

## OBITUARY.

Died, on the 3rd of 6 mo., at Corning, N. Y., Kate Ingersoll Brown, wife of F. Cornie Brown, and eldest daughter of Dr. A. J. and Nellie Ingersoll. She was in the 22nd year of her age. "Young and so fair" could truly be said of her. She had been married nearly two years. A beautiful home was building for the young couple. A baby girl had come to complete their joy. What a beautiful picture! but alas, how suddenly can God change, we could almost say mar, it. A husband, disconsolate, weeping over the loss of a loved one; a little one to grow up with no remembrance of a mother's face. A sad reversion one would think; but earthly bliss is uncertain and short-lived at best, and God shatters it only that it may be re-established in a place where it can endure forever. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out towards the bereaved ones.

## OUR LITTLE ONES.

O, a little Bethel! I almost involuntarily exclaimed on entering some weeks ago a young Friend's class of children, and truly one could not elsewhere feel sweeter assurance of God's presence than there in the midst of His little ones.

Looking round that little circle of innocent faces and meeting those pure, truthful eyes, the words: "He took a little child and set it in the midst of them" came to me with such force that I felt the world must be somehow disarranged else why should I presume to instruct those whom Jesus himself thus recognized as the real teachers? But to whatever transgression of God's laws such disarrangement be due, it is to meet a world of evil that our children must be armed; and to the hand of the Sabbath School teacher falls the adjustment of many plates in that armor which alone can preserve the purity and innocence of our little ones

Only recently has the world shown symptoms of a practical realization of the power of early influence and instruction. The increasing popularity of the kindergarten and the growing demand for the best teaching for the little ones are most encouraging indications of this awakening. But not until the greater portion of that legislation now expended in the punishment of crime be devoted to the prevention of its development—not until more wealth of time, money, energy and executive ability now spent in framing and enacting restrictive laws, in building prisons and devising employment for their inmates be given to the moral and religious preservation of little children, will the fruits of our conviction bear evidence to a sufficient realization of our responsibility as moulders of immortal souls. It must not be forgotten that these little children to whom we point as the hope of our country—our future men and women—have within them all possibilities of both good and evil. We are forced to acknowledge that evil influences surround them from birth. Hence heavily, indeed, weighs upon us who have taught to do with their growing up—and not one of us is there but directly or indirectly lends something to the shaping of these developing souls—heavily upon each one of us rests a weight of individual responsibility for the well being of these little ones. When we realize that in the fairest, most innocent child lie the possibilities of becoming mean, base, teacherous, false, cruel, malicious, revengeful, corrupt, unworthy and repulsive—remember in short that just as the worst criminal from our prisons was once an innocent child, so may these little ones become the curse of home and country. Dare we stand aside and say within our hearts: "This is no concern of mine." It is the concern of every heart that beats, of every soul graven in the image of God that Christ's little ones who are to bear back to him the impression of our touch be