

WHAT CHILDREN CAN DO.

Only a little lad

With a morsel of barley-bread,
And a few small fishes--'twas all he had,
So the disciples said,
As they placed his gift before
The blessed Master's feet;
When, lo! from out the wondrous store
Five thousand people eat!

Only a little child

Obeys the Saviour's call;
Yielding his heart, by sin defiled,
With his gifts and graces small;
Yet, firm with a purpose true,
And filled with a faith sublime,
The good that little child can do
May reach to the end of time.

WOLFGANG MOZART.

Many years ago, in the town of Salzburg, Austria, two little children lived in a cot surrounded by vines, near a pleasant river. They both loved music, and when only six years of age Frederica could play well on the harpsichord. But from her little brother such strains of melody would resound through the humble cottage as were never before heard from so young a child. Their father was a teacher of music, and his own children were his best pupils.

There came times so hard that these children had scarcely enough to eat, but they loved each other, and were happy in the simple enjoyment that fell to their lot.

One pleasant day they said: "Let us take a walk in the woods. How sweetly the birds sing, and the sound of the river as it flows is like music."

So they went. As they were sitting in the shadow of a tree the boy said thoughtfully:

"Sister, what a beautiful place this would be to pray!"

Frederica asked wonderingly: "What shall we pray for?"

"Why, for papa and mamma," said her brother. "You see how sad they look. Poor mamma hardly ever smiles now, and I know it must be because she has not always bread enough for us. Let us pray to God to help us."

"Yes," said Frederica, "we will."

So these two sweet children knelt down and prayed, asking the heavenly Father to bless their parents and make them a help to them.

"But how can we help papa and mamma?" asked Frederica.

"Why, don't you know?" replied Wolfgang. "My soul is full of music, and by and by I shall play before great people, and they will give me plenty of money, and I will give it to our dear parents, and we'll live in a fine house and be happy."

At this a loud laugh astonished the boy, who did not know that any one was near them. Turning, he saw a fine gentleman who had just come from the woods. The stranger made inquiries, which the little girl answered, telling him:

"Wolfgang means to be a great musician; he thinks that he can earn money, so that we shall no longer be poor."

"He may do that when he has learned to play well enough," replied the stranger.

Frederica answered:

"He is only six years old, but plays beautifully, and can compose pieces."

"That cannot be," replied the gentleman.

"Come to see us," said the boy, "and I will play for you."

"I will go this evening," answered the stranger.

The children went home and told their story to their parents, who seemed much pleased and astonished.

Soon a loud knock was heard at the door, and on opening it the little family were surprised to see men bringing in baskets of richly-cooked food in variety and abundance. They had an ample feast that evening.

Thus God answered the children's prayer. Soon after, while Wolfgang was playing a sonata which he had composed, the stranger entered and stood astonished at the wondrous melody. The father recognized in his guest Francis I., the Emperor of Austria.

Not long afterward the family were invited by the Emperor to Vienna, where Wolfgang astonished the royal family by his wonderful powers.

At the age of fifteen years Wolfgang was acknowledged by all eminent composers as a master.

Mozart was a good Christian as well as a great musician. The simple trust in God which he had learned in childhood never forsook him. In a letter to his father he says:

"I never lose sight of God. I acknowledge his power and dread his wrath, but at the same time I love to admire his goodness and mercy to his creatures. He will never abandon his servant. By the fulfillment of his will mine is satisfied."—*Sel.*