

phet," Mary determined that the one talent she possessed, even if only the ability to dress dolls, should be given to the Master's use, and since that day many a blue-eyed, flaxen-haired doll has gone on a mission to homes of squalor and wretchedness.

Doll Elizabeth's story is not a make-up story, and it ought to teach the young people in Sabbath school that they can all do something towards making the world happier and better.

As this dainty, beautiful doll made its small owner long to be neat and clean and sweet, as it was, so we ought to carry in our hearts much love, purity and nobleness, and let them shine out in our faces and actions, so that those around us will see the beauty of our lives and want to make their own fashion in with ours.—

Only a Bird.

By Mary Morrison.

Only a bird—and a vagrant boy
Fits a pebble with boyish skill
Into the folks of a supple sling.

"Watch me hit him. I can, an' I will."

Whirr—and a silence chill and sad

Talks like a pall on the vibrant air,
From a birchen tree, whence a shower of song
Has fallen in ripples everywhere.

Only a bird—and the tiny throat
With quaver and trill and whistle of flute
Bruised and bleeding and silent lies
There at his feet. Its cords are mute,
And the boy with a loud and boisterous laugh,
Proud of his prowess and brutal skill,
Throws it aside with a careless toss—
"Only a bird!—It was made to kill."

Only a bird!—yet far away
Little ones clamor and cry for food—
Clamor and cry, and the chill of night
Settles over the orphan brood,
Weaker and fainter the moanings call
For a brooding breast that shall never come;
Morning breaks o'er a lonely nest,
Songless and lifeless, mute and dumb!

*Ezekiel's Great Vision.

The prophet who speaks to us here was, as we have seen both priest and prophet; he was also a student in our modern sense of that term, a lover of books, especially of the prophecy and poetry of his own beloved Judah. He gives us many visions, and sometimes it is difficult to say how much is pure vision, and how much the literary dress of a great spiritual truth. Symbol and reality are freely mingled in a manner quite Oriental. This is one of the best known and certainly one of the greatest of his visions. It is sometimes treated as a parable of his dead condition, our need of heaven's vivifying breath and of the power of grace to accomplish the apparently impossible. But like all other prophecies it is best understood when we pay careful attention to its historical setting. Its first meaning refers to the great need of that hour, the restoration of God's people to their own land and the revival of their life. The people were in Babylon, the national life crushed apparently beyond hope of redemption. Many gave way to unbelief and despair, crying that Jehovah had cast them off forever. One prophet, with purest poetry and sublimest theology; another in wonderful visions, disclosed that God would accomplish what seemed to be impossible, and the broken-hearted captives would be delivered and the ransomed of Jehovah would return to Zion with grateful sons. This, then, is the meaning of the vision that a nation dead and dried up, lacking resources, destitute of strength, shall be restored to new life and take up in purer form its vocation as the servant of the Lord.

*S. S. Lesson for August 13th—Ezekiel 37: 1,14 Golden Text.—"I will put My Spirit within you. Ezekiel 36: 27.

We can simply note very briefly some salient points. It was a God-given vision, however much the prophet's individuality may be seen in its form and color, the reality comes from God. The prophet felt himself overmastered by the powerful hand, and his eyes were opened, his ears quickened to see and hear strange things. It is a sad sight, the open valley full of bones, and so they were very dry. Thus the vision opens in despondent tone before it sounds out clear and strong the triumph of faith. Then it is not so much the triumph of faith as the triumph of promise. When the great question is asked, "Can these bones live?" the answer is rather that of trembling hope than triumphant expectation. What we have here may be called the Gospel of the power of God. Not using the word in any small sectarian sense, we may call it a Calvinistic Gospel. The movement is from God to man. Man's response is feebler than it ought to be. Only a great faith in God's power can bring hope to a Church almost conquered by superstition and crushed by tyranny. It is then God's power, but God's power acting through lowly means. Even through prophecy will the power of God act upon a dead people. Men at the present day are inclined to belittle preaching, but the faith of the Saints has always been that through it the tremendous power of God may act upon the hearts of men. This is not a light-hearted preaching, which overlooks difficulties and thinks to charm away sin and sorrow by the cunning of clever words. It is the prophecy which has fronted all the difficulties, seen all the despair of darkness and death, and rejoices that the people of God in their greatest distress may be more than conquerors through the power and love of God. The four winds of heaven are in the hand of God, as well as the breath of man. He can send the gentle, life-giving breeze as well as the destructive storm. He is just in the storm as well as in the sunshine. He proves His presence by reviving His people. "And ye shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, and caused you to come up out of your graves, O, My people, and I will put My Spirit in you and ye shall live and I will place you in your own land; and ye shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken it, and performed it, saith the Lord." In similar language, but with loftier tone, speaks our Lord Jesus, and in His Church this great truth of a prepared place and a prepared people finds its highest and final fulfilment.

