

## Our Young Folks.

### A CHILD'S HYMN.

SIX HUNDRED YEARS OLD.

Guard, my child, thy tongue,  
That it speak no wrong!  
Let no evil word pass o'er it;  
Set the watch of truth before it,  
That it speak no wrong.  
Guard, my child, thy tongue.

Guard, my child, thine eyes;  
Prying is not wise;  
Let them look on what is right;  
From all evil turn their sight:  
Prying is not wise.  
Guard, my child, thine eyes.

Guard, my child, thine ear;  
Wicked words will sear;  
Let no evil word come in  
That may cause the soul to sin;  
Wicked words will sear;  
Guard, my child, thine ear.

Ear, and eye, and tongue,  
Guard while thou art young;  
For, alas! these busy three  
Can unruly members be;  
Guard, while thou art young.  
Ear, and eye, and tongue.

### THE DUSTY ROOM.

A young girl was sweeping a room one day, when she went to the window-blind, and drew it down.

"It makes the room so dusty," she said, "to have the sunshine always coming in."

The atoms of dust which shone golden in the sunbeams were unseen in the dimmer light. The untought girl imagined it was the sunlight which made the dust.

Now many persons imagine themselves very good people. One poor old man, who lived all his life with out a thought of love to God, said he was willing to die. He didn't owe any man a shilling.

If the Spirit of God should shine brightly into such a heart, how would it look? It would show him sins enough to crush him. This light of the Spirit is like the sunshine in the dusty room. It reveals what was before hidden. When we begin to feel unhappy about our sins, let us never try to put away the feeling. Do not let us put down the curtain, and fancy there is no dust. It is the Holy Spirit's voice in our hearts. He is showing us ourselves, and better still, He will show us the true way to happiness.

Waste not moments, no, nor words,  
In telling what you could do  
Some other time; the present is  
For doing what you should do

Don't do right unwillingly,  
And stop to plan and measure,  
'Tis working with the heart and soul  
That makes our duty pleasure.

### THE CHILDREN'S DISOBEDIENCE.

Max and Ethel were sent on an errand by their mother to carry some good things to a poor woman, "Do not stop to play on your way," she said as they started off, "but go straight to Mrs. Green's house."

The children promised to obey, but before they had gone very far a little girl came running to meet them, saying, "Oh, come and see the birthday present my papa brought me from the city." Ethel stopped, but Max said, "Mamma told us we must not stop on our way, so we must wait until we come back."

"I do not think mamma would care if we stop just a minute," said Ethel, putting down her pail. "Come, Max, let us see Susie's present now." So Max yielded, and they went into the house with Susie to admire her pretty doll.

When they came out again they found that a

big dog had upset Ethel's pail of milk and eaten up the cake that Max had carried in his hat. Ethel began to cry. "That bad dog, to do so much mischief!" she said angrily; but Max answered, "No, Ethel, it is we who were bad, because we did not mind mamma."

So the poor woman lost the nice supper that had been sent her, and mamma was made very sad because of Max and Ethel's disobedience.

### A BRAVE LITTLE GIRL.

The following incident, related of a little heathen Bengalee girl, shows what children in those far-off countries sometimes suffer for the sake of their religion.

A little girl came to school a few days ago with a severe bruise on her forehead, and on being asked by Mrs. Moore what had caused it, would give no answer, but looked ready to burst out in crying. But another little child, a relative, was not so reticent, and said her father, having observed that she had not done her "puja" for a great many days, asked her why she had so neglected her devotions, to which she replied: "Father, I have not neglected my devotions; I have prayed every day to Jesus. I do not pray to idols, because I do not believe in them." This so enraged the father that he seized her by the back of the neck, took her before the idol, and, having first bowed reverently before it himself, forcibly bent the child's head several times, striking it so violently on the ground that it bled profusely, the child bitterly crying the whole time. But she smiled happily enough when this was related in school, and said that she did not much mind; adding, "I cannot believe that trees and wood and stone will save me."

