

knowledge which came just in His way ; He had gone out of His way to find it, and had remained behind on the road, even on the way to the temple court, where there was something to be seen, heard, and learnt. And there he sat, we are told, both hearing and asking questions. He not only heard what was said, but if anything was said which was too hard for Him, He asked to have it explained. Both hearing and asking questions—attend to these two words—the two things together are the very model of a good scholar. First you must listen ; you must hear, you must be silent, you must be attentive. Without this you can learn nothing. Without this we shall not be able to tell what we know and what we don't know. We shall only have learnt words and not things. We shall have learnt like parrots, and not like the children of a wise and loving Father. This was the beginning of the teaching and the learning of our blessed Saviour. He went home afterwards with His parents to Nazareth, and was subject or obedient to them ; that is, He was quite content to be with them, and to hear what they had to tell Him, and to see Joseph working in the carpenter's shop, and to help him, and every year to increase in wisdom and stature. As He grew older, and stronger, and taller, He learnt to know more and to say more. He observed the birds of the air, and the sowing of the corn, and the laborers at their work, and all the many things which He afterwards brought out like treasures which He had stored up in His excellent parables. He increased in favor with God and man. Every one loved Him that saw Him, and God saw Him, and was pleased with Him. His mother watched and guarded all His little sayings, for there was something wise and good in all of them, and so pondered them in her heart. So ended the childhood of Jesus. We cannot be as wise and as good as He was, but we may all do something to make our homes happy, like His home. All parents, brothers, and sisters can try to make the little children, the boys and the girls, in their homes, like the boy Jesus, when He was twelve years old.

May He who commanded the children

to be brought unto Him, who, by his outward gesture, and His speech, declared His good-will towards them, may He embrace all children with the arms of mercy ; may He defend them with His heavenly grace, that they may daily increase in the spirit of wisdom and of goodness more and more, till they come to His everlasting kingdom, through faith in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Rocks Ahead !

BY THE REV. C. CLEMENCE, B.A.

AN evil in some Sunday-schools is the offering up of unsuitable prayers, and the frequent singing of weak and insipid and even trashy spiritual songs. How many prayers have we heard in our Sunday-schools, ill-ordered, unarranged, unadapted, either to time or place. We know that all prayers, indeed, are imperfect, but that is no reason for allowing the imperfection, through sheer carelessness or want of preparation, to be greater than it need be. How often is "to engage in prayer" thought to be the minor part of a service. But it is not so. It is the reverse. And for any teacher to be the mouth-piece of his scholars to God, yea, of a whole school, and to seek to bring down from heaven the blessings which they most need, is a task so great, that were he adequately to estimate it, it would be a burden his spirit could scarcely bear !

Whether unsuitable songs are more or less of an evil than unsuitable prayers, we will not attempt to decide. One thing is certain. Not unfrequently when asked to take part in some Sunday-school celebration, we have read over some of the printed hymns (?) with grief and almost with shame. One of the most common faults in these compositions is that they rehearse the charms of some imaginary land far away, with crowns, harps, and fountains, and rivers, and palms, and so on ; while no hint is dropped throughout the entire hymn of sin or redemption : of sin as bringing the sorrow of earth, or of redemption of the individual from it as securing bliss hereafter. The whole tenor of these hymns would leave the impression that there was some better place than