The Lord Will Provide.

"Write deep in your hearts this New Year's day the word of sublime confidence, Jehovahjireh. It tells you that you can trust God always; that no promise of His ever fails; that He doeth all things well; that out of all seeming loss and destruction of human hopes He brings blessing. You have not passed this way heretofore. There will be sorrows and joys, failures and successes this year, just as there were last year. You cannot see a step before your feet. Yet Jehovahjireh calls you to enter the new altar with trust. It bids you put away all anxieties and forebodings.—"The Lord will provide."—Rev. J. R. Miller, D.D.

Stories of strange and amusing answers given to examination questions are frequently told, but we do not so often see recorded the equally surprising answers given by children in Sunday-schools, and yet they are frequently original enough. A teacher, lately wishing to turn the young idea toward the mission field, asked: "What are the good men called who leave their homes and go to foreign lands to teach the heathen?" "Prodigal sons," was the prompt and triumphant reply. A class of boys when asked, "What were the ten plagues?" answered with more fervor than gallantry, "The ten virgins, sir"—Westminster Gazette.

What do we live for, if it is not to make life less difficult to each other?—George Eliot.

When You Write Letters.

Be gentlemanly. Recorded bad manners are likely to rise up some day to rebuke you.

Think seriously. Hastily written words are dangerous, even to the writer himself.

Remember letter files. "Burn this letter" is an injunction often disregarded; and letter files are positively conscienceless tale bearers.

Do not forget that your handwriting is a very trustworthy witness against you. If, therefore, you are angry, better not write at all; for one day you will wish you had been kinder, and the exclamation will be a sad one, "What I have written I have written."

Do not proclaim your cowardice, for too many men write in letters insults they would be afraid to utter in face to face interviews. Insults are always cowardly, but when designedly given in letters or newspaper articles, they are pitifully craven.

A Baby's Smile.

A baby's smile is sweeter than a flower;
A baby's smile is brighter than the sun,
Richer than wealth, and mightier than Power,
Deeper than tears, yet radiant with fun.

A baby's smile takes captive ev'ry will;
A baby's smile—a happy moment's birth—
Is all unknown human good or ill;
'Tis heaven revealed one instant to the earth.
—Pall Mall Gazette.

A Handsome Publication.

The latest brochure that has emanated from the advertising department of the Grand Trunk excels all previous publications, and is certainly one of the most creditable pieces of railway literature that has come to hand. The title of the work is "The Mountains of New England and the Sea." The descriptive matter is well put together, and is in a concise, yet easy style, giving the tourist and pleasure seeker accurate information regarding the magnificent resorts in the White Mountains of Maine and New Hampshire, and the unequalled bathing beaches and summer homes on the Atlantic sea coast.

The illustrations are exceptionally good and are direct reproductions from photographs engraved by the half-tone process and, being printed on the best of paper, a fine result has been attained. Among the illustrations is noticed a very good picture of the new Victoria Jubilee Bridge, over the St. Lawrence River at Montreal.

Scenes on the line of the Grand Trunk between Montreal and Portland, are profuse and interesting.

Another particularly noticeable feature of the publication is a topographical map, printed in four colors, showing the mountains in relief, the lakes and rivers, the principal stage lines and carriage roads to the fishing and hunting districts; in fact, a bird's eye view of this magnificent pleasure ground from Montreal to Portland, with the addition of the favorite islands that lie in Casco Bay, and to which so many Montrealers hie each season.

This map is probably the only one of its kind in existence and many words of approval have been elicited from tourists, who make their summer homes in the mountains or on the coast, as to its value and topographical accuracy.

Four pages of the publication are devoted to a list of hotels that are located in the districts dealt with, including the number of people they can accommodate and the rates per day and week.

Prospective tourists and those wishing to spend a pleasant vacation should procure one of these very artistic and interesting books, which may be had for the asking. Address W. E. Davis, General Passenger and Ticket Agent, Montreal.