

A Page for the Young.

IDLE WORDS.

Words are things of little cost,
Quickly spoken, quickly lost;
We forget them, but they stand,
Witnesses at God's right hand;
And their testimony bear
For us or against us there.

Oh, how often ours have been
Idle words and words of sin;
Words of anger, scorn, or pride,
Or deceit our faults to hide;
Envious tales or strife unkind,
Leaving bitter thoughts behind.

Grant us, Lord, from day to day,
Strength to watch and grace to pray;
May our lips, from sin kept free,
Love to speak and sing of Thee;
Till in heaven we learn to raise
Hymns of everlasting praise.

A BOY'S INFLUENCE.

The following incident, related by the Dr. Neal, of England, beautifully illustrates the power of example.

Dr. Neal says that he was visiting a large school, and among other places he was shown a room where as many as eighty boys slept. It is at present a rule of the school, that before they retire silence shall be kept for a certain length of time, so that all the boys may kneel and pray undisturbed. Now, twenty years ago, of all the eighty boys that were there then, not one ever knelt in prayer, and it may be interesting to you to know how such a radical change was effected. A boy entered the school about that time, not more than eleven or twelve years of age; he was not strong in health, and was rather backward in learning. The first night he was surprised to see all the boys get into bed without praying. It occurred to him that if he only prayed from the heart, that was all that was necessary, and that he might say his prayers after he went to bed. Then he remembered what our Lord says, "Whosoever, therefore, shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my father which is in heaven." And after a great struggle, he knelt; but he had no sooner done so than there arose such an outcry, such a hooting, as might well have frightened a brave man, much more a poor weak boy. Night after night this was repeated; day after day he was mocked and ridiculed. But by and by some of the better boys grew ashamed of their conduct, and began to defend, and take his part, and

finally followed his example in kneeling and praying. And so it came to pass by degrees that they all knelt in prayer. Thus we see how the truth in this one boy overcame a school full of iniquity. And this one thing I am sure of, that of all things that are called glorious now, great victories, great conquests, great overcoming of difficulties, this is one of the most truly glorious. And something of this kind any of you may be called on to do at some future time.

WHAT MADE A LITTLE GIRL GLAD.

A Prussian nobleman who did not believe in God nor in the Bible, once overheard a little girl singing. I was a sweet strain, and a child's voice is always irresistible. As he drew near, he saw tears upon her cheeks, as if she had been weeping.

'Why are you crying as you sing?' he kindly asked her.

'Oh! I am so happy,' said the little girl.

'But why do you weep if you are so happy?'

'I love Jesus so well that I was crying for joy,' the little girl said.

'But where is Jesus?' asked the nobleman.

'In heaven.'

'How can He do anything for you if He is in heaven? He cannot give you clothes and playthings, as your parents and friends do.'

'Oh, yes, He can do something for me. He comes to my heart, and makes me happy.'

'Nonsense!' said the nobleman; 'that is nonsense!'

'Oh, no, it is not nonsense!' answered the little evangelist. 'I know it is the truth and it makes me glad.'

The nobleman turned away; but an angel had touched his heart. He sought the little girl's Saviour, and found peace and joy.

SAVED!

A gentleman who escaped from the wreck of the *Atlantic* telegraphed to his brother in a distant city the single word, "Saved." Brief though the message was, it was one of joy, and so did the brother value it that he had it framed and hung up in his office.

Christ said to the man whom he had healed, "Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee." And what joy such an announcement should bring to them who have been anxious for the souls of their kindred! They are "saved,"—saved from a worse wreck than that of the *Atlantic*, and to a better hope than that of home and country.