

Sunday ; one verse, well-practised over, is enough for one day. The following little song was given—with appropriate hand-exercises :

Hark ! little ones ; O children hark !
When the sky has lost its blue,
What do the stars say in the dark ?
" We must sparkle, sparkle through !"

What do the leaves say in the storm,
Tossed in whispering heaps together ?
" We must keep the flowers warm ;
Till they wake in fairer weather."

What do the little birdies say,
Flying through the gloomy wood ?
" We must sing the glum away ;
Sun or shadow, God is good !"

PROHIBITION.—In reply to a deputation of Winnipeg prohibitionists, Mr Laurier is reported to have said:—He would pledge his honor as a man that as soon as the Liberals came into power at Ottawa they would take a plebiscite all over the Dominion. By that declaration the party would stand, and the will of the people would be carried out were it to cost power forever to the Liberal party. This bold declaration has caused quite a flutter, both among temperance men and among politicians, as one that cannot fail to have very considerable influence on the whole future of Canadian politics. The *Gazette* evidently thinks Mr. Laurier has put his foot in it. It says:—"This declaration carries the Liberal party further than they have ever gone before. The Ottawa convention merely declared that the views of the people should be ascertained by means of a plebiscite; there was no guarantee that if the popular vote was in favor of prohibition, it would be carried into effect. Mr. Laurier has now promised that if a majority can be obtained in support of prohibition 'all over the Dominion,' prohibition will be granted. This is one of the largest promises ever made by a political leader. To bring a country nearly the size of Europe under a prohibition would be an achievement which should satisfy the most extreme temperance enthusiasts."—*Witness*.

HEARING. — I remember some years ago, when I was on holiday for two or three weeks in North Wales, being immensely struck with the prevalence of the habit of taking notes in church. Not far from fifty per cent., I should say, of the congregation were furnished with paper and pencil and wrote diligently throughout the delivery of the sermon. This is a per-

fect defense against inattention or drowsiness, and cannot be too strongly recommended to those whose conscience may be troubling them. In families it is a practice of priceless value to go over on Sunday evening what has been heard during the day and get the children to write down the substance of the discourses. This trains the young to habits of attention and brings the conscience of the whole family to bear on the conduct of every member. Some greatly aid their own memory by the practice of carrying fragments of the bread of life to the sick or bedridden, whom they visit on Sunday evening or during the ensuing week. By devices like these can the birds of the evil one be scared from the fields of the mind, and the message of the Eternal obtain a chance of accomplishing that whereto He hath sent it.—*Dr. Stalker, in Congregationalist*.

GOING WITHOUT A RELIGION.—The worst kind of religion is no religion at all; and these men who, living in ease and luxury, indulge themselves in 'the amusement of going without a religion,' may be thankful that they live in lands where the gospel they neglect has tamed the beastliness and ferocity of the men who, but for Christianity, might long ago have eaten their carcasses like the South Sea Islanders, or cut off their heads and tanned their hides like the monsters of the French Revolution. When the microscopic search of skepticism, which has hunted the heavens and sounded the seas to disprove the existence of a Creator, has turned its attention to human society, and has found a place on this planet ten miles square where a decent man can live in decency, comfort, and security, supporting and educating his children unspoiled and unpolluted; a place where age is revered, infancy protected, manhood respected, womanhood honored, and human life held in due regard; when skeptics can find such a place ten miles square on this globe, where the gospel of Christ has not gone, and cleared the way and laid the foundations, and made decency and security possible, it will then be in order for the skeptical *literati* to move thither, and there ventilate their views. But so long as these very men are dependent upon the religion which they discard for every privilege they enjoy, they may well hesitate a little before they seek to rob the Christian of his hope, the sinner of his restraint, society