

tidily dressed chaps, some of them Eastern boys, more or less homesick, and all of them seemingly bent upon having all the fun they could get out of anything that came along.

"They gave me a cordial greeting, rather too uproarious, however, I thought; and in a very brief space I was one of them, seated familiarly at the well-stocked table, and answering their many questions. Presently Ed. Slate said to me, 'This is just the gayest old place to board at that we have ever struck. You see there is no "man of the house," and we boys run the shebang to suit ourselves, and just about drive the old lady out of her wits sometimes.

"Look here, Tyler, it's your turn to drink up the tea milk to-night, and call for more," continued Slate. "And, Benjamin, it's your turn to eat up the sugar. You see we make it a point to clear the table at every meal [to me]. Here, Jim, empty the salt-cellar into your pocket, and sing out for some horse radish, which you know she hasn't got!"

"We always eat horse radish on jelly-cake where I came from," said Jim, very solemnly, to Mrs. Griswold, when she came in with regrets that there was none in the house, and promised to order some at once. She soon brought in a new supply of milk and sugar and salt, together with a bottle of catsup that Slate straightway poured into a bowl of crackers and milk, and began to eat, to the great bewilderment of the poor widow, who was evidently wondering what would be called for next.

"As I glanced up to Mrs. Griswold's sad, worn face and black dress, I thought of my own widowed mother in our little home far away among the hills of New England, and on whose account, that her comforts might increase as she grew older, I had migrated hither, and wondered what she would do with a rough, thoughtless set of boarders to manage.

"At last, while Mrs. Griswold was tidying the cloth near my plate, for I was a late comer at the table, and while I was trying to repress my laughter at the drollery that was still going on around me, I said to her kindly, 'I am well supplied now, thank you; I won't trouble you any farther.'

"While thus speaking to her, and before the dining-room door had closed behind her, I had made up my mind to remonstrate, in as unassuming and sensible way as I could, with my new fellow-boarders as to their thoughtless, unmanly, and almost cruel treatment of our kind-hearted boarding-mistress. I thought I had better do it here and now while my presence was a novelty to the boys.

"As I glanced around the table, I saw that they were all silently regarding me, and evidently expecting that I would now introduce some new piece of mischief. For a moment my heart failed me, but as my own mother rose again in my mind I gained courage to say pleasantly, 'Now, boys, it's too bad to treat that poor woman in this shabby, unmanly way. Her grief for the loss of her husband, coupled with the hard necessity upon her to start out for the first time in her life to earn her own and her children's living, is trouble enough for her to shoulder at once without being bothered and made game of by her boarders. Besides, such rude conduct is beneath those who are called men. You know there isn't one of you who would hesitate to knock a fellow down who would undertake to insult your own mother as you seem to be in the habit of insulting that poor widow. You don't mean such carryings on as real insults, I know, boys, but they are nothing else, after all. Now, are they?'

"Well and bravely said," spoke up Ed. Slate, who had been the ringleader of the mischief. 'I myself was thinking, when I went out from dinner this noon, that if we boys went on like this, day after day, it wouldn't be long before we should be unfit to mingle in civilized society, to say nothing of our unfitness to associate with any true woman. We can have fun enough among ourselves outside, and, for that matter, right here in the house, provided it is decent, and wounds no one.'

"What Slate says is only quiet," said Ned Clayton, one of the more quiet of the boarders, 'I like fun myself as well as any one, but often and often I have thought that we were carrying this thing too far. Mrs. Griswold is not the person to complain, but I do not think that any of us could fail to see how much hurt she has been at times. Now, boys, let's all own up that we have carried this

rough play far enough, and let's stop it right here.'

"Let's call our boarding-house here 'The Eastern Boys' Home,'" said Dwight Dorman who, not long since, had left an orderly, Christian home in Connecticut, 'and all try and see how much like our own Eastern homes we can make it. Don't let's say a word, but keep mum, and surprise the good widow with the new order of things.'

"Mother Griswold, as we soon fell into the way of calling her, was indeed surprised by our changed demeanor and quiet ways. She was surprised, too, to see how handy and obliging we made ourselves by giving a lift now and then to some of the heavy work about the house. Did one of us chance to notice an empty water-pail or an empty coal-hod, they were straightway filled. Did we happen to see that her stock of kindlings in the basement was out, when down there blacking our boots, we would presently fall to the pleasant task of splitting up a good supply.

"We got into the habit also of calling at the post-office, and doing other errands for her on our way to and from our depot, shops, and offices. But what pleased Mother Griswold more than all was to see us fix up, when Sunday came, and accompany her to church. We had observed the walk and talk of this church-going Christian woman, and we not only voted that we would be decent and go to church, but that we would insist that our Sunday dinners should wait until afternoon, so that she could remain to the Sunday-school, in which, notwithstanding her many home duties she had a class of

The result of our observation is the clear conviction that it is absolutely necessary that parents know exactly where their children are from sundown until sunrise. No boy ought to be allowed to go alone off the pavement of his father's house after sundown. It ought not to be a hard restriction; to a boy thus trained from infancy, it will not be. It is unnatural that a child should want to go off to play in the dark with other children. The desire never comes until the child has begun to be corrupt. Sometimes for quiet, parents will allow their children to go "round the corner" to play with some other children. Sometimes it is allowed through mere carelessness. We never knew it to fail to end disastrously. We have in our mind one or two striking cases in which weak mothers have pleaded for this liberty for their children, and are now reaping the bitter fruits.

