## Our Boys And Girls.

A GREAT REWARD.—It was pay-May in one of the great steel factor ies of the city of P—, and for the -, and for the first time Joe Smith went among the many others to receive his small earnings, for working from an early hour each morning, during the past week, until six o'clock in the evening, in the extreme heat of the fiery

Two dollars and fifty cents was what he was expecting to receive for his labor, but a friend of through whose influence he had obtained this position, having told the manager of the works that Joe wa the sole support of himself and little sister, had persuaded him to give Joe an additional quarter each week

Annie Smith, Joe's sister, was barely ten years of age, and although unable to go out to work, made a good little house-keeper. While their father had been alive, this had been a comparatively easy task, as he had always insisted having a woman come once a week to do their small washing and clean up generally. But all this had to be done away with an his sudden death, he having been killed in a railroad accident, and, instead of having two nice rooms, Joe had been compelled to take one small one, and partition off a small place for Annie's sleep-

What visions sprang up before his eyes, when he found the extra 25 cents in his envelope! What would he not be able to get for his sister! First, he would get her a bunch of flowers, if they were not too expensive, and then, perhaps, if he had anything left, he would get her some nice cake for supper. And thus went on planning what he would do with it, as though it had been dollars instead of cents. Almost forgetting that there were others waiting to get their pay, he was reminded of the fact by the bookkeeper. He moved to one side, when his attention was caught by what seemed to him a strange sight. Close to one entrances into the of the large works stood two black-robed women, and most of the men, as they received their pay, went towards them and placed something into their

'Whatever is 'em doing,' Joe asked Willie Sanford, a companion of his who stood near him.

"Ain't you never seen 'em afore?' the boy asked.

Joe shook his head.

"Well, they 's Sisters, and every month they comes here, and we fellers always gives 'em what we can

"Columbus!" ejaculated Joe; "I wish I could make money as easy!" 'Easy!" replied Willie, hotly; "you just bet they have to work hard enough, deal harder 'an we do. And they don't get no pay for it neither.

Joe looked at him incredulously. "Yes." he continued, "they takes care of any old folks as hav'nt got no home. They took care of an old aunt of mine as was blind, and never done a stroke of work for five years afore she died. Then 's Little Sis-ters of the Poor, and my mother says as how she thinks we all had ought to give them something every

"I ain't got no mother to tell me things, and I am sure I ain't got no money for them Sisters. I've got own sister to loak after first and I only gets \$2.75 a week."

they comes around.

"Thought ye only got \$2.50," and Willie looked at his companion in-

"That's what I was looking for but, I found \$2.75 in my envelope. You don't s'pose it was a mistake do you?'

"No," replied Willie, decidedly "they don't make such mistakes; but I should think if you was ex pecting only \$2.50, and you got \$2.75, you could spare 'em a dime, anyway; you'll never miss it, and perhaps some day they'll be taking care of you.'

Guess not. I've made up my mind to be a rich man, and then I won't mind helping them, but they'll never help me.

Well," said Willie, "you can do as you like; I am going to give 'em and, approaching the Sisters, he added his mite to the rest. For a few moments Joe handled the quarter lovingly, then turning

sharply to a man standing near him, quickly, as though he was afraid of changing his mind:

Got change for a quarter?" The man dived down into his pockets and after searching awhile aked up one dime, two nickles, and ave pennies, which he handed to Joe

looking at them, he hurried down the street, tears of vexation filling his eyes at the thought that he was not able to take home the surprises he had planned for his sister. ever, he had ten cents left, and, seeing a man selling small pots of geraniums for ten cents each, purchased one and hurried home

His sister's face brightened at the sight of the flower, but she tried to speak reproachfully as she exclaim-

"Oh, Joe, you shouldn't have done that! How beautiful! and I was just longing for one; but you mustn't spend all the money on me.

"Now, then," answered Joe, "you eedn't begin to scold before you know all about it. There's the \$2.50, without a cent taken out, and I got this plant out of an extra quarter what I got, and am going

to get every week."
"Oh, Joe! How glorious! We shall be quite rich now; but you mustn't be going and spending the whole

"I didn't spend it all on you this week, sis, so you needn't think I did. Some women, as they calls Sisters, comed around begging, and, as all the other fellers gave them some thing, I had to. But I tell you I didn't want to."

"What do you mean by Sisters Joe? Tell me all about 'em while I gets supper.''

Joe told her all that Willie had related, and when he had finished

"I am so glad you gave 'em some thing, Joe, and I hopes you always will. But come now, supper ready, and I have some nice jelly for you that Mrs. Howel sent us."

Supper over, the children played a few games with the other children in the block, and at an early hour went to bed.

