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The Primary Quarterly

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The Child

The child leans on its parent's breast,
Leaves there its cares, and is at rest,
The bird sits singing by its nest,
And tells aloud
His trust in God, and so is blest
'Neath every cloud.

He hath no store ; he sows no seed,
Yet sings aloud, and doth not need ;
By flowing streams or grassy mead
He sings to shame
Men who forget, in fear of need,
A Father's name.

The heart that trusts forever sings,
And feels as light as it had wings ;
A well of peace within it springs ;
Come good or ill,
Whate'er to-day, to-morrow brings,
It is His will.

Preempting for the Highest

By R. Douglas Fraser, D.D.

I was spending an hour in an art gallery. It was a quiet forenoon, and only here and there a visitor. My ear was arrested by the prattle of children. Presently a little pair of twins, a boy and girl of four or five, came skipping ahead of their governess into the great room where I was. They were charming children. I was much interested in them, and in the way in which their governess, without spoiling their merry play, drew their attention to this picture and that,—pictures of animals, birds, beautiful trees, flowers, sky, sea. By and by, when the group came to where I was, I asked the governess whether they came often to the gallery. She replied,

"Yes, almost every day ; and the children know almost every picture in the gallery, and can tell something about almost all of them."

It was a beautiful background that was being woven for the lives of these children. Their minds and hearts were being pre-empted unconsciously to themselves, for knowledge of lovely things and the love of beauty and grace.

This may serve as a parable in regard to education of the little ones in the highest things of life. By a background of Bible story, and especially of the beautiful Christian living in the home, the child's mind and heart should be preempted for God and good.

The Stories of the Quarter

Last Quarter it was mostly about David, the shepherd boy who became a king. Now we are to have more stories about some of the kings who followed after him, when his days on earth were ended. But, first of all, a story of one of David's sons, the young prince Absalom, whom everybody loved, but who was a foolish young prince who broke his father's heart by taking his own way.

Then about King Solomon who became king when David died. A very great king he was, with a splendid palace and great riches and fond of display ; but a wise and good king, too. We shall read of the wonderful temple which he built for the worship of the Lord, with its beautiful walls and golden vessels. We shall learn, too, how he chose wisdom and the fear of God rather than riches and honor, and how riches and honor came to him.

Solomon's wisdom and riches were so great that every one in all the world heard of them.