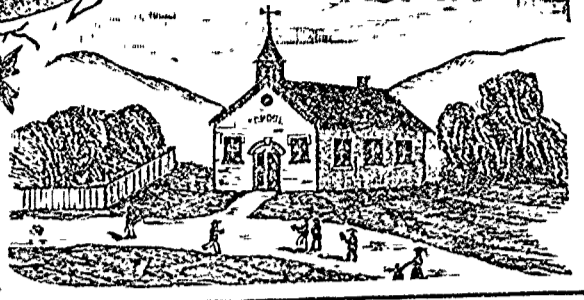
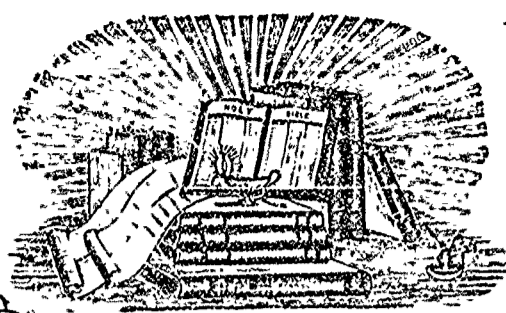


# HOME SCHOOLS



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### A Clever Act.

JOSE asked an Indian road officer what was the cleverest act he ever knew an elephant to perform; and he told me how once, when unloading some steel tubing from on board a ship, it was the elephant's task to carry the pipes by means of his trunk from one part of the wharf to another. The pipes had been oiled to prevent them from rusting; and when the elephant took one up it slipped from his grasp. He tried it again with the same result, and at last seemed to comprehend what the reason of all this was; for he shortly afterward pushed the pipe with his foot to where there was a heap of sand, and then rolled the piping backward and forward. The sand, owing to the oil, adhered to the tube; and the elephant then put his trunk round it and carried it with ease. He did the same to the remainder without aid or suggestion from his mahout — *Vanity Fair*.

### The Hour of Prayer.

OUR engraving represents a young girl of Flanders wearing the picturesque costume of her native land. The veil and wreath seem to indicate that she has just observed that important event in the life of young people in Roman Catholic countries — her first communion. The Church of Rome attaches much importance to religious ceremonies, and trains up the young to become members of the Church through the observance of these ceremonies. After religious instruction and examination in the catechism they are solemnly initiated, as it were, into membership in the



THE HOUR OF PRAYER.

Church. With many this is doubtless only a form and nothing more. But with some it is a time of self-examination and prayer. Such it seems to

be with the young girl in the picture. The clasped hands, the upturned gaze at the sunset sky, the rapt expression of the countenance, all bear witness to

the religious emotions which fill the heart at this solemn hour. God does not leave Himself without a witness in the human heart, and even in a Church which has corrupted the primitive purity of the Gospel and persecuted the saints, there are those who

Groping blindly in the darkness,  
For some good they comprehend not,  
Touch God's right hand in the darkness,  
And are lifted up and strengthened.

### A Star in the Crown.

A YOUNG lady was preparing for the dance-hall, and standing before a large mirror, placed a light crown, ornamented with silver stars, upon her head. While thus standing, a little fair-headed sister climbed in a chair, and put up her tiny fingers to examine this beautiful head-dress, and was accosted thus: "Sister, what are you doing? You should not touch that crown!" Said the little one: "I was looking at that, and thinking of something else." "Pray, tell me what you are thinking about — you, a little child." "I was remembering that my Sunday-school teacher said, that if we save sinners by our influence we should win stars in our crown in heaven; and when I saw those stars in your crown I wished I could save some soul." The elder sister went to the dance, but in solemn meditation. At a seasonable hour she left the hall and returned to her home; and going to her chamber, where her dear little sister was

sleeping, imprinted a kiss upon her soft cheek, saying, "You have one star for your crown," and then kneeling, offered a fervent prayer for mercy.