

dained of God to be the judge of quick and dead—the word “quick” as used here meaning the “living.” And our Lord Himself tells us that the Father “hath committed all judgment unto the Son.”

No one knows when the Lord will come. It may be in the morning, or at noonday, or in the evening, or at midnight, but knowing and believing that He will come, we should try to live so as to be ready to meet Him at any moment. For this reason we should use well every minute of our time—fill it full of holy thoughts, and loving words and kindly deeds, and we should use our influence to help others to do so as well. So that when our Lord appears to judge the world we may be counted worthy to be included among His faithful servants, and to “rise to the life immortal through Him Who liveth and reigneth with the Father and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. Amen.”

#### The Frog and the Mouse.

A mouse sitting beside a stream said to herself, ‘I wish I could get over to the other side.’

A frog under the bank heard the words and said, ‘I will carry you across with pleasure.’

‘I should be so much obliged to you,’ said the innocent mouse.

Then the frog wound a stout string round his waist, and tied the end of it to the mouse’s tail, and jumped into the water, and invited the mouse to jump on his back.

All went well till they got into the middle of the stream, when the frog sank down into the water, and the mouse almost slipped off.

‘Do you wish to drown me?’ cried the mouse; ‘that would be a shabby trick.’

‘And serve you right, too,’ said the frog, ‘for being so silly as to believe that I would carry you across. Folks often make promises which they don’t mean to keep.’

The cruel frog had nearly dragged the poor mouse under the water, when a stork saw her, and pounced down on her, and caught her in his beak, and carried her off to his nest, the frog hanging to his tail.

‘Hey-day, frog!’ said the stork, ‘what brings you here?’

‘My own deceit,’ said the now trembling frog; ‘I tried to drown the mouse, and now I am brought to grief myself.’

‘My fine fellow,’ said the stork, ‘I will serve you for your cunning trick.’

Then the stork opened his beak and gobbled up the deceitful frog. ‘He who digs a pit for his neighbor sometimes falls into it himself.’

#### A Beautiful Dream

There was a little boy whose father and mother had died. All his relatives were far away. He was poor, and did not know what was to become of him. He said his prayers and went to bed. In his sleep he dreamed that he had started on foot and alone to go to his grandparents, many hundred miles away. But he came to where the roads forked, and he did not know which was the right one. As he paused and puzzled he saw a hand above him in the sky, and it pointed to one of the roads. He said to himself, “That is the hand of God,” and he followed its direction. But by and by he came to a deep river. There was no bridge and no ferry-boat. As

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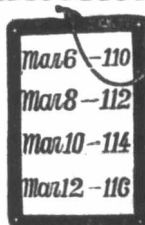
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he waited and prayed, two hands came down out of the sky and lifted him up and carried him across. He went on through flowery fields for awhile, but soon the road led into a deep, dark forest. He heard the howling of wild beasts, and was afraid. But the two hands came down again and went along with him, one each side, like two moving walls, and the beasts could not get near him. He was as safe as Daniel was in the den of lions. Night came, and there was no house for the tired boy to sleep in. But the hands stopped and folded into each other so as to make a tent, and he crept under it and was safe from all harm.

When the boy awoke and remembered his dream his trouble was all gone. He realized that God was around about him always, and that if he trusted and obeyed, no evil could befall him. The children in our congregation will never forget that story about the hands which guided and shielded the orphan boy.

—Regrets never follow virtuous actions. No one is sorrowful because, looking back on his past life, he sees that it has been self-denying and full of labour for others. If he does grieve at the retrospect, it is because his efforts have been so imperfect and because he has done far less than it was his duty to do.

—The best fruits of the highest and noblest education are not those which dwell in the memory; they are rather manifest in the mental power and the thirst for truth which have been engendered. These are superior to knowledge, for they can at all times command and master it, while no amount of erudition, however vast or varied, can atone for their loss.

—Men benefit the cause of honesty and sincerity of speech by accepting with gentleness, calmness, and courtesy all that may be brought forward in opposition to their views or in criticism of their conduct. Thus in many ways may what they esteem evil be turned into good; or rather the real truth that is in it may be gathered and developed, while the chaff will, by the same process, be blown away. “There is some soul of goodness in things evil would men observingly distil it out.”

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