

## For the Young.

## THE NEW SEAT-MATE.

BY SARA R. MAY.

"George Hill?"

"Whispered."

"Willy Bell?"

"Whispered."

So answered two bright-eyed boys as the teacher called the roll one afternoon. "Two bright-eyed boys," I said: but you would not have known it; for their gaze was fastened upon the floor, as the teacher looked sadly upon them.

"You may remain after school," said the teacher, Miss Merrill.

When the other scholars had gone, she called George and Willy to her side. Taking a hand of each, she said kindly, "Boys, I am disappointed. I hoped better things of you; for I thought you were trying to be Jesus Christ's little boys. He wants all His children to do right. He wants them to show other boys and girls how good it is to have such a friend,—a friend who helps them in their studies and plays,—helps them to do right in every thing."

"I'm so sorry!" said Willy, not trying to hide the tears that came to his eyes.

"I'm ashamed of myself," said George. "I know the boys will say our religion is all make believe if we can't do such a little thing as keep from whispering on purpose."

"Do you blame them, George?" said Miss Merrill.

"No, I'm sure I don't. I know how I used to watch Frank Wilder to see if loving Christ made him any better in school."

"Did you ask Jesus to help you this morning?" the teacher asked.

"Yes'm," said Willy, hesitating.

"And He wouldn't?" she continued.

"Oh, no, teacher! It was not His fault. I didn't ask hard enough. I guess he thought I wasn't in real earnest."

"Well, boys, what shall be done? I dislike to separate you, for I want you to be the best boys in school and lead the rest to Jesus. I think, however, you ought to have a new seat-mate."

"Who?" said both the boys at once.

"One who can sit between you and keep you from whispering."

"But, teacher there isn't room in our seat for more than two!"

"The one I mean will ask but little room. If you will give Him that He will cure you of this he-setting 'isin'."

"What boy can it be? I can't think," said Willie.

"Nor I," echoed George.

"I mean, boys," said the teacher solemnly, "that I want you to ask your Saviour to come and sit with you,—to sit *between you* when you are tempted to talk or play. Have you room in your seat for Him? You say there is room: then ask Him to fill it. He will hear you; He will sit with you. Good night."

When the school roll was next called, George and Willy could both truthfully answer, "Perfect." Friday came, and they had not broken one rule for the week.

"How do you like your new seat-mate?" said Miss Merrill, as George and Willy lingered to speak with her.

"He is the best, the very best, we ever had," said both eagerly. "We mean to keep Him with us forever."

Do not some other little boys and girls want such a seat-mate?—*Selected.*

"Oh, what a cross to have no cross." So says St. Augustine—what say you? If there be no crown where there has been no cross, then, Lord, let me have the cross. If by a cross I am to know more of the power and grace of my Lord, then let me have the cross with the grace, rather than to be exempt from the cross and denied the grace.

A YOUNG man of my acquaintance, who was led astray through evil companionship, until, to preserve his own life, he took another, awaits in jail his trial. His indictment is murder in the first degree. A misrepresentation of the circumstances of the fatal act would acquit him instantly, and that misrepresentation is quite within his power. Since his confinement he has been converted. O how beautiful his new life is! How he revels in the light and love of God! There is no fear in his heart now. He goes to his trial determined that the exact truth shall be told, no matter what the issue. He says: "I would rather go to my death than give up the peace and joy of this life in Christ." Ah, that is the true Christian spirit. Perfect love casteth out all fear.—*Golden Rule.*

## THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

REV. WILLIAM WYE SMITH, Editor, is published on the first of every month, and sent free to any part of Canada or the United States for *one dollar* per annum. *Cash in advance* is required of all subscribers. Published solely in the interests of the Congregational churches of the Dominion. Pastors of churches, and friends in general, are earnestly requested to send promptly, local items of church news, or communications of general interest. As we go to press in advance of the date, news items should be in before the 18th of each month. To subscribers in the United Kingdom, including postage, 5s. per annum. All communications, business or otherwise, to be addressed: REV. W. W. SMITH, Newmarket, Ont.