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For the Sunday-School Advocate.

THE CARRIER DOVE.

That girl, Isabel, seems very fond of her pretty little dove. You need not wonder at that, for Isabel had saved the bird's life, and you know it is always easy to love creatures we have benefited.

You would like to know how Isabel saved the bird, would you? Well, her father found it one day bleeding on the grass. Some idle fellow had shot it. Isabel's father pitied the beautiful creature, and he gave it to his daughter. She bound up its wound and nursed it so carefully that it got well. It had been trained to carry messages, so Isabel often took it to her uncle's house in the city, and, tying a note under its wing, sent it back to her home in the country. In this way the dove became Isabel's messenger-bird. Nice to have such a messenger, wasn't it?

But it happened that war broke out in Isabel's country, and she was sent into the city to dwell with her uncle. The enemy besieged the city, and the little girl could not go to her father's house in the country, for the soldiers guarded all the roads. Then the dove did good service. It flew over the camps and forts of the foe and carried many pretty lovenotes between Isabel and her father. It did more than this, for her uncle and father being both officers in the army, they used the dove to convey information to each other about the enemy. You will, perhaps, be pleased to learn that a combined movement between the army in the city and an army of relief was arranged by means of Isabel's dove, and the enemy was driven away.

The siege was ended. Isabel's father entered the city and there was great joy in the little girl's heart. But just then her bird died, and the child sobbed and refused to be comforted.

"Tut, tut! you must not sob so over a dead bird," said her father, patting her head with a gentle hand. "Yet 'tis a pity," he added, stroking the bird's feathers, "for the beautiful creature has done her life-work well."

Those last words roused Isabel from her grief. "Yes," she said to herself, "my birdie's life-work was to be my messenger and to help save our city. It did it well. And now I must do my life-work. I must be a good girl. I must serve others as my bird served me."

Then Isabel dried her tears, kissed her father, and, taking a basket filled with food, went out into the city in search of the hungry poor. And after that, day by day did the little girl seek to do her life-work by trying to make everybody happy with whom she had to do.

Children, does Isabel's conduct please you? If so show it; show it by trying to do your life-work.

You can begin right where you are. Perhaps your mother is sick and tired. Go kiss her and say, "Ma, can I do anything to help you?" Perhaps baby is cross. Go play with him until he laughs with delight. Perhaps your playmate is in trouble. Go comfort him or her with kind words and gentle acts. That's the way to find and do your life-work. Who will do it and thereby show their approval of the conduct of my Isabel?

U. U.

For the Sunday-School Advocate,

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT.

"X. X.," on the fifth commandment, says "it is meant for children. It tells them to honor father and mother." I want to tell you why you should honor father and mother. And, 1. They love you more than any one else. You are their children, for whom they feel the warmest attachment. They