

cozy chat. Mamma knew this ; but she knew, too, that a few minutes' work would make all right again, and Josie was happy.

All went well till the little boy found he had cut off the leg of a horse that he considered a marvel of beauty. It was a real disappointment and grief to the little one.

"Mamma, see!" and half crying he held it up.

"Play he's holding up one foot," the mother said quickly.

"Do real horses, mamma?"

"Oh yes, sometimes."

"I will"; and sunshine chased away the cloud that in another minute would have rained down.

It was a little thing, the mother's answer, but the quick sympathy, the ready tact, made all right. The boy's heart was comforted, and he went on with his play, while the mother sewed quietly, with no jar of nerves or temper, and auntie's call lost none of its pleasantness.

"I'm tired of cutting pieces, mamma," said Josie, after a while.

"Well, get your horse-waggon, and play those bits of paper are wood, and you're going to bring me a load. Draw it over to that corner by the fire, and put them into the kindling-box ; play that's the wood-house."

Pleased and proud, the little teamster drew load after load till the papers were all picked up, without his ever thinking he was doing anything but play.—*Selected.*

### THE GREGORIAN CALENDAR.

To restore the civil year to a correspondence with the astronomical, Gregory XIII ordered that the 5th of October, 1582, should be called the 15th. To prevent the intrusion of the same errors in the measurement of time in future ages, and to secure the recurrence of the festivals of the Church at the same period of the year, he further decreed that every year whose number is not divisible by four should consist of three hundred and sixty-five days ; every year which is so divisible, but not divisible by one hundred, of three hundred and

sixty-six days ; every year divisible by one hundred, but not by four hundred, of three hundred and sixty-five ; and every year divisible by four hundred, of three hundred and sixty-six. A more perfect correspondence of the civil and astronomical years will probably never be obtained. After the lapse of four thousand two hundred and thirty-seven years the error will be less than one day. In the preparation of this rule every source of disagreement is estimated, and as far as possible corrected. The allowance of an extra day every fourth year is indeed a small excess ; but this is not allowed to accumulate, for at the commencement of every century the centennial year is not to consist of three hundred and sixty-six days, or in other words, is not to be counted a leap-year, unless its number can be divided by four hundred. Thus the year 1600 was a leap year, and the year 2000 will be the same ; but the years 1700 and 1800 contained, and the year 1900 will contain, only 365 days.—*Harper's Magazine.*

THE SIMPLICITY OF SALVATION.—I knew a young man who, like you, intended to trust his soul to Jesus some time, but ever put it off time after time. One night God's Spirit enabled him to resolve that he would put it off no longer. He had been thinking much during the day of the words—"God so loved the world." He lay down on his bed, but it was not to sleep. He prayed God to give His Spirit, and the Lord heard his prayer. For hours he lay awake, his mind calm, his thoughts clear, his heart fixed. He saw as he had never seen before that God had really "so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son" to die in the room of sinners ; that Christ had suffered enough, atoned enough, for his sins ; and that now, "whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." He simply believed this ; saw that his name was *whosoever* ; and that God was in earnest in His offer. His heart accepted it ; and that moment a joy he had never known before filled his soul. He started up from his bed. Could this be conversion ?—so simple a