

Home and School.

TRIFLES.

IMMEDIATELY.

Why do we speak of a "little thing,"
And of "trifles light as air?"
Can aught be a trifle which helps to bring
A moment's grief or care?
A little seed in the fertile ground
Is the seed of a noble tree:
A little touch on a festering wound,
Is it not agony?

What is a trifle?—a thoughtless word
Forgotten as soon as said?
Perchance its echo may yet be heard
When the speaker is with the dead.
That thoughtless word is a random dart,
It strikes we know not where:
It may rankle long in some tender heart
Is it a trifle there?

Is it a trifle, the first false step
On the dizzy verge of sin?
'Tis treacherous ground—one little slip
May plunge us headlong in—
One little temptation, and we may wear
Death's galling chains for aye:
One little moment of heartfelt prayer
May rend those chains away.

Drops of water are little things,
But they form the boundless sea;
'Tis in little notes that the wild bird sings,
But his song is me'ody;
Little voices, I ere scarcely heard
In heaven shall bear their part:
And a little grave in the green churchyard
Holds many a parent's heart.

This world is little, if rightly weighed.
And trifling its joy and care.
But not while we linger under its shade,
There are then no trifles here.
A little burden may weigh like lead
On the faint and weary soul
In the upward path it perforce must tread
Before it attain the goal.

Cease then to talk of a little thing
Which may give thy brother pain;
Shun little sins, lest they haply bring
The greater in their train.
Seize each occasion, however small,
Of good which may be given:
So, when thou hearest thy Master's call,
Thou shalt be great in heaven.—*Exchange.*

This Greek word is found in the New Testament only eighty times, and of these within the compass of this short Gospel (St. Mark) no less than forty times. So that it may be taken as noting the nature of the action of Christ and those with whom he mingles. It shows that His action is instant; born out of the circumstances, done at once, suffering no delay. The passing moment bears with it its duty done. The hours are honoured with their work accomplished. The days each chronicle their long lists of cures effected and their multitudes of mercies bestowed upon the miserable and the wretched. This Gospel, therefore, is a large comment on that utterance of our Saviour, "I must work the work of Him that sent me, while it is day; the night cometh, when no man can work." In it we see him busy, busy, very busy, serving God and saving men. A sight very beautiful and very attractive to poor, needy sinners. A sight that charms them into a childlike faith in Him as a suitable Saviour for them. Take an instance or two: "A leper came to Him, beseeching Him, and kneeling down to Him, and saying unto Him, *If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.* And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth His hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, *I will; be thou clean.* And as soon as He had spoken, IMMEDIATELY the leprosy departed from him, and he was cleaned." Jesus saves immediately! Again; he enters into the house of Simon and Andrew, "But Simon's wife's mother lay sick of a fever; and anon (immediately) they tell Him of her. And he came and took her by the hand, and lifted her up; and IMMEDIATELY the fever left her, and she ministered unto them." An immediate application to Jesus receives an immediate answer! Again, "A certain woman, which had