

My Dream.

I dreamed I had children far over the sea,
And that every one was as dear to me
As ever a mother's child could be.

And over the sea, from a lavish hand,
To the eldest born of my cherished band
Large gifts I sent, and the plain command:

"Look well how your brothers and sisters
fare;
Justly and kindly with them share
This wealth, that tells of my love and care."

Ere long from my eldest born I heard;
He told me, in reverent, graceful word,
That with grateful love his heart was stirred.

A year and a day, and a message came—
A message that set my heart aflame
With grief and pity, with wrath and shame.

In a palace was living my eldest born;
His brothers and sisters, all poor, forlorn,
He knew not, or only knew, to scorn.

In the palace a table was daily spread,
Where the rich and the noble were daintily fed,
And my other dear children were starving for bread.

In costly apparel, with jewels and gold,
Was one, and the others were ragged and cold.
This was the story the messenger told.

It was only a dream, but ah! ah me!
What a pitiful, pitiful, thing it would be
Had I truly such children way over the sea.

The dream made me ask, Does the Father
above,
Who holds all the earth in His infinite love,
Our use of His manifold blessings approve?
—*Helping Hand.*

THE DEVIL'S FOUR SERVANTS.

The devil has a great many servants. They are all busy and in all places. Some are all so vile looking that one instinctively turns from them in disgust; but some are so sociable, insinuating and plausible that they also deceive at times the very elect. Among the latter class are to be found the Devil's four chief servants. Here are their names:

- "There's No Danger."
- "Only This Once."
- "Everybody Does So."
- "By and by."

All four are cheats and liars. They mean to deceive you and cheat you out of heaven, and they will do it if you listen to them.—*Ec.*

WHAT TO READ AND HOW.

A young man found that he could read with interest nothing but sensational stories. The best books were placed in his hands, but they were not interesting. One afternoon, as he was reading a foolish story, he overheard one say, "That boy is a great reader; does he read anything that is worth reading?"

"No," was the reply, "his mind will run out if he keeps on reading after his present fashion. He used to be a sensible boy till he took to reading nonsense and nothing."

The boy sat still for a time, then rose, threw the book into the ditch, went up to the man who said his mind would run out and asked him if he would let him have a good book to read.

"Will you read a good book if I will let you have one?"

"Yes, sir."

"It will be hard work for you."

"I will do it."

"Well, come home with me, and I will lend you a good book."

He went with him, and received a volume of Franklin's works.

"There," said the man, "read that, and come and tell me what you have read."

The lad kept his promise. He found it hard work to read the simple and wise sentences of the philosopher, but he persevered. The more he read, and the more he talked with his friend about what he read, the more interested he became. Ere long he felt no desire to read the feeble and foolish books in which he had formerly delighted. He derived a great deal more pleasure from reading good books than he had ever derived from reading poor ones. Besides, his mind began to grow. He began to be spoken of as an intelligent, promising young man.—*Ec.*

Six Rules of Life.

1. Never lose any time. Time spent in recreation is not lost.
 2. Never err the least from the truth.
 3. Never say an ill thing of a person when you can say a good thing. Not only speak charitably, but feel so.
 4. Never be irritable or unkind to any one.
 5. Never indulge in luxuries that are not necessary.
 6. Do all things with consideration.
- Temperance, virtue and morality in youth and young manhood are the surest guarantees of a happy and contented old age. Build for the future as well as for the present.—*Young Men's Era.*

God wants his children to find out that his hand is always within reach, no matter how dark it may look.