

OUR YOUNG FOLKS.

NEVER OUT OF SIGHT.

I know a little saying
That is altogether true,
My little boy, my little girl,
The saying is for you.
'Tis this, O blue and black eyes,
And gray—so deep and bright—
No child in all this careless world
Is ever out of sight.

No matter whether field or glen,
Or city's crowded way,
Or pleasure's laugh or labour's hum,
Entice your feet to stay;
Some one is always watching you,
And whether wrong or right,
No child in all this busy world
Is ever out of sight.

Some one is also watching you,
And marking what you do,
To see if all your childhood's acts
Are honest, brave, and true;
And watchful more than mortal kind,
God's angels pure and white,
In gladness or in sorrowing
Are keeping you in sight.

O, bear in mind, my little one,
And let your mark be high!
You do whatever thing you do,
Beneath some seeing eye;
O, bear in mind, my little one,
And keep your good name bright,
No child upon this round, round earth,
Is ever out of sight.

THE FROST PICTURES.

IT was a zero day without, and the frost pictures on the windows of the sitting-room did not melt before mid-day. Bertha and Louis busied themselves in improving on the fine forests, and leaves, and castles, and mailed soldiers, which Jack Frost had painted, making dainty etchings of rather in-artistic figures with the points of two darning needles. None of us particularly liked the scratching sound, so mamma suggested:

"Why not run up and draw on the hall windows? The fire in the hall will keep you warm, and then you will not disturb anybody."

The children ran up-stairs, but pretty soon came clattering down again.

"You fooled us, mamma," said Bertha. "There was not a bit of frost on the window."

"So I might have known if I had only thought."

"How could you have known? It is no warmer there than here."

"Did you look in the bedroom?"

"Oh yes, the frost pictures were the first things I saw this morning. They were so thick and close I could not see through them. It was real frosted glass, but I never saw pictures so pretty on any one's glass doors."

"Run into the parlour and see if there are frost pictures there."

"No, mamma, the glass is all clear."

"Isn't it a little odd Jack Frost should skip about so, frosting one window and missing the next, and so on all about the house?"

"There is some reason for it, I know," said Louis. "It isn't just his notion."

"Let us see what makes the pictures first, and then perhaps we can solve the mystery of some clear windows this sharp morning."

The air of the room becomes moist, and, floating about, some of it touches the cold glass, which makes the moisture into ice crystals in a minute. These frost pictures are only frozen vapour. If it was not freezing, the vapour would form into little drops and run down the panes as you have often seen it. The air of this room is moist, because of the steam from the kitchen, which comes in when the door is opened, and because of our breath as we sit here. The bed-room windows had pictures of our frozen breath all over their surface. But nobody has occupied the hall, and so there was no moisture in it to freeze, nor in the parlour which is colder than the other rooms, because there had been no fire in it to-day. Cold and moisture both are necessary to make these pictures. Now there is a little philosophy lesson for you, and I dare say you will always think of it when you see these delicate paintings."

The children liked to take their philosophy that way, and mother's little talks started them on many new trains of thought and study.

TRUSTING.

Although it is so very dark,
And I am all alone,
Mamma down-stairs, and nurse away,
And no one here to talk or play—
Yet, God, I know to Thee the night
Is bright and shining as the light.

And Thou canst see Thy little child,
And keep her safe from harm;
And though it is to her so dark,
Thou'lt shield her with Thy arm;
For to Thee, God, who made the night,
It shines as brightly as the light.

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE.

COME, children! how many of you can name the books of the Bible? None of you! Well, just take this number of THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN and learn them. No more strawberries till you can repeat them all. And when you have learned these lines, write Grandmother about it:

THE OLD TESTAMENT.

The great Jehovah speaks to us,
In Genesis and Exodus;
Leviticus and Numbers see,
Followed by Deuteronomy,
Joshua, and Judges rule the land,
Ruth glean a sheaf with trembling hand;
The record is extended well
In First and Second Samuel;
Then the two books of Kings appear
Whose Chronicles we wondering hear.
Ezra and Nehemiah now,
Father the beauteous mourner shew;
Job speaks in signs, David in Psalms,
The Proverbs teach to scatter alms,
Ecclesiastes next comes on,
And the sweet Song of Solomon.
Isaiah, Jeremiah then,
With Lamentations, takes his pen;
Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea's lyres,
Swell Joel's Amos', Obadiah's.
Next, Jonah, Micah, Nahum come,
And softly Habakkuk finds room.
While Zephaniah, Haggai calls,
Isaiah Zechariah builds his walls,
And Malachi with garments rent,
Concludes the Ancient Testament.

THE NEW TESTAMENT.

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John,
Record the Life of God's dear Son,
The Apostles' Acts are next disclosed,
And Paul's Epistle, for Rome composed.
Two other letters to Corinth sent,
Are followed by one, for Galatia meant.

One also is sent to Ephesus,
And one to Philippi, one to Colosso,
Then Thessalonians, Timothy, and Titus come on,
Together with the letter to Philemon.
The Epistle to the Hebrews now comes in view,
Which shows the Old Testament fulfilled in the Now.

Now follow Epistles from James, Peter, and John,
In numbers reverse, of three, two, and one.
And now, at the close, is the Epistle of Jude,
With John's Revealed Vision, which, in Patmos,
he viewed.

THE SEA LION.

THE sea lion called the otary is a branch of the seal family. Among other peculiarities, the fore legs, as if intended exclusively for swimming, are placed farther back in the body than in the true seal, giving the otaries the appearance of having a longer neck; and the hind legs are more like the fore legs. The sea lion of the northern seas is about fifteen feet long and weighs about sixteen hundred weight. It inhabits the eastern seas of Kamtchatka, and the Kurile Islands, and in some parts is very plentiful. On the approach of winter it removes from its most northern quarters. It is found chiefly on rocky coasts, on the ledges of which it climbs. It is much addicted to roaring, which sometimes warns sailors of danger. This roaring, as well as the mane of the old males, has obtained for it the name of sea lion. The head of this animal is large; the eyes very large; the eyebrows bushy; the hide thick; the hair coarse and reddish; a heavy mass of stiff, curly, crisp hair on the neck and shoulders. The old males have a fierce aspect, and yet flee in great precipitation from man; but if driven to extremities, they fight furiously. Sea lions are capable of being tamed, and they become very familiar with man. They feed on fish and the smaller seals. The sea lion of the southern seas is now generally believed to be a distinct species.

CHINESE.

WE think the Chinese dress queer; the Chinese think ours the same. Each nation makes its own style the standard of comparison. An Englishman travelling through China was often amused by hearing the free criticisms of the people on his clothing and appearance. On his arrival at an inn a crowd would gather, and he would hear such remarks as these:—

"What a curious looking fellow! he has no cue and doesn't shave his head."

"And look at his tight clothes! They are not elegant!"

"Just so; and look at his hat, what a queer thing! What ugly eyes he has! His boots, however, are excellent; do you not think so?"

"Oh, yes, indeed, and I am told they never wear out, and water can't get through them."

If the over-curious people were driven out of the traveller's room, they would collect around the window. Those in front would make peep-holes in the paper—there are no glass windows—with their fingers, and gaze for hours at "the barbarian."

Free criticisms would be offered as to his barbarous method of eating with a pronged fork, thereby endangering his eyes and mouth, and at the odd mixture of cold drinks and hot food. And that he should have two or three kinds of vegetables on his plate at once. But the strangest thing of all, the one fact they could not comprehend, was that he should have left his home to wander about their country.