

TENDER TIES.

We all have tender ties to earth and time. Children it may be, or brothers, both in the flesh and in the spirit, are twined closely round our hearts. We are needful to them. This is felt on both sides now, and will be felt more tenderly when the hour of separation is drawing near. How shall that pang be softened to both parties,—to him who is departing, and to those who remain? In one way only: the desire to depart and to be with Christ will do it, and nothing else will. How good it is,—how necessary to have that hope and trust now! How dreary to be drifting down toward those dark and tempestuous narrows before the anchor of the soul has been thrown within the veil, and fastened there on Jesus!

Paul's "strait" is the only easy position on the earth; oh, to be in it! If you are held by both of these bonds you will not fear a fall on either side, although your life, instead of being in your Father's hands, were at the disposal of your worst enemy, in his utmost effort to do you harm, he would be shut up between these two,—either to keep you a while longer in Christ's work, or send you sooner to Christ's presence. That were indeed a charmed life that should tremble evenly in the blessed balance;—this way, we shall do good to men; that way we shall be with the Lord.—*Arnot.*

A CHILD'S FAITH.

"How sweet it is my child,
To live by simple faith;
Just to believe that God will do
Exactly as He saith."

"Does faith mean to believe
That God will surely do
Exactly what He says mamma?
Just as I know that you

"Will give me what I ask,
Because you love me well,
And listen patiently to hear
Whatever I may tell?"

"Yes, you may trust in God
Just as you trust to me;
Believe, dear child, He loves you well,
And will your Father be.

"For when you sought His love,
Your Father up in Heaven
Looked kindly down for Jesus' sake,
And has your sins forgiven.

"To pray in faith, my child,
Is humbly to believe
That what you ask in Jesus name
You surely shall receive."

Answers to Bible Questions for January will be given next month.

Communications for the Children's Portion to be addressed: Ed. Junior, P. O. Box 295, St. John, N. B., and should be received not later than the 15th day of the month.