Next day as Annie was sitting on the porch darning some, stockings, and wondering how Joe managed to make such tremendous holes in them, she saw coming up the street such figures as he had described to

her the previous evening. "Oh," she thought, "if they would only look this way, so that I can see what they look like!" Were they going to? Yes, surely! for they were looking around as though could not find the place they wanted. Annie watched them intently, wondering who it was they wanted, when, to her surprise, she saw them turn up the steps leading to their house. Instinctively she rose from her seat, and stood ready to receive

"I wonder," said one of them, in a sweet voice, "if this is Annie Smith?'

"Yes, ma'am," answered Annie, with a shy smile.

"I thought we were not mistaken," replied the Sister; "then this is the little girl we are looking for." Annie began to look frightened,

seeing which, the Sister hastened to reassure her. "Don't be afraid, dear, we have

come to see you about some important business. We won't hurt you in

Feeling more confident at this re mark, Annie opened the door and invited the Sisters in.

"Thank you, dear," replied the one who had done the talking thus far, "I think it would be best, we seem to have attracted a deal of attention."

Annie smiled importantly as she looked at the crowd of children that had gathered around the steps. Then, leading the Sisters into their small but neat little room, she placed a chair for each of them, and, seating herself on a low stool, she looked wonderingly from one to the other.

First, I think we will tell you our names, so that you will know what to call us," said the same Sisloss not soom fair that we should know your name, should not know ours. I am Sister Alice, and this is Sister Mary, so now you know what to call us. And I hope we shall be friends, and I certainly think we shall, don't you?" "Yes, Sister Alice," Annie answer-

After obtaining from the child what they could about her family history, even down to the episode of the 15 cents, Sister Alice to explain the reason of their visit. "Yes," she said, "and if it nadn"

been for that 15 cents, we would not have been here to-day." Annie gave a start, supposing they had brought it back, thinking they

could not afford to give it. "Oh I hope." she said. "you have not brought it back; we can afford to give it now, 'cause Joe 's getting more than we thought he was going

have not brought it back, but we noticed the struggle that Joe had with himself yesterday, and were so pleased at his decision that we infave pennies, which he handed to Joe is exchange for the quarter.

Joe then went up to the Sisters and almost sullenly handed them the cide in the way he did without any. And then in response to their curi-

advice, would make a good son, and having found out, as I said before, all about him, that he had no parents, and nothing to bind him any one except his sister, we deter-mined to speak to a lady patron of our institution, who is anxious adopt a little boy and girl own children. They must be brother and sister. I saw this lady, Mrs. Harcourt, and from my description, she seemed well satisfied that you two would suit her. How do you think you would like to have a new

"Oh, Sister!" Inswered Annie, starting up in excitement, "Do you mean a new mamma? Oh, how I would love it; but I could not for her so much as my own dear mamma; would I have to?"

"No, dear, only just as much you feel you can, but I am sure you will get to love her and your brother right away; that is why came to-day. Do you think you will be able to go to-night?"

"Yes, Sister; I am sure we can," answered Annie.

'Mrs. Harcourt would have come herself, but she is somewhat of an invalid, and does not go out much. I will leave you her address, and I expect your brother will be able to find it easily enough. Do you think he will be able to read it?"

"Yes, he can read a little, and that looks plain enough; I know the letters, but I don't know what they all make."

well, then," said Sister Very Alice, smiling. "To-night you will go and see Mrs. Harcourt. She will be expecting you. And now, good-by."

After the Sisters had gone, Annie had great difficulty to restrain her excitement. She longed to tell the neighboring children, who flocked about the door after their departure, all about their visit; but she had made up her mind that Joe was to be first, and to their persistent inquiries she only said that they came on business, and that she would tell them about it some other day.

When Joe heard of the visit and propasition he did not take to it as kindly as Annie did, but seemed rather to prefer going on in the same way. He was more independent than his sister, and would rather made his own way in the world than have any one else make it for him. But as usual, he put his sister first and if she was to be benefited by the change, then he would let it take place. Accordingly, after supper, they tidied themselves up and start-ed out for the address written on the card, which, being in the East End, Joe thought it advisable to go bycar, so that their shoes should not

get dusty. The car stopped almost at door, and as Joe helped his sister off, it seemed to him that it was the first time in his life he had ever feltnervous, and he experienced a strong inclination to run back, but a kind voice calling from an upper window of the house, "Come in! Come right upstairs, the door is open. I wa

expecting you," prevented him.

There was nothing for it but to do as they were told, and in less than a minute a pair of motherly arms were thrown around Annie, and a kind voice whispered in her ear: "Welcome, little daughter, to your

new home!' Joe stood at the door, fidgeting with his cap. Things had not turned out as he expected. He had fully believed the choice of taking or re fusing the new home would been left to him, but it seemed entirely settled without his opinion,

and he was not altogether pleased that it should be so. Turning from Annie to her brother, Mrs. Harcourt, for of course it was she who held out her hand, feeling that the boy would not care for any further demonstration, and giving him a hearty shake, said in tones cordial as she had used to An-

"And this is my new son, come to take the place of those whom God has taken. You, too, are very welcome, dear. Come, now, both you, and I will show you your rooms.

