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MY LITTLE STEP-SON.

BY MRS. WELBY.

I have a little step-son, the loveliest thing alive,
A noble, sturdy boy is he, and yet he's only five;
His smooth cheek hath a blooming glow, his eye is black as jet,
And his lips are like two rose-buds, all tremulous and wet;
His days pass off in sunshine, in laughter and in song,
As careless as a summer rill that sings itself along,
For like a pretty fairy tale that's all too quickly told,
Is the young life of a little one that's only five years old.

He's dreaming on his happy couch before the day grows dark,
He's up with morning's rosy ray a-singing with the lark;
Where'er the flowers are freshest, where'er the grass is green,
With light locks waving on the wind his fairy form is seen,
Amid the whistling March winds, amid the April showers;
He warbles with the singing birds, and blossoms with the flowers.
He cares not for the summer heat, he cares not for the cold—
My sturdy little step-son, that's only five years old.

How touching 'tis to see him clasp his dimpled hands in prayer,
And raise his little rosy face with reverential air!
How simple is his eloquence! how soft his accents fall
When pleading with the King of kings to love and bless us all;
And when from prayer he bounds away in innocence and joy,
The blessing of a smiling God goes with the cheerful boy;
A little lambkin of the flock within the Saviour's fold,
Is his my lovely step-son, that's only five years old."

MELTING THE HEART.

BY MRS. WELBY.

I wandered out one summer night,
'Twas when my years were few,
The wind was singing in the light,
And I was singing too.
The sunshine lay upon the hill,
The shadow in the vale,
And here and there a leaping rill
Was laughing on the gale.

One fleecy cloud upon the air
Was all that met my eyes,
It floated like an angel there
Between me and the skies;
I clapped my hands and warbled wild,
As here and there I flew,
For I was but a careless child,
And did as children do.

The twilight hours like birds flew by,
As lightly and as free;
Ten thousand stars were in the sky,
Ten thousand on the sea;
For every wave with dimpled face
That leaped upon the air,
Had caught a star in its embrace,
And held it trembling there.

I heard the laughing wind behind
A-playing with my hair;
The breezy fingers of the wind,
How cool and moist they were.

But wherefore weave such strains as these,
And sing them day by day,

When every bird upon the breeze
Can sing a sweeter lay!
I'd give the world for their sweet art,
The simple, the divine—
I'd give the world to melt one heart
As they have melted mine.

CHAPTERS FOR CHILDREN, No. II.



PROOFS THAT THE EARTH IS A GLOBE.
(From the Youths' Cabinet.)

Most boys and girls that are able to read, know that the earth is round like an orange; though some, perhaps, do not know exactly how people go to work to prove that this is the earth's figure.

For a long period, during the infancy of science, the world in which we dwell was considered as the largest body in the universe. It was supposed to be an immense plane, diversified with a few inequalities, and stretching in every direction to an unlimited extent. It is now, however, proved to a demonstration, that all the continents, islands, and oceans on its surface form a body, which is nearly the figure of a globe. This position may be proved and illustrated by the following considerations:

1. When we view a ship taking its departure from the coast in any direction, as it recedes from our view, we may perceive the masts and rigging of the vessel, though the hull is out of sight, and, as it were, sunk into the water. On the other hand, when a ship is approaching the shore, the first part of it which is seen is the top-mast; as it approaches nearer, the sails become visible, and last of all, the hull comes gradually into view. The reason of such appearances obviously is, that the round or convex surface of the water interposes between our eye and the body of the ship, when it has reached a certain distance, while the sails and top-mast, from their great elevation, may be still in view. The contrary of all this would take place, were the earth and waters an extended plane; the top-mast, being the smallest body, would first disappear, and the hull, presenting the largest surface to the eye, would be seen after the top-mast and part of the sails had disappeared. The figure at the head of this article will illustrate these positions; where it is evident that a line drawn from a tower or mountain to the hull of a vessel, passes under the convex surface of the sea, while a line drawn to the top-mast passes above the surface; and as light flows in straight lines, the top-mast will be visible when the hull is hid.

2. That the earth is round from east to west appears from actual experiment; for many navigators, by sailing in a westerly direction, have gone quite round it from east to west. They have sailed in a westerly direction, and without turning back, have arrived at the same port from which they set out.