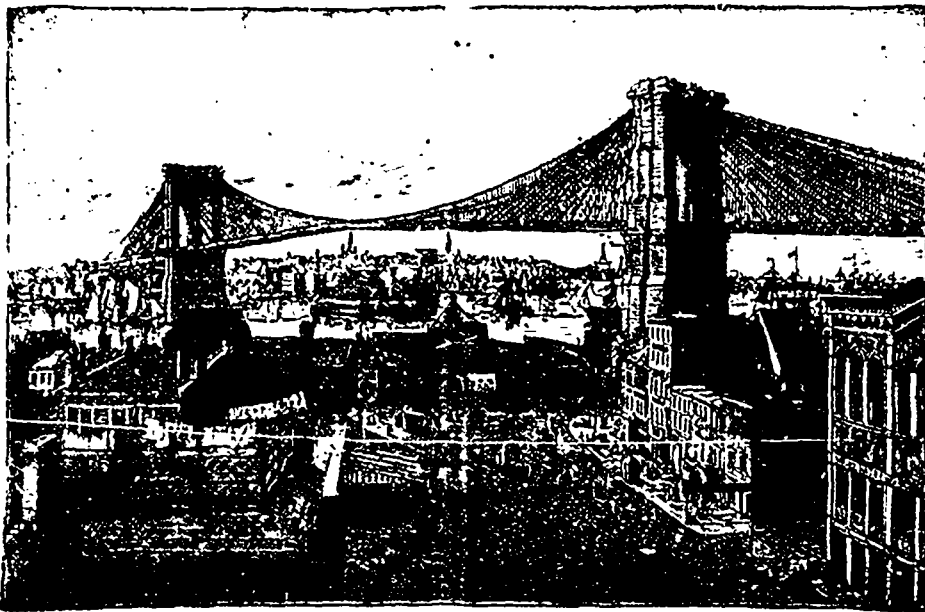


A FAIRY'S GIFTS.

Last night, when I was snug in bed,
A fairy came to me and said—
"Dear child, three gifts to you I bring—
A box, a mirror, and a ring
Each morning use the mirror bright,
To bring your little faults to light;
When you have found them, every one,
Open this box, as I have done,
And pack them quickly out of sight.
Remember, shut the lid down tight'
We call these, best of gifts to youth,
One, Self-control; the other Truth;
This golden ring, Sincerity,
Wins friends wherever you may be."
I never spoke, I did not stir,
I only lay and looked at her.
And when she went I do not know,
She melted like a flake of snow
The door was barred, the window too,
How do you think that she got through?
I'm sure she came, so real it seemed;
But mamma says I must have dreamed.



THE NEW YORK AND BROOKLYN BRIDGE

THE NEW YORK AND BROOKLYN
BRIDGE.

This is an excellent picture of the great suspension bridge which connects the two cities of New York and Brooklyn; a magnificent piece of workmanship, and the greatest engineering exploit of the century.

It took a long time to build, over thirteen years; was commenced June 3, 1870, and opened to the public May 24, 1883. Its cost was great, over \$14,000,000.

One of the first desires of strangers who visit the two cities is to see and cross over this great structure, the wonder of which grows upon them the more they look at it. One man who went across it for the first time exclaimed: "What is man compared to this great work?" To which another man replied: "Yes; but 'twas man who built it, whose mind conceived the plan and worked out the problem, calculating exactly the amount of weight which the wires would sustain."

Just think, that the cables which cross from one tower to another, which support all the work, are composed of small wires tightly twisted together, the entire length of the wires being 14,361 miles. Does not this show the power and strength of littles when unit'd? The total length is 5,959 feet, width 85 feet, height of centre of river span 135 feet, length from tower to tower 1,562 feet.

The workmen engaged on the bridge were obliged to climb to the very highest point, when their position was one of extreme danger, needing a cool head, a steady brain and hand. Would alcohol have given either, or could they as easily have performed their work if they had taken alcoholic drink before they climbed up? The bridge can now be crossed either by foot or by carriage, or by cars which are now successfully run by an endless rope, needing neither horse nor engine to draw them over.

WHAT THE FLOWERS SAID.

"Mamma, did you know that flowers could talk? I never dreamed of such a thing; but to-day Hester Joliffe got a bunch of heliotrope from one of the college boys, and I heard the big girls laughing at her, and saying heliotrope meant 'I love you.' And when I asked what they meant, Hester called me a little goose, and asked me if I didn't know that every flower has a motto; she calls it the flower language, and she says, mamma, (here Sybil looked doubtfully at her mother) she says if I come to her house this afternoon, she will tell me what the motto is of all flowers."

Now Sybil's mother did not want her little girl to spend the afternoon listening to Hester Joliffe's gossip about college boys: she thought it quite as unwholesome for little Sybil as the French candy Hester kept herself supplied with, so while she listened to what Sybil was saying, she

was busy making up a quick little plan of her own.

"I can tell you all the flower mottoes, daughter, after tea; but I do not want you to spend this lovely afternoon indoors, I can tell you a much sweeter way to make flowers talk than by their mottoes."

But mother would not tell what she meant till Sybil had washed her face and hands and eaten her dinner. "Now daughter," she said, "if you take my shopping basket full of flowers to Miss Louisa Perry, away down in the village, and ask what the flowers say to her, you will find that they can talk like preachers."

The village was two miles away, and the spring sunshine was getting pretty hot, but under mother's Japanese parasol Sybil did not care for the sun, and Miss Louisa did seem glad to see her. The poor old woman had been paralyzed, and could not walk a step from the big cushioned chair, where she was placed every morning by loving hands.

"What do the flowers say to me, dearie?" she said, with a bright smile; "they say, 'Well, old lady, ain't you glad your heavenly Father made such pretty things for you to look at? And ain't you glad he made little hearts tender, and little hands kind, and little feet willing to bring them to you? And if he has made such sweet things for this earthly home, where you are only going to live a little while, what do you suppose he has in store for you in that blessed home which he has prepared for you above? Look up, then, and praise his holy name.'"

"Why, Miss Louisa," cried Sybil with dancing eyes, "that's just as good as poetry, that's the very sweetest flower talk I ever heard."

"IN HONOUR PREFERRING ONE
ANOTHER."

A few weeks ago a gentleman was telling us of a little girl in his Sunday-school, who not only heard this sweet command, "Be kindly affectioned one to another, in honour preferring one another," but acted upon it. He had promised a prize to the child who should learn the greatest number of Bible verses, and as little Maggie had the best memory, he expected she would gain it. The appointed day came, and to his great astonishment Maggie only repeated nineteen verses, while her little sister Janet had learned twenty, and so gained the prize.

"Could you not have learned one text more, Maggie?" he asked.

"Yes, sir."

"Then why did you not?"

Maggie hesitated, her colour rose; at last her answer came shyly:

"Because, sir, you taught us last Sunday that if we wanted to please Jesus we were to 'be kindly affectioned one to another, in honour preferring one another.'"

Boys and girls, is Maggie's Lord your Lord? Then will you not each try to gladden his loving heart by denying yourselves for his sake?