

OUR YOUNG FOLKS.

THE FEARFUL BEGINNING.

It was but a *little* sip,
Just a taste upon the lip;
But it left a longing there;
Then the measure larger grew
And the habit strengthened too,
Till it would no curbing bear.
So the demon *Drink* decoys;
Soul and body both destroys.

ARE YOU NOT A CHRISTIAN?

IS it because you are afraid of ridicule?
"Whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of Man be ashamed."

2. Is it because of the inconsistencies of professing Christians?

"Every man shall give an account of himself to God."

3. Are you not willing to give up all to Christ?

"What shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

4. Are you afraid that you will not be accepted?

"Him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out."

5. Is it for fear you are too great a sinner?

"The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us from all sin."

6. Is it because you fear you will not "hold out?"

"He that hath begun a good work in you, will perform it unto the day of Christ Jesus."

7. Are you thinking that you will do as well as you can, and that God ought to be satisfied with that?

"Whosoever shall keep the whole law and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all."

8. Is it because you are postponing the matter, without any definite reason?

"Boast not thyself of to-morrow for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth."—*Anon.*

"GOOD ENOUGH FOR HOME."

"WHY do you put on that forlorn old dress?" asked Emily Manners of her Cousin Lydia, one morning after she had spent the night at Lydia's house.

The dress in question was a spotted, faded old summer silk, which only looked the more forlorn for its once fashionable trimmings, now crumpled and frayed.

"Oh, anything is good enough for home!" said Lydia, hastily pinning on a soiled collar; and twisting up her hair in a ragged knot, she went down to breakfast.

"Your hair is coming down," said Emily.

"Oh, never mind; it's good enough for home," said Lydia carelessly. Lydia had been visiting at Emily's home, and had always appeared in the prettiest of morning dresses, and with neat hair, and dainty collars and cuffs; but now that she was back again among her brothers and sisters, and with her parents, she seemed to think anything would answer, and went about untidy, and in soiled finery. At her uncle's she had been pleasant and polite, and had won golden opinions from all; but with her own family her manners were as careless as her dress; she seemed to think that courtesy and kindness were too expensive

for home wear, and that anything was good enough for home.

There are too many people who, like Lydia, seem to think that anything will do for home; whereas, effort to keep one's self neat, and to treat father, mother, sister, brother and servant kindly and courteously, is as much a duty, as to keep from falsehood and stealing.

SIX BIBLE NAMES.

SAY them over a good many times, until you can remember them and the order in which they are given.

Adam, Enoch, Abraham, Solomon, Christ, John. Repeat them again, and then learn the following bit of Bible chronology:

1. From the time Adam was created, until the time Enoch was translated, was a thousand years.

2. From the time Enoch was translated, until the time Abraham was born, was a thousand years.

3. From the time Abraham was born, until the time Solomon dedicated the temple, was a thousand years.

4. From the time Solomon dedicated the temple, until the time Christ was born, was a thousand years.

5. From the time Christ was born, until the time John died, was a hundred years.

Thus the Bible history, of forty-one hundred years, may be divided.

"PLEASE HELP ME."

FOUR-YEAR-OLD Johnnie was rearing a castle of building-blocks in the nursery. His mother sat near with her sewing, but he was too much engrossed in architecture to notice her. The finish was just being put to the chief tower, when down came the whole with a crash. Johnnie surveyed the ruins with a flushed, disappointed face, then, folding his little hands, said, devoutly, "Dear Lord, please help me." The next effort was unsuccessful. Scarcely was it finished when the fabric came tumbling down. Hot tears rushed to Johnnie's eyes; but, repressing any word of impatience, to his mother's great joy he went down upon his knees above the scattered fragments of his childish ambition and, raising his eyes, said earnestly, "Please, Lord, help me so it won't tumble down; and don't let me get mad." With careful fingers he again began, and this time completed his work. Johnnie is "John" now, striving for college honours, but he finds help just where and just as he did then.

PRAYER AND DELIVERANCE.

ONCE a home-bound vessel was overtaken by a storm. She was so severely injured that no hope of safety was left. All hands were employed at the pumps, but the water gained on them slowly and surely. The captain bade them prepare for the worst, which must soon come upon them.

The mate was a wild, careless young man, but now he was effectually sobered. He was walking the deck with an anxious brow, every few moments taking out his watch to see the time of the day.

"We are lost," said the captain to him; "the

vessel can't live much longer in such a gale."

But still the young man paid little heed to him, examining his watch oftener and more anxiously. At last he gave a glad shout as he cried, "We are saved! We cannot now be lost!"

On being asked the reason for his unaccountable behaviour, he replied with enthusiasm, "It is my father's hour of prayer. He is praying to God now for me. The vessel can never sink while my father's prayers are going up to heaven."

The despairing crew caught fresh courage from his words, and redoubled their efforts, and so were able to keep the ship afloat until the storm ceased, when they set sail and came into port.

A BIBLE DEFINITION;

A FRIEND of ours, who was one day hearing his little six-year old Alice say her "definitions," asked her the meaning of "earthquake" and "volcano," when she replied,

"I know, father; God tells us in the Bible what they are."

"Does He? Why, where, Allie?"

"In the 104th Psalm, 32nd verse."

Now turn to that passage and see if this little student of the Bible didn't make a good answer.

THE new year will recall many of the mistakes, and follies, and sins of the old year. If we would have it a better year we must clear up the past by penitence, confession, and a larger faith in ourselves and God.

THE LARGEST MOUTH.

SOME Swiss girls were being taught in a Sabbath school lately out of the Book of Jonah, and the question was put, "Who has the largest mouth?" and one little girl answered, "Pharisees." "How so?" was the inquiry, "how so?" "Because they eat widows' houses," was the juvenile's reply.

The above incident was stated by M. Dandriken at the Basle Conference, and also the following one: "I was once addressing the children from the parable of the rich man and Lazarus. I shewed them the poverty and wretchedness of Lazarus, and the ease and luxury of the rich man on earth, and then the bliss of Lazarus and the misery of Dives in the world to come. I asked them which of the two they would like to be. A little boy said, 'Please, I should like to be the rich man on earth, but Lazarus in heaven.'"

"TRAIN up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it."—Prov. xxii. 6.

OUR passions are like convulsive fits, which, though they make us stronger for the time, leave us the weaker ever after.

WE need not climb up into the firmament to see if the sun be there, we may see the beauty of it upon the earth; so we need not go up into heaven to see if Christ be there interceding for us; let us look into our own hearts, if they are quickened and inflamed in prayers and can cry Abba, Father, for the interceding of the Spirit, within us, we may know Christ is interceding above for us.