

of these treasures, and then, by God's grace, make them your own.—*Good Words.*

"THE LAND OF THE 'PRETTY SOON.'"

I know of a land where the streets are paved
With the things which we meant to achieve:
It is walled with the money we meant to have saved,
And the pleasures for which we grieve.
The kind words unspoken, the promises broken,
And many a coveted boon,
Are stowed away there in that land somewhere—
The land of "Pretty Soon."

There are uncut jewels, of possible fame,
Lying about in the dust,
And many a noble and lofty aim
Covered with mould and rust.
And oh! this place, while it seems so near,
Is farther away than the moon,
Though our purpose is fair, yet we never get there—
The land of "Pretty Soon."

The road that leads to that mystic land
Is strewn with pitiful wrecks,
And the ships that have sailed for its shining strand
Bear skeletons on their decks.
It is farther at noon than it was at dawn,
And farther at night than at noon;
Oh, let us beware of that land down there—
The land of "Pretty Soon."

—*Home Words.*

WHAT BOYS SHOULD BE.

1, Honest; 2, Pure; 3, Intelligent; 4, Active; 5, Industrious; 6, Obedient; 7, Steady; 8, Obliging; 9, Polite; 10, Neat.

Any boy who wishes to make a mark in the world should possess these ten points. Thousands of places are open for thousands of boys who can come up to the standard. Each boy can suit his taste as to the kind of business he would prefer. Places are ready in every kind of occupation. Many of them, no doubt, are filled by boys who lack some of the most important points, but they will soon be vacant. One boy within our knowledge is fond of smoking cigars and dressing too much. This costs more money than he can afford, but somehow he manages to do so. His employer is quietly watching him, and we shall expect soon to hear that he

has been detected and his place filled by some boy who is getting ready for it by observing No. 1.

Other places will soon be vacant, because the boys have been poisoned by reading bad books, such as they would not dare to show to their fathers, and would be ashamed to have their mothers see. The impure thoughts gathered from these books will lead to vicious acts; the boys are ruined and their places must be filled. Who will be ready for one of these vacancies?

Mind your ten points, boys; they will prepare you to step into the vacancies in the front ranks. Do not fear that you will be overlooked. A young person having these qualities will shine as plainly as a star at night. We have named ten points. You can imagine one on each finger, and so keep them in mind; they will be worth more to you than diamond rings.—*C. B., in Home Words.*

"WHAT IS PRAYER?"

A deaf and dumb girl was once asked by a lady, who wrote the question on a slate, "What is Prayer?" The little girl took the pencil and wrote the reply, "Prayer is the wish of the heart." So it is. Fine words and beautiful verses said to God do not make real prayer without the sincere wish of the heart.

FILLING A BASKET WITH WATER.

An Eastern king was once in need of a faithful servant and friend. He gave notice that he wanted a man to do a day's work, and two men came and asked to be employed. He engaged them both for certain fixed wages, and set them to work to fill a basket with water from a neighbouring well, saying he would come in the evening to see their work. He then left them to themselves, and went away.

After putting in one or two bucketfuls, one of the men said, "What is the good of doing this useless work? As soon as we put the water in on one side it runs out on the other."

The other man answered, "But we have our day's wages, haven't we? The use of the work is the master's business, not ours."

"I am not going to do such foolish work," replied the other, and, throwing down his bucket, he went away.

The other man continued his work till, about sunset, he exhausted the well. Looking down into it, he saw something shining at the bottom. He let down his bucket once more, and drew up a precious diamond ring.

"Now I see the use of pouring water into a basket," he exclaimed to himself. "If the bucket had brought up the ring before the well was dry, it would have been found in the basket. The labor was not useless, after all."

But he had yet to learn why the king had ordered this apparently useless task. It was to test their capacity for perfect obedience, without which no servant is reliable.

At this moment the king came up to him, and as he bid the man keep the ring, he said, "Thou hast been faithful in a little thing, now I see I can trust thee in great things. Henceforward thou shalt stand at my right hand."—*Selected.*

JOHNNIE.

It rained dismally. Johnnie had been in the house all the morning. He was a bright boy of seven, full of life and energy, and very fond of outdoor sports; but his mother was afraid to let him go out in the rain, and he amused himself indoors for a time quietly, and then he began to be restless.

"Johnnie, don't," said his mamma, as he began to drum louder and louder on the window-pane. Johnnie became quiet.

"Johnnie, don't," said his mamma, as he vociferously imitated the locomotive, ending in a shrill whistle. Johnnie subsided.

"Johnnie, don't," said his mamma, as he got the pet dog barking with all his might, and Johnnie let the dog alone.

The boy went from one thing to another, and every time he