

## A CHILD'S PRAYER.

O GOD, may thoughts of thee depart  
At night the latest from my heart,  
And in the morning first arise  
To thee in grateful sacrifice.

And from the morning's early light  
Until the darkest shades of night,  
May thoughts of thee inspire my heart  
Well to perform my humble part.

And when my days and nights are o'er,  
And I shall wake to sleep no more,  
Then may my soul delighted rise,  
To serve thee better in the skies.

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## HAPPY DAYS.

TORONTO, FEBRUARY 19, 1887.

## THE PRAYING BOY.

A BOY who had been brought to the Lord Jesus at a mission Sunday-school was anxious that his father should know the Saviour: too. His father was a wicked man, who kept a drinking saloon, and thus not only got drunk himself, but caused others to do so. The lad asked his Sunday-school teacher what he should do, for his father made him wait on the customers, handing out the drink to them; and if he had not better leave home. His teacher told him not to leave home, but to begin at once to pray for his father, and she would also pray for him, and for his father too; and they both commenced to pray for that father.

In a few weeks the father left off drinking, and soon after left off selling, and went to work to earn an honest living.

"For, said he, with tears running down his face, 'something has been the matter with my dear boy for some time: and the other day I heard a noise in the room where he sleeps—it was a mournful noise—and I listened; and he was praying for me! He prayed that I would leave off

selling—for I had given up drinking some little time before. I felt I was doing wrong, and I have quit it all; and the next time you have a meeting I am coming with the boy."

## GOD'S FLOWERS.

SOME one has called children "God's flowers." I have been wondering lately how many children have a right to the name; for you know there are many things besides flowers in a garden. There are weeds, rank and useless; and some kinds of weeds look so very much like flowers that the gardener's eye cannot tell the difference. I want you, dear children, to ask yourself to-day whether you are weeds or flowers.

In order to be one of God's flowers you must be planted by him. The gardener does not plant weeds. There is a solemn passage in the Bible which says, "Every plant, which my heavenly father hath not planted, shall be rooted up." You must be "rooted" in Christ and grow up in him, drinking in your life from him as the little flowers drink in the rain and sunshine of heaven. What use will you be if you become one of God's flowers? Have you ever wondered of what use the real flowers are? How dark the earth would be without them! They do not do much; but their soft beauty brings praise to God their maker, and their sweet fragrance carries comfort to many a weary heart.

This is what you can do, little ones, if you are God's flowers. Your very sweetness and beauty caused by drinking in the sunshine of God's smile and the dew of his word will be a witness to him; and men seeing it will glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Which are you, children, weeds or flowers? Will you not come to Jesus and ask him to make you his own children, now and forever?

## "ENTER INTO THY CLOSET."

THE mother of a little boy about six years of age some time ago went in search of a house, taking her little son along with her. Having taken but a single room, on their way home the little boy burst into tears. His mother inquired what was the matter.

"Because you have taken that room," said the child.

"My dear," replied the mother, "is it not a better place than the one we now have?"

"Yes," said the boy, sobbing; "but there is no closet for prayers in it."  
"But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." (Matt. vi. 6.)



I LOVE you, I love you,  
I love you right hard;  
And that is the reason  
I send you this card.

## CIGARETTE-SMOKING.

A BOY can never make a man of him (says the New Orleans *Picayune*) smoking cigarettes, though he may succeed in becoming a sickly dwarf if he neglects other business and smokes industriously. A cigarette seems a very harmless object, but a physician who analyzed one found nothing but harmless. He says:

"The tobacco was strongly impregnated with opium, while the wrapper, which was warranted to be rice-paper, proved to be most ordinary of white paper, white with arsenic, the poisons combined and presented in sufficient quantities to cause in the smoker the habit of using opium without being aware of it, and which can only be satisfied by an incessant use of cigarettes."

## THE SAFE CHANNEL.

A GOOD ship was passing on safely along a dangerous strip of coast where thousands have made shipwreck.

"I suppose you know every rock and sand bar along this coast," said a passenger as he stood on the deck beside the captain.

There was a deep meaning in the glance that he gave from under his shaggy brows as he answered, "I know where they are not."

Ah! that was wherein lay the safety of those who had committed their lives and merchandise into his keeping. He knew where the safe channel lay, and he kept them there.

Many think they ought to be learning the evil habits of this world in order to shun them. It is far better to know what is good, and pursue it. "My soul, do not thou into their secret." One man's life is worth ten times more, than the lives of ten wicked men who would example you are to shun.