

A CHILD'S LAUGHTER.

All the bells of heaven may ring,
All the birds of heaven may sing,
All the wells on earth may spring,
All the winds of earth may bring

All sweet sounds together,
Sweeter far than all things heard,
Hand of harper, tone of bird,
Welling water's winsome word,
Wind in warm, wan weather.

One thing yet there is that none,
Hearing ere its chime be done,
Knows not well the sweetest one
Heard of men beneath the sun,
Hoped in heaven hereafter;
Soft and strong and loud and light,
Very sound of very light,
Heard from morning's rosiest height,
When the soul of all delight
Fills a child's clear laughter.

Golden bells of welcome rolled
Never forth such notes, nor told
Hours so blithe in tones so bo'd,
As the radiant mouth of gold

Here that riags forth heaven,
If the golden-crested wren
Were a nightingale—why, then,
Something seen and heard of men
Might be half as sweet as when
Laughs a child of seven.

—From the *Church Quarterly*

WHAT IS TRUTH?*

When Jesus was betrayed and delivered unto Pilate after being questioned regarding his actions, he was asked by Pilate, "What hast thou done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world if my kingdom were of this world; then would my servants fight that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now is my kingdom, not from hence." Pilate therefore said unto him, "Art thou a king, then?" Jesus answered, "Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born and for this cause came I into the world that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone that is of the truth heareth my voice." Pilate saith unto him, "What is Truth?" Pilate did not stay to hear the answer to his question.

But Jesus had answered this ques-

tion all through his life. He had told his disciples and the people what truth he came to bear witness to, and he had continually borne that witness. Now the truth that he continually bore witness of was the Christ of God, or Spirit of Truth. It was no new thing instituted by himself. It was in the beginning as John afterwards declared by whom all things were made, the Divine word, and this word was Truth, the pure law of God, and no doubt to this Jesus referred when he said: "Before Abraham was I am." That spiritual breath breathed into every living soul and which under proper conditions expands until, as Paul says: "If the Truth shall make you free, then are you free indeed."

The people, on account of the mighty works that Jesus performed, were looking to him as the author of these things, yet we see all through his teaching he continually called them to something higher. "Of myself I can do nothing, but the Father who dwelleth in me He it is that doeth the work." And before the people could be brought to see the true source of the things that Jesus did, he must be removed from them. They were coming to look too much to the outward man and not enough to the spirit of Truth within themselves that would lead them aright.

Therefore, he tells them that it is expedient for them that he, the Comforter to whom they were looking, should go away, that they might then learn of that other Comforter that would teach them—"Even the spirit of Truth that should lead them into all truth along step by step until the still waters of salvation are found.

How beautiful is the thought, or rather certain knowledge we have, that we have that Comforter always with us to guide us aright, if we will but listen, if we will but place ourselves under this Divine guidance, we need never fear but we will receive that knowledge that is sufficient to always lead us in the path of right.

*Read at the regular class meeting in Washington, D. C., on First-day, 4th mo. 10, by James Steer.