"But, please, ma'am, we did not come to stay. I've got to go to work to-morrow, and it's too far from here," put in Joe.

Mrs. Harcourt interrupted him with a merry laugh, and, placing her

hand playfully over his mouth, said 'Now, that is to be the end of all talk about work for a time, at least When you are old enough, it will be different."

Joe saw it was no use to raise any further objections, and so the children glided from a life of poverty into a life of happiness and plen ty, as two streams, meeting, into one another, smoothly, almost unconsciously, and Joe, when he had accomplished his greatest desire, and was a practicing physician, often tell his friends and patients that he had nought his present history of the day when he had almost refused to give that little mite to sweet charity, and its subs events.-Beatrice Fitzgerald, in the Young Catholic.

#### An Incident in France

Years ago an Irish author telling an account of a certain pompous of ficer who, in the days of the "Insurrection Act," had arrested a prisoner on suspicion of conspiring to overthrow the Government. When the judge asked him how many were present, he replied: "Only the one Your Honor." And what warning did he give him was asked by the judge, to which the officer replied:
"I ordered him to disperse." This was considered, in its time, as a fair sample of wit, and as an illustration of the Irishman's capacity for "bulls." But we find that the Premier of France, the great and only Combes, has seriously attempt ed to put into practice that which was looked upon as a good joke in Ireland.

The Abbe Verschoeffel, who is a delegate of the Academy of Sciences, at the Hendaye Observatory, ceived a peremptory order, last week, from the Government to disperse. The Abbe conducted the commissioner sent by Mr. Combes into every corner of his house and observatory, in order to prove to him that he lived all alone- a regular hermit-and that he was not in position to comply with the exact words of the law. The commissioner returned home perfectly convinced. But when he reported to Mr Combes, the latter was by no means satisfied, and he said to the commissioner: "It is all the same to me. Let him disperse all the same." The result was that the learned astronomer was obliged to leave his observatory and go reside house belonging to the municipality of Hendaye. The Abbe says that he intends submitting his case to the Academy of Sciences to be studied, with the following problem for the solution of the members: "How a hermit, living all alone, can disperse as a community? Or how he is to cease community life? Or how he is to individual disperse without physical dismemberment of his indi-

There is evidently more wit in the Abbe than in the Premier. And it is clear that while mad hatred kills the sense of humor in the latter, as tronomical erudition is by no means injurious to it in the former. This is a splendid illustration of the blindness of fanatical zeal.

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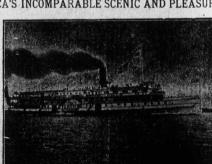
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Some Topics The Day.

SATURDAY, JUN

(By a Regular Cont

PROTECT THE CH

Every good example the regarding the protection

children from the slaver

modern conditions are

them, must have its ben Be it legislative or oth

still an example, that, i and exactly imitate may serve to indicate to dangers that should be some of the means of av In New York city—the g tre of human activity of tinent—the child labor qu been uppermost for long have what is called the Committee, and its work most effective. It is thr forts, constant and unre this committee that three carried through the St ture regulating the empl children. Now a fourth seems to complete the di the other three, amends sory education law, has and signed by Governor less to say that this hu piece of legislation has r end of opposition. Some position was to be exp came from a direction tha natural-from the large child labor; but some of to be expected, and ca sources whence the contr eminate-from parents of and girls. Despite all the mmittee succeeded its law passed. We will the main features of that in so doing we equally g of the manner in which slavery has been carried "Six important changes accomplished by these law

jury af parents regarding

of children under fourteer

in order to secure employ

them in factories and s

been made impossible by

as evidence of age either script of the child's birth

mal certificate, or some of

gious record, or its pass

clause of the old law allo

dren twelve to fourteen

to work in stores during

has been repealed for all the first and second class hour limit has been placed work of children fourteen years old in factories and place of a ten-hour limit; ployment of messenger, tele livery and office boys less teen years old has been while between the ages o and sixteen years they me ployed only nine hours a not later than 10 o'clock no boy less than ten years lowed to sell newspapers York and Buffalo, and all tween the ages of ten an years must receive licenses o'clock at night: the c school attendance age has ed from twelve to fourteen It is a blessing that su

should be enacted. The o

be found necessary, in any country, to thus legislate

comes the serious matter forcement of the laws. It

thing to place a law upor

ute Book and another to

it does not remain a dead According to what we les thousand dollars to work dence and to push the cas ssue thus reached. Now take about five thousand secure the enforcement of No doubt the people of N will aid in the work and ommittee in an effort to r tical results. Yet we find that the moment a bill be it should be necessary for citizens to attend to its en As far as we know of the l in Canada, the State, or tion, provides a means for forcement of every act ment. Yet we have known pecially in municipal affairs the laws became absolete i use, and that even the mo tic laws were ignored by authority. But all that he to do with the main object

us-the amelioration of the of the rising generation. S that imposes itself as a se upon every member of the