

## JESUS AND THE LITTLE ONES.

"THE Master has come over Jordan,"  
Said Hannah, the mother, one day;  
"He is healing the people who throng him,  
With the touch of the finger, they say.  
And now I will carry the children—  
Little Rachel, Samuel and John;  
I will carry the baby Esther,  
For the Lord to look upon."

The father looked at her kindly,  
But he shook his head and smiled.  
"Now, who but a doting mother  
Would think of a thing so wild?  
If the children were tortured by demons  
Or dying of fever, 'twere well;  
Or had they the taint of the leper,  
Like many in Israel."

"Nay, do not hinder me, Nathan—  
I feel such a burden of care;  
If I carry it to the Master,  
Perhaps I shall leave it there.  
If he lay his hand on the children,  
My heart will be lighter, I know;  
For a blessing forever and ever  
Will follow them as they go."

So over the hills to Judah,  
Along the vine-rows green,  
With Esther asleep on her bosom,  
And Rachel her brothers between,  
'Mong the people who hung on his teaching  
Or waited his touch or the word,  
Thro' the row of proud Pharisees listening,  
She pressed to the feet of the Lord.

"Why shouldst thou hinder the Master,"  
Said Peter, "with children like these?  
Seest thou how from morning till evening  
He teacheth, and healeth disease."  
But Christ said, "Forbid not the children;  
Permit them to come unto me."  
And he took in his arms little Esther,  
And Rachel he sat on his knee.

And the heavy heart of the mother  
Was lifted all earth-care above,  
As he laid his hands on the brothers  
And blessed them with tenderest love—  
As he said of the babes on his bosom,  
"Of such is the kingdom of heaven;"  
And strength for all duty and trial  
That hour to her spirit was given.

## THE CROWN OF THORNS.

BEFORE Jesus was crucified, he was very cruelly treated. His enemies beat him, and spit upon him, and said many insulting things to him. And they plaited a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and mocked him, calling him a king. Jesus suffered all this, and death on the cross for us. If we love him, and take up our cross, and follow him, as he bids us, he will some day place on our heads a crown of glory.

## SOMETHING ABOUT INDIA.

FAR away over the ocean is a great country called India. Its people are called Hindoos. It is a very hot country, so that people build their houses with large open porches or verandas.

India is governed by the Queen of England. A great many English people go to India to rule over the Hindoos. And yet we are told that India is about eighty times as large as England. Can you guess why so small a country can rule such a large one?

It is because its people are Christians, and because they are educated. As you grow older and read more, you will learn that people who enjoy the blessed religion of Jesus Christ are far wiser in other ways and fitted to govern. The poor Hindoos are heathen. Millions and millions of them have never heard the glad story of the Saviour's love, and of the home he has prepared for those who love him.

There is a beautiful little story of life in India written by Mrs. Sherwood, which tells of a little boy who by his sweetness and kindness and by his faithful love of the Master led his poor heathen bearer to become a Christian. Perhaps some one of your friends can find you the story of *Little Henry and his Bearer*.

Whether you ever read it or not, I hope you will remember the poor Hindoos. The very youngest child can pray for them, that the Lord will send his word to lighten their dark minds, and many can help by giving a little to send missionaries to them. God has said to those who deny themselves for the sake of others, "Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of the least of these my disciples, ye did it unto me."

## DOG STORIES.

I KNOW a dog whose name was "Truth." This is the way he got it: When he was little they called him "Frisk," because he was never still a minute. One day Fred's mamma missed her overshoe, and said: "I just believe Frisk has carried it off; he ought to be whipped." "You won't whip him if he confesses the truth?" asked Fred. Mamma promised she would not. So Fred showed Frisk the other overshoe, and told him to bring back the one he had carried off. Frisk looked at it wisely, and then ran off and brought the other from the garden, where he had taken it in play. Then Fred called his name "Truth."

I have heard of another dog who was not so truthful. His master used to give him a penny every morning, which he took to the butcher's for a piece of meat for his breakfast. He seemed to enjoy this very much;

but after awhile this was not enough to satisfy him. His master kept a confectionery shop. He had a great many pennies come in, and he used to put these in a small box under the counter. Master Doggie found where they were; and, as he didn't know anything about the commandments, he helped himself to one each day, and bought an extra cent's worth of meat.

Here is a dog from whom we might learn a lesson. Carlo's master used to try him by putting a piece of meat within his reach, and then telling him not to touch it. Carlo always turned his head the other way, and wouldn't even look at it, until his master said he might have it. It is best not even to look at temptation.—*Our Little Ones*

## DONT JEST WITH THE BIBLE

A GENTLEMAN of keen wit used often to point out his remarks with some apt quotation from the Bible. A friend who greatly admired him was present in his last hours, and asked with great sympathy what was the future outlook.

"Very gloomy, indeed," was his response. Surprised and deeply pained he hastened to quote some precious promises suited to the solemn hour.

"I have spoiled them all for myself," was his answer. "There is not one but is associated with some jest."

His light went out in darkness, though his name was on the church-roll. What a lesson is here for all who are willing to be taught by it? Lay it to heart.

## A BRIGHT BOY.

"SEE the moon!" said a lady to her nephew, a bright little boy of five, as they sat looking out of the window the other day.

"The moon!" said the little man. "You can't see the moon in the day time." "Yes, you can," continued his aunt. "There it is over the trees."

The little fellow had to admit that he saw it, but added, "Taint lighted anyway"

## TIME FOR SCHOOL.

I AM sorry to see James standing by the wall. The school-bell has rung, and he should hasten along. If he lingers one minute more he will be late. James does not know how important it is to be on time. Better five minutes too early than one minute too late. I like to see a boy promptly on hand for his breakfast, his dinner, or his supper, and I like to see him on time for play, or work or study. Always on time, and never behind time.