

## GOD IS ALWAYS NEAR ME.

God is always near me,  
 Hearing what I say;  
 Knowing all my thoughts and deeds,  
 All my work and play.  
 God is always near me,  
 Though so young and small;  
 Not a look or word or thought,  
 But God knows it all.

## TIME.

BY ELIZA COOK.

Oh! never chide the wing of Time,  
 Or say 'tis tardy in his flight!  
 You'll find the days speed quick enough  
 If you but husband them aright.  
 'Tis span of life is waning fast;  
 Beware, unthinking youth, beware!  
 Thy soul's eternity depends  
 Upon the record moments bear!

## LITTLE HANDS.

Little hands can scatter seed,  
 Tidings of a Saviour's grace;  
 In the furrows, in the field,  
 God will grant it lodging-place.  
 Little hands can till the plants—  
 Plants of faith, and hope, and love;  
 Saviour, make each plant to grow,  
 Fair as in the fields above.

## ARE MINISTERS HIRELINGS?

"Are you the man we have hired to preach for us?"

"No sir, I am not."

"I beg pardon; are you not the minister?"

"Yes sir, I am pastor of the church here; but do you really think I have been hired to preach for you?"

"Why yes, sir; I was at the meeting when the vote was taken to raise the money. Did you not come here expecting to receive a salary?"

"Certainly; and so does the Governor of this State enter upon his duties expecting to receive a salary; but would you say that he is hired to govern the State?"

"Not exactly."

"And the reason is exactly this: the Governor of the State is elected to a certain office, and when you speak of him you think more of his office than you do of his salary. You do not hire him to do whatever you wish to set him at, but you elect him to an office fixed beforehand and expressly defined in

the constitution, and then you fix a salary, that he may attend to his duties without embarrassment. The same is true of a pastor. You do not hire him to do a job of preaching for you. You elect him to an office, ordained in the constitution of the church, and then you affix a salary, that he may give himself wholly to the duties of his office."

"Your theory appears very well; but what practical difference does it make?"

"Just this. When you hire a man, you expect him to do as you say. When you elect a man to an office, you expect him to do what the constitution says.—*Ex. Paper.*

## SWISS BRIDAL CUSTOM.

I learned yesterday a bridal custom of this region, so sensible and proper, that I shall mention it to you for the benefit of the young folks at home. The custom of making gifts to the bride prevails here, as everywhere, but it is better regulated. The bride makes out a written list of things that she will require in beginning to keep house, especially those things that are over and above what would naturally be furnished by her friends, and one of them says, "I will give her this," and marks that as provided for, another will give her that, and sometimes two or three or more will combine and furnish a more expensive present than any one would give alone. After the wedding, the couple usually start for an excursion, and on their return they find their dwelling filled with these presents, each marked with the giver's name. At the hotel where I lodged in St. Gallen, a bridal of the town had the wedding breakfast when I was there, all the relatives and friends making a large party than a private house could entertain.—*Irenaeus in Observer.*

## UNIFORM LESSONS, 1874.

March 1.	The Red Sea.....	Ex. 1: 19-31.
" 8.	Bitter waters sweetened..	Ex. 15: 22-27.
" 15.	Bread from Heaven..	Ex. 16: 1-5, 31-35.
" 22.	Defeat of Amalek .....	Ex. 17: 8-16.

For the Quarterly Review the Committee suggest:

March 29.	The Song of Moses.....	Ex. 15: 1-11.
April 5.	The Ten Commandments..	Ex. 20: 1-17.
" 12.	The Golden Calf.....	Ex. 32: 1-6, 19, 20.
" 19.	The People Forgiven....	Ex. 33: 12-20.
" 26.	The Tabernacle set up....	Ex. 40: 17-30.