, nor yet despair, Though dark and dreary seems the way, Thy sun will shine from skies as fair As ever greeted the coming day.

Jimmie the Collier Lad.

MISS M. C. MCKAY, NEW GLASGOW, N. S.

As the moon slowly rose upon the night of Nov 11th 1885—perhaps it shone on no fairer landscape in Nova Scotia than that surrounding the little village of St. Leonard Pictou County.

No, I can do very well without you going out to-night; so it's better for you to stay in the house," she replied.

"I tell you what, mother, I'm not going to stay here much longer, I intend to go to sea soon, smaller boys than me go we must try to save enough for to keep you while I'm away, and straightening himself up, as to appear a few inches taller than usual, he took two or three turns across the floor followed by the admiring eyes of his fond parent, but shaking her head she replied:

"I hope you will never have to go to sea, my boy, you must try and get some kind of work on land; I would rather have you remain in the coal mine than have you on the stormy deep."

"Well, you know I could write to you—I'll practise some at it every night after this—and some day—who knows! I might get to be a captain. I hate workin' away down in the dark, where you never see a speck of sunshine nor nothin' else worth seein'.

There was a smile on the patient face beside him as she said: "Don't build your castles too high, but be a good boy, and when you are discouraged, or in trouble, ask God to help you, and He will. He alone can make pros-

perity a blessing—but it is time you were in bed! Get the book and read a chapter, the fire-light lures my eye." Jimmie took the Bible down from its shelf and read where it opened—The XIV chap. of St. John—and even the restless heart of the boy was hushed by those loving words, "Let not your heart be troubled." Then kneeling he committed himself to His care and soon Jimmie's head rested upon his pillow in the garret, but the mother knelt long by her lonely hearth, pleading for her boys and perhaps she received the assurance that it would be well with him ere she, too, sought repose.

Long before day light next morning Jimmie was astir; and had the smothered fire burning brightly when his mother came from her bed room. The fragrant breakfast was soon prepared and eaten; after which Jimmie read a few verses from the Bible, and his mother offered a short, earnest prayer; then taking up his dinner pail, the boy departed to his daily toil. As he opened the door a breath of keen air rushed in, and the mother murmured to herself: "Poor boy! It's a cold morning for him to go out so early; I hope he won't have to work in the pit much longer."

Scarcely had she commenced her household duties, when a sound—that turned her heart sick and shook the ground under her—boomed in her ears.

For one moment she clasped her hands in silent prayer; then catching up a running out, joined the terror stricken throng, pouring half clad from every dwelling.

"An explosion!" "Pit blasted!" "Are the men down yet?" "Were a few of the many exclamations as they ran towards the pit.

No words passed the pale lips of Jimmie's mother; but an agonized prayer was going up from her wildly beating heart.

All around were screaming, frantic women, and wailing children; it seemed almost like mockery to try and comfort them, when they knew there was no hope for the forty five men, who had gone down to their work that morning, and were now far removed from all human aid in the gulf of fire.

When the mother knew she would never again see her fair-haired boy, she wrapped her shawl closer round her face and turned homewards.

"What was her darling doing then? Had death already claimed him—or was he still lingering in pain? Did he have time to call upon his God?—as she had counselled him to do when in trouble? Her brain was busy with thoughts like these, but no tears came to ease her breaking heart.

ain't got ez much sense ez de guinea chicken dat won't fight nuttin'." Some preachers puts me in mine o'er tail-don't makes a coat ter suit hisse'f, an' den tries ter make eruditor man w' it whuther it fits him or not.

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Table with 3 columns: Publication, Regular Price, Clubbing Price. Includes Farmer's Advocate, Toronto Daily News, etc.

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This story comes from a school in the Midlands. The master told the boys of the third class to write a short essay upon Columbus. The following was sent up by an ambitious essayist:—

"I was born in a school in the Midlands. The master told the boys of the third class to write a short essay upon Columbus. The following was sent up by an ambitious essayist:—"

—"Brethren," said the Rev. Sam. Jones in his closing sermon at Cincinnati, "you'd better do like Chicago—brag on yourself!" and stand by yourself; and then he told this story: "At an experience meeting an old colored brother got up and said: 'Brethren, I are the nearest nigger in all this country, I'll steal, and I'll tell lies, and I'll get drunk, and there ain't no mean thing in God's world I won't do.' Well, he took his seat, and then a great big yellow brother jumped up and said: 'Bretn, I have heard Br'n Rieve's confession, and it's true, 'fore God.'"

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Table with columns: GOING EAST, GOING WEST, Station names, and times.

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