



A DAY OFF.

'Content with thistles, from all envy free.'

The Wonderful Door.

(Extracts from a Story by Mrs. O. F. Walton, in the 'C. E. World'.)

A little boy named Nemo was listening to an open-air sermon.

'Friends,' the preacher was saying earnestly, as they came within hearing, 'friends, there it stands, that great door; and every one of you, every man, every woman, every child, amongst you, stands at this moment either on one side or the other, either inside or outside that great door. Are you outside that door? Then you are lost, you are out in the darkness and the cold; you are unsaved, unforgiven, utterly undone. Are you inside that door? Then you are saved, eternally saved. On which side of the door are you? Outside or inside? Which?'

'He means us, Abel,' said Nemo. 'Which side of the door are we?'

'Hush!' said Abel. 'Listen: I don't know what he means.'

'Look at the door again,' the speaker went on, 'so high, none can climb over it; so strong, none

can force it open. The door is shut, but it opens with a touch. The smallest knock, even the feeble knock of an old man, even the tiny knock of a little child, is heard within, and at once the great door is opened wide. Who then will lift up his hand and knock to-day? Which of you would like to be safe for all eternity? Which of you would like to see the city of God? Who would like to lie down to-night feeling he was on the road to that city?'

'I would, Abel,' whispered Nemo; 'wouldn't you?'

Afterwards Abel found Nemo knocking at the great iron gate of the lodge.

'I've been knocking, Abel, ever so hard,' he said; 'but they don't come to open it, and I've hurt my hand now. I think it can't be the right door; do you think it is? Or does he mean the door of yon house?'

'I don't know what he means,' said Abel. 'I couldn't make head nor tail of it.'

Just then they met the little daughter of the preacher, and she gave Nemo a card. It was a beautiful picture of a bright golden door, standing in the midst of a high, massive wall. In the middle of the door in bright red letters were these words:—

'I AM THE DOOR;

BY ME IF ANY MAN ENTER IN,

HE SHALL BE SAVED,'

and over the top of the door was printed in large letters,—

'KNOCK, and IT SHALL BE OPENED UNTO YOU.'

The little girl tried to explain the card to him.

'I don't see how a door can talk,' said Nemo.

'Oh, it isn't a real door,' she said; 'it's Jesus, you know.'

'But it says, "I am the door,"' said Nemo.

'Yes, but it means that Jesus lets us in. Oh, I know what it means quite well, but I can't tell it rightly. We'll ask my brother.'

The preacher led Nemo to his