### MORNING HYMN.

Now I awake  
And see the light;  
'Tis God has kept me  
Through the night.  
To Him I lift  
My voice and pray  
That He will keep me  
Through the day.

### JANE'S DISOBEDIENCE.

Jane was a very little girl, not more than five years old; but, though so young, I am sorry to say she had a sad fault. She was not always obedient, and did not do at once what she was told to do.

One morning, while kneeling on a low chair, swinging backwards and forwards in front of the fire, her mother told her not to do so, saying how dangerous it was, and then went upstairs.

It would have been a good thing had Jane listened to what her mother had said. But no; she continued swinging herself as before, when suddenly, the chair slipped, and she fell against the hot bars of the grate. Her sister, who was in the room, soon called some one, who rescued her from so dangerous a position. But her face and hands were burned very much.

This happened some years ago, and Jane has grown older, and bigger, but there is still a mark left on her face, which reminds her how she was punished for her disobedience.

I hope those who read these lines will be careful to remember what those who are older and wiser say to them. In the Word of God we read, "Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing unto the Lord" (Col. iii. 20).

CHRIST has lived, and He asks living followers. He has died, a sacrifice, and He asks the spirit of self-sacrifice in you.

PLAY is a good thing in its place. We love to see children play and enjoy themselves - and grown people, too - by way of change and recreation.

### DON'T BE TOO POSITIVE.

Boys, don't be too certain. Remember that nothing is easier than to be mistaken; and if you permit yourself to be so very positive in your mistakes a great many times, everybody will lose confidence in what you say. Never make a positive statement unless you know it is as you say. If you have any doubts, or if there is room for any, remove the possibility by examination before speaking, or speak cautiously. Don't be too certain. "John, where is the hammer?" "It is in the corn-crib." "No, it is not there, I have just been looking there." "Well, I know it is; I saw it there not half an hour ago." "If you saw it there, it must be there, of course; but suppose you go and fetch it." John goes to the corn-crib, and presently returns with a small axe in his hand. "Oh, it was the axe I saw; the handle was sticking out from a half-bushel measure; I thought it was the hammer." "But you said positively that you did see the hammer, not that you thought you saw it. There is a great difference between the two answers. Do not permit yourself to make a positive statement even about a small matter unless you are quite sure; for if you do you will find the habit growing upon you, and by-and-by you will begin to make loose replies to questions of great importance. Don't be too certain."

### WHY SHE THOUGHT SO.

"Since you gave your heart to God last spring, Jennie," said a pastor to a little girl, "you think that you have been a Christian. Can you tell us why you think so?"

"Because, sir," she said, after thinking a moment, "Jesus says: 'If ye love Me, keep My commandments,' and I want to keep His commandments more than anything else."

"Yes, my dear child, 'Hereby we do know that we know Him if we keep His commandments.' You say, Jennie, that you feel sure that your sins are all forgiven; will you tell us how you know?"

She stood a moment, then said: "I know that Jesus surely says that if we ask Him He will forgive."

"Yes, we have His own sure word. And now, Jennie, suppose some one should ask you how to be a Christian, could you answer? Suppose one of the little girls at school should ask you how she could be a Christian, could you tell her?"

"I would tell her just to trust Jesus and obey Him," she said, quickly.

### FOUR LITTLE CHILDREN.

Four little children were playing together near some water, when one of them fell in, and would have been drowned, had not his brother jumped in after him and pulled him out. Another brother helped to carry him home, and their little sister followed them. A little while after, their father, who had heard what had taken place, called them into his study, that he might reward them as they deserved. He then asked the first: "What did you do when you saw your brother drowning?"

"I rushed in after him and brought him out."

"You did well; here is your reward."

"And what did you do?" turning to the second.

"I helped to carry him home."

"That was right; here is your reward."

"And what did you do when you saw your brother sinking?" speaking to the last, a little girl, three years old.

"I prayed, papa."

"You did your part, too, and well, here is a book for you, too."