

The Penny Offering.

A CHILD a penny gave,
With it a tract was bought,
By which a heathen chief
Was to the Saviour brought.

A little church was built,
Men turned from idols cold,
Till fifteen hundred souls
Were gathered in the fold.

How many more shall come
In joy with Christ to dwell,
The fruit of this small seed,
Eternity must tell.

Oh; many a man has sought
To do some mighty deed,
And yet no change has wrought
Like this one tiny seed.

When every little hand
Shall sow the Gospel seed,
And every little heart
Shall pray for those in need.

When every little life
Such fair, bright record shows,
Then shall the desert bud
And blossom as the rose.

A Child's Sermon to Children.

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15 : 13).



VERY simple story is told of a nursemaid, who one day was walking in a square, round which there was no pavement, and which was very narrow. She was wheeling a perambulator before her in which was a child of about one year. Presently a waggon, heavily loaded, with five or six horses to pull it, came along. There was no time to run to the gate of the square and go in, no time for thought. The waggoner did not see her, or all would have been well. Quickly she flung the child over the paling into the square.

There was no time for her to follow. The waggon passed a living woman and left a dying one. The child was unhurt. If the humble, devoted nurse gave up her life for the child, did not Christ, the King of Heaven, give up His life to save us?

A minister one Sunday earnestly besought all the congregation, every one, however small, to give up their lives to Christ. A little boy rose up and said, "Am I too small to serve Christ?" The minister smiled and answered, "A little child shall lead them; none are too small or too weak to serve God." Many who smiled at the time thought to themselves afterwards, "If that little boy was not too young to serve Christ, cannot I, who am so much older, do something too?" Children, will not you, too, do something for the Saviour who died to save you? Give yourself up willingly, devote your whole life to Him. That is the most acceptable gift you can possibly give Him. A missionary box was passed at a meeting till it came to a group of boys. The first, who had plenty of money, dropped sixpence in, thinking, "I suppose I must, as every one else does." His brother dropped his in without thinking at all. The third dropped threepence in, thinking, "Poor little heathen, this will help to buy you some clothes." The last, a poor boy, dropped a penny in, thinking, "Lord, I have no more to give but myself, and I give myself willingly to Thee." Which was most acceptable to God? Was not the last most pleasing in His sight?

EDITH.

The Good Shepherd.

THE prettiest of all sights in Palestine is the shepherd carrying the lamb that had strayed among the rough bushes on the mountain-side, or among the jagged rocks. He first removes the prickly thorns that are clinging to its fleece, or laming its tender feet. Then he lays it in his bosom, or places it on his shoulder, and bears it to the fold down in the valley beside the still waters. Little reader, that is just what the Good Shepherd does to you.

He gathers the lambs with His arm,
And carries them close to His breast;
In danger He shields them from harm,
And folds them at night to their rest.

"Heartily."

IT is always nice when children are bright, and brisk, and hearty, whatever they may be called to do—whether it be to fetch a book, to shut a door, to say their lessons, or even at their play. If boys or girls are dull and lazy, sleepy and selfish, the chances are they will never do anything with spirit when they grow up. Try, especially, to do very heartily the wish and will of God, saying, like little Samuel, when the Lord called him—"Here am I!"

"Heartily," "heartily,"—
Creep not, but run;
That is the truest way
Work should be done!