Childhood should be trained with the gentleness of love and the firmness of sagacious authority; but whether these are the command of the parent or not, there is one rule absolutely indispensable for the safety and honor of the family—namely, that while the child is small he shall never go off the lot without his parents or some other proper guardian; and that when he grows older, until he comes of age, his parents ought to know where he is every moment of his time and ought to know that he is in bed before eleven o'clock. When this can not be obtained by the exercise of gentleness, it must be obtained by authority. A refractory child may make the house hot if kept in, but better endure eight or ten years of such



GIVING THANKS.

young men, composed largely of us, her former rough, Sabbath-desecrating boarders.

"We were amply repaid for our kindness to her, for in sickness or in health she sought our every comfort, and was a mother to us indeed. One day, nearly a year after this new order of things had been brought about, she said to us, 'You young men now seem as if you were my own sons; but I must tell you that at first I thought you to be the most ill-bred boys I ever saw. I was on the point of giving up the house when something—I really don't know what did happen.'

"We all happened to think that we have mothers of our own, Mother Griswold," said I, and that was all she ever knew about it." —S. S. Times.

AFTER DARK.

BY REV. DR. DEEMS.

Almost invariably, boys who have been allowed to roam free at night have come to moral shipwreck and social destruction. The exceptions have been where there was a wholesome temperament, a strong intellect and peculiar social influences. Men and boys, women and girls, whatever may have been their culture, feel that there is something in the streets at night different to that which is in the day; something that excites apprehension or creates alarm or gives license. Boys that are demure by day will say things at night they would blush to say in daylight.

heat than to have that child ruined, and the family suffer through the remainder of his career.

We have spoken of boys because we do not suppose that any girls of decent families are allowed to be on the streets after dark.

We could enforce this lesson by statements of harrowing cases, if these were necessary. We do earnestly beseech parents who read this article to lay it to heart, to begin to make quiet observation upon the condition of their children at night, to find where they are, and to prepare to answer to God our Heavenly Father for the painstaking care which they give to their children. —Christian at Work.

He leads us on
By paths we did not know;
Upward He leads us, though our steps are slow;
Though oft we faint and falter on the way,
Though storms and darkness oft obscure the day,
Yet when the clouds are gone
We know he leads us on.

A LITTLE boy and girl were playing by the roadside. The boy became angry at something, and struck his playmate a sharp blow on the cheek, whereat she sat down and began to cry. The boy stood looking on a minute and then said:

"I didn't mean to hurt you, Katie. I am sorry."

The little girl's face brightened instantly. The sobs were hushed and she said:
"Well, if you are sorry, it doesn't hurt me." —Child's Paper.

Question Corner.—No. 12.

Answers to these questions should be sent in as soon as possible and addressed EDITOR NORTHERN MESSENGER. It is not necessary to write out the question, give merely the number of the question and the answer. In writing letters always give clearly the name of the place where you live and the initials of the province in which it is situated

BIBLE QUESTIONS.

133. What was the former name of the city of Hebron?
134. For whom was it named?
135. The inhabitants of what four cities were reduced to perpetual bondage by the order of a victorious general?
136. What strongly fortified city was taken by the Israelites by a mere ceremony?
137. On what mountain did Christ abide all night?
138. At what place was Elymas the sorcerer struck blind?
139. Where is the command, "My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not"?
140. Name two instances where sailors called upon God to avert a storm.
141. What was the punishment threatened the man who should rebuild the city of Jericho?
142. Where do we find the words, "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him, and unto our God, for he will abundantly pardon"?
143. In what battle was the ark of the covenant taken by the Philistines?
144. How many Philistines did Samson slay with the jaw bone of an ass?

BIBLICAL ENIGMA.

1. A place where David defeated the Syrians.
2. An ancestor of Christ.
3. A herdsman of Mesopotamia.
4. A son of Aaron.
5. God of Sennacherib.
6. David's head farmer.
7. David's vine-dresser.
8. Capital of the kingdom of Israel.
9. An ancient musical instrument.
10. An encampment of the Israelites.
11. A city founded by Solomon.
12. An ornament worn by the "daughters of Zion."
13. A king of Moab.
14. A vessel of the tabernacle made from polished brass mirrors which the Hebrew women freely gave to the Lord.
15. A son of Jesse.
16. A city built by Asshur.
17. Prime minister at the court of Darius the Mede.

The initials form the words inscribed upon a plate of gold, which was fastened to the mitre worn by the Jewish high priest.

ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUESTIONS IN NO. 10.

109. Mount Sinai: to Moses. Ex. xxv.
110. The life of Hezekiah. 2 Kings xx. 6.
111. Isaiah. 2 Kings xx. 6.
112. Balaam. Num. xxiii. 6.
113. The bones of Elisha restored the Moabite to life. 2 Kings xiii. 21.
114. To Abraham. Gen. xvii. 1. Matt. v. 48.
115. Jonah. Jonah iv. 5, 11.
116. Isaac. Gen. xviii. 10. Samson. Judges xiii. 13. John the Baptist. Luke i. 13. Jesus. Luke i. 28.
117. Samson. Judges xiii. 14. Numbers vi. 2, 5.
118. Peter. Acts x. 9.
119. Daniel. vi. 10.
120. Offering sacrifice himself instead of waiting for Samuel. 1 Sam. xiii. 8, 14.

BIBLE ACROSTIC.

1, Heavens. 2, Orion. 3, Light. 4, I Am. 5, Noble. 6, Eloquent. 7, Scripture. 8, Salvation. —Holiness.

CORRECT ANSWERS RECEIVED.

To No. 10.—Alexander George Burr, 12 ac; Maud Armstrong, 11; Janet M. C. Pattison, 11; Annie M. Pattison, 11; Sarah E. Pattison, 11.
To No. 9.—Frederick J. Priest, 11; Maud Armstrong, 10; Minnie Fotheringham, 10; Aggie Murdoch, 9; Louie Lloyd, 9.
NOTE.—The order of the questions numbers 111 and 112 in Question Corner No. 10 should be reversed. No. 112 should have been No. 111.