

WHY NOT?

Why not be kind in word and deed?
The world hath many a broken heart;
We might assuage the wounds that bleed,
And soothe through sympathy their smart—
Why not?

Why not be pure in every act,
And pure in every wish as well?
Youth's innocence kept intact
From sin's defiling touch and spell—
Why not?

Why not obey each impulse high,
Each prompting of the soul within
That moves the wayward will to try
A nobler character to win—
Why not?

—Philip B. Strong.

Two respected clergymen in the Diocese of Down have been advanced in ecclesiastical status. The Bishop has conferred on Canon Moore, Rector of Holywood, the Chancellorship of the diocese, held by the late Canon H. W. Stewart. Canon Smith, Rector of Comber, has been appointed Precentor, in room of Canon Moore.

Children's Department

DICK'S STAR.

Dick had been going to school a month. Each day Miss Margaret, the teacher, wrote a new word on the blackboard and the children copied it.

But one morning, instead of writing a word as usual, Miss Margaret gave each child a sheet of paper.

"Now, little folks," she said, "I am going to see who can write what we learned yesterday without having a copy to help."

Several of the children smiled and went to work.

But Dick sat still, with the sheet of paper on his desk, and with his new yellow pencil held tight in his hand. Travis, Dick's deskmate, was scribbling on his paper.

Dick knew what the word was—mother! But he couldn't remember how to make an m! He knew just how the other letters looked, and after a while he slowly began to make them—"o-t-h-e-r." Over and over he wrote the letters.

"I can put the m in afterward if I think of it," whispered Dick to himself.

Presently Miss Margaret spoke. "Two minutes more, boys and girls!" she said. "Do your very best; I am going to put a bright golden star on the best-written papers, and you may take them home."

Dick's heart beat fast. How pleased mother would be if her boy carried her a star paper! But try as

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he would, he could not think of the way to make an m. You see he was a very little boy and had not learned much about writing.

All at once Dick's eyes fell on some words on a blackboard at the other side of the room. Miss Margaret had written them for the reading class. There, at the very beginning, was a big m! Dick remembered, now! He had thought it looked like two V's joined together.

The new yellow pencil began to work very fast. All at once Dick stopped.

Hadn't Miss Margaret said the class was to write the word without any help, and wasn't the big M on the blackboard helping?

The little boy sighed, and swallowed a lump in his throat. But somehow he couldn't write another curly M. Instead, he stood the yellow pencil on its rubber head, and began slowly to rub out the two M's he had made. Before he had quite finished, Miss Margaret stood by his desk, waiting for his paper.

"Why, Dick, you mustn't rub out your M's, little boy! See, you haven't any, all the way down the page! Why are you rubbing out the only ones you have made?"

All the children were looking at Dick, and his face grew red.

"I—I couldn't remember how to make M's, Miss Margaret, an'—an' you said we mustn't have anything to go by—but I couldn't help seeing that one on the blackboard over there! An' I started to make some, an' then I thought it would be like—like stealing M's, so I was rubbing them out!"

And then, even if he was a six-year old boy, Dick put his head down behind his desk, and the children knew he was crying, even if he did pretend to be looking for something in his desk!

Miss Margaret did not collect any more papers.

Instead, she went over to her table and worked busily for a minute. Then she came back to Dick's desk.

"Children," she said, and Dick raised his head, winking hard to stop the tears from running out of his eyes. "I want you all to see what I have put on Dick's paper."

Then Dick forgot his tears, for there, right where everybody could see it, was a beautiful golden star.

"Listen to what I have written by the star, boys and girls," said Miss Margaret. "This star is given Dick Hastings, the boy who would not steal an M!"

Dick has a good many star papers now, and his mother keeps them in a special corner in her desk. But she says the first star is the most



precious one of all!—The Sunday School Times.

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