

A Page for the Young.

NEVER BREAK A PROMISE.

If you wish to be respected
And to gather many a friend,
There's a simple rule to follow,
That will bring the wished-for end.
It is this: Be very careful
How your promises you make;
And a promise, once 'tis given,
Never, never, never, break.
Keep engagements to the letter
Let this word to you belong:
"Oh, his word is just as binding
As would be his legal bond."
Thus your name will e'er be honoured
If you'll always keep your word.

—Selected.

MOTHER AND SONS.

Does any boy that reads this paper feel that he has a hard time with his chores about the house? I wish he would read this account of a family of four—a father, mother, and two sons—who lived years ago "in a small house situated in the roughest locality of Ashiord, Connecticut."

The family were very poor; a few acres of stony land, a dozen sheep, and one cow supported them. The sheep clothed them, and the cow gave milk and did the work of a horse in plowing and harrowing; corn-bread, milk, and bean porridge were their fare. The father being laid aside by ill-health, the burden of supporting the family rested on the mother; she did her work in the house and helped the boys do their work on the farm. Once, in the dead of winter, one of the boys required a new suit of clothes; there were neither money nor wool on hand. The mother sheared the half grown, fleece from a sheep, and in one week the suit was on the boy. The shorn sheep was protected from the cold by a garment made of braided straw. The family lived four miles from the "meeting-house," yet every Sunday the mother and her two sons walked to church. One of these sons became the pastor of a church in Franklin, Connecticut, to which he preached for sixty-one years; two generations went forth from that church to make the world better. The other son also became a minister, and then one of the most successful college presidents; hundreds of young men were moulded by him.

That heroic Christian woman's name was Deborah Nott; she was the mother of the Rev. Samuel Nott, D. D., and of Eliphalet Nott, D. D., LL. D., President of Union College.

THE GREAT MASTER.

"I am my own master!" cried a young man proudly, when a friend tried to persuade

him from an enterprise which he had on hand. "I am my own master!"

"Did you ever consider what a responsible post that is?" asked his friend.

"Responsible? Is it?"

"A master must lay out the work which he wants done, and see that it is done right. He should try to secure the best ends by the best means. He must keep on the lookout against obstacles and acts, and watch that everything goes straight, else he must fail."

"Well."

"To be master of yourself, you have your conscience to keep clear, your heart to cultivate, your temper to govern, your will to direct, and your judgment to instruct. You are master over a hard lot, and if you don't master them they will master you."

"That is so," said the young man.

"Now I could undertake no such thing," said his friend. "I should fail if I did. Saul wanted to be his own master and failed. Herod did. Judas did. No man is fit for it. 'One is my master, even Christ.' I work under His direction. He is regulator, and where He is master all goes right."

"One is my master, even Christ," repeated the young man slowly and seriously; "everybody who puts himself sincerely under His leadership wins at last."

SIMILES.

"As wet as a fish—as dry as a bone,
As live as a bird—as dead as a stone;
As plump as a partridge—as poor as a rat,
As strong as a horse—as weak as a cat;
As hard as a flint—as soft as a mole,—
As white as a lily—as black as a coal;
As plain as a pikestaff—as rough as a bear,
As tight as a drum—as free as the air;
As heavy as lead—as light as a feather,
As steady as time—uncertain as weather;
As hot as an oven—as cold as a frog,
As gay as a lark—as sick as a dog;
As slow as a tortoise—as swift as the wind,
As true as the Gospel—as false as mankind;
As thin as a herring—as fat as a pig,
As proud as a peacock—as blithe as a grig;
As savage as tigers—as mild as a dove,
As stiff as a poker—as limp as a glove;
As blind as a bat—as deaf as a post,
As cool as a cucumber—as warm as a toast;
As flat as a flounder—as round as a ball,
As blunt as a hammer—as sharp as an awl;
As red as a ferret—as safe as the stocks,
As bold as a thief—as sly as a fox;
As straight as an arrow—as crook'd as a bow,
As yellow as saffron—as black as a sloo;
As brittle as glass—as tough as a gristle,
As neat as my nail—as clean as a whistle;
As good as a feast—as bad as a witch,
As light as is day—as dark as is pitch."