



THE CARELESS NURSE.

THE FIRST RUBBER BOOTS.

THAT precious pair of rubber boots,
So tall, so black, so shining!
They're just the things, the very things,
For which our Ned's been pining.

And now he calls them all his own,
A happy thought comes o'er him,
And when he kneels to say his prayers
He sets the boots before him.

Then into bed our darling goes,
His treasures near him keeping;
For on the pillow one small head
Between two boots is sleeping.

Through snow, through slush, and in the
rain—

Oh, never mind the weather!—
The rubber boots, the little Ned,
They trudge along together.

His feet go dabbling in the brook,
Just like two little fishes,
And then he runs to tell mamma
The funniest of wishes.

"I wish I was a puss-tat, ma,
Just like our old gray Molly,
Then I could wear four rubber boots,
Oh, wouldn't that be jolly?"

SEED DAYS.

WHERE do we raise grain, or plants, or
flowers?

We raise them in the gardens or in the
field. To do it, we must plough, dig, hoe,
and thoroughly work the soil. But is this
all that is necessary? No; there must
first be seed sown. Suppose we should
plant beads, and buttons, and pearls, and
diamonds. Would there be any crop?

Of course not, because these things have
no life in them; but seeds which are sown
have in them life which comes from God.

Nothing good can be got from the soil
until something good has been put into it.
The seed must be planted before it will
grow.

We cannot get beans or peas out of the
ground until we put beans or peas into the
ground. No plant will grow unless the
seed is first placed in the soil. There is a
time to plant. If we sow corn in November we
should get no crop. We must sow our own
seed in the seed-time if we would have it
ripened in the harvest day.

The Bible tells us about seed which is
sown in the hearts of men.

What is that seed? The sower soweth
the word, and this seed sown in our hearts
springs up in all the fragrant flowers and

precious fruits that adorn and bless the
Christian life.

But when is the time to sow this seed?
In the autumn, or when the chilling wind
has come? when old age creeps on, and the
harvest is past and the summer is ended?
No, the time to sow this good seed is in the
spring.

It is sown in childhood, when hearts are
young and fresh, and open to receive the
good word of God. Thus from childhood
we may know the Scriptures which are able
to make us wise unto salvation.

Dear children, if your hearts are not sown
with good seed, the thorns and briars of sin
and sorrow, the weeds of folly and vanity,
will be sure to grow instead.

If you would have good fruit, you must
sow good seed. Pray that God will help you
that you may bring forth fruit with patience,
some thirty, some sixty, and some an hun-
dredfold.

KEEP THY HEART.

MARTIN had been learning his morning
verse out of his little "Dew Drops." It
was this: "Keep thy heart with all dili-
gence, for out of it are the issues of life."
He didn't understand it at all, and went to
his mother to have it explained. She said
this to him:

"What makes people swear? At first
bad temper. They get angry, or mad, as
children say, and say bad words. Then
they become used to them, they do not
seem so bad after awhile, and by-and-by
they use them in their common conversation.

"What makes people commit murder?
Anger again. It gets possession of the
heart, expresses itself in bad words, and if
it is not controlled, leads to fighting and
violence. Anger is like a fire within. You
must quench it as soon as it is kindled.

"What makes people steal? First they
wish for something they see which is not
their own. Then they think how to get it.
They begin by taking small things, and if
they are not found out, they grow bolder
and bolder. You see that wicked desires
lead to wicked words and to wicked actions.

"What makes people lie? They have
done something wrong, and they wish to
hide it; or they tell a great story that
others may think well of them. Lies grow
straight out of the heart.

"So, my son, you must watch your heart
with great care. Pray that God will teach
you how to discover the very beginning of
sin, and to smother it. This it is to keep
the heart 'with all diligence;' and the
reason is plain enough; 'for out of it are
the issues of life.'"