

## THE LORD'S PRAYER.

In one of Carlyle's letters to an old-time Scottish friend, a few years ago, he said: "Our Father which art in heaven. Hallowed be thy Name. Thy will be done." What else can we say? The other night in my sleepless tossings about, which were growing more and more miserable, these words, that brief and grand prayer, came strangely into my mind, with an altogether new emphasis; as if written and shining for me in mild, pure splendour, on the black bosom of the night there; when I, as it were, read them word by word—with a sudden check to my imperfect wanderings, with a sudden softness of composure which was much unexpected."

## THE LITTLE SWEEP.

SEVERAL years ago an effort was made to collect all the chimney-sweepers in the city of Dublin for the purpose of education. Among the others came a little fellow, who was asked if he knew his letters.

"Oh yes, sir," was the reply.  
 "Do you spell?"  
 "Oh yes, sir," as again the answer.  
 "Do you read?"  
 "Oh yes, sir."  
 "And what book did you learn from?"  
 "Oh, I never had a book in my life, sir."  
 "And who was your schoolmaster?"  
 "Oh, I never was at school."  
 Here was a singular case; a boy could read and spell without a book or master. But what was the fact? Why, another little sweep, a little older than himself, had taught him to read by showing him the letters over the shop-doors which they passed as they went through the city. His teacher, then, was another little sweep like himself, and his book the signboards on the houses. What may not be done by trying?

## SHE WILL NEED THEM NO MORE.

SOME days since a man noticed a ragged little boot-black culling some bright blossoms from a bruised and faded bouquet which a chambermaid had thrown from a chamber window into the alley. "What are you doing with that bouquet, my lad?" asked the disseminator. "Nawthin," was the lad's reply, as he kept on at his work. But do you love flowers so well that you are willing to pick them out of the mud?" "I s'pose that's my business, an' none o' yourn."  
 "Oh, certainly, but you surely can not expect to sell those faded flowers?"  
 "Sell 'em! who wants to sell 'em? I 'm goin' to take 'em to Lil." Oh, oh! Lil is your sweetheart, I see. "No, Lil is not my sweetheart; she is my sick sister," said the boy, as his eyes flashed and his dirty chin quivered. "Lil's been sick for a long time, an' lately she talks of nothin' but flowers an' birds, but mother told me this mornin' that Lil would die b-b-before the birds and flowers came back."  
 The boy burst into tears. "Come with me to the florist's, and your sister shall have a nice bouquet." The little fellow was soon bounding home with his treasure. Next day he appeared, and said, "I came to thank you, sir, for Lil. That bouquet done her so much good, and she hugged and hugged it till she set herself a-coughing again. She says she will come bime-by and work for you, soon's she gets well." An order was sent to the florist to give the boy every other day a bouquet for Lil.

It was only the day before yesterday that the boot-black appeared again. He stepped inside the office door and said: "Thank you, sir, but Lil—Lil (tears were streaming from his eyes) won't need—the flowers any more." He went quickly away, but his brief words had told the story. Lil won't need the flowers any more. But the y will grow above her and the birds will sing around her just the same.

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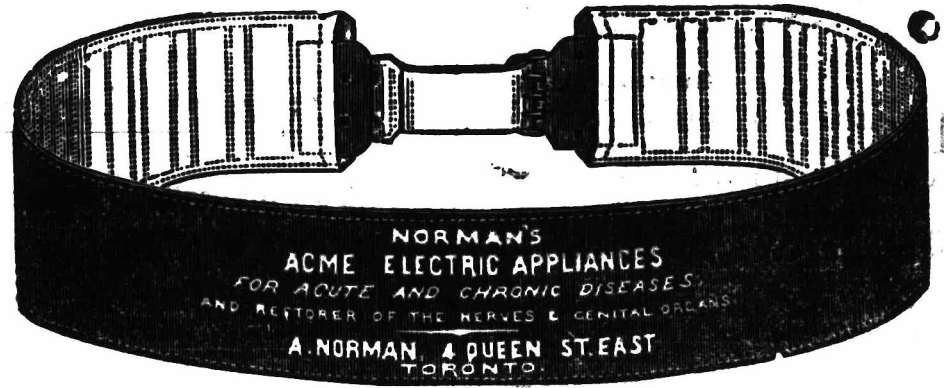
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Mr. Norman, Dalkeith, Ontario.  
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