OUR BOYS AND GIRLS.

It was only a little thing for Nell
To brighten the kitchen fire,
To spread the cloth, to draw the tea,
As her mother might desire
A little thing; but her mother smiled,
And banished all her care,
And a day that was sad closed bright and
glad. Little Things.

With a song of praise and prayer.

'Twas only a little thing to do
For a sturdy lad like Ned
To groom the horse, to mik the cow,
And bring the wood from the shed;
But his father was glad to find at night
The chores were all well done,
"I am thankful," said he, "as I can be,
For the gift of such a son."

Only small things, but they brighten life,
Or shadow it with care;
But little things, yet they mold a life
For joy or sad despair:
But little things, yet life's best prize,
The reward which labor brings,
Comes to him who uses, and not abuses.
The power of little things.

Friendship and Self-Love.

One day as I was rambling through the City of Religion, in the environs of the grand Cathedral of Virtue, for which it is noted, my attention was at tracted by the appearance of a beautiful maiden issuing from the portals of that mighty structure. whose pinnacles reach the heavens. Judging from the gown of spirituality, the girdle of constancy and ornaments of the precious metal of love, which she wore, and the gold circlet bearing the motto "Exeraround which twined a wreath of the beautiful blossoms of Sincerity, which adorned her brow, I concluded that this must be Friendship of whom I had so often heard.

As I stood gazing in admiration, this bright vision vanished; but leaving in my heart an intense desire to learn more of her; and during my stay in the City it was my good fortune to hear many edifying accounts of this delight-

ful being.

A few days later I strayed beyond the City out into an open plain, where, among the many that were gliding to and fro, my attention was again drawn by another damsel, whose appearance however did not impress me so favorably as that of the maiden just men-Her dress was woven of frivolity and jealousy; her girdle was of gaudy illusion and golden butter

flies were her jewels.
"Who can this be?" I asked myself. Not being able to restrain my curiosity, I inquired her name of a passer and was told that this individual was Self Love. Of her history, too, I determined to learn something; and

the result was the following: One day Self Love came to the City to pluck the flowers of Happiness, which she had been told grew in abundance along every street, lane and alley there met Friendship, who was out on one of her usual missions of love. The bright, cheerful smile of the latter, so won the heart of Self-Love that she resolved to crave a home beneath the roof of one so amiable and good; and, finally, after many entreaties, her de-sire was gratified. "Oh! how fortun exclaimed Self Love; "for methinks, I have at last found one who will assist me in obtaining pleasure,

ease and contentment. Soon, however, Self-Love found her surroundings quite uncongenial : she was continually fretting and repining. At length, Friendship one day invited her out for a walk. The path chosen her out for a walk. The path chosen was shaded from the burning rays of the summer sun by tall trees whose beautiful green foliage hung in pro'usion. Among the branches little warbl ers were chanting forth their morn ing hymn, and the air was scented they sped along Friendship pointed out these beauties to Self-Love, telling her that God had given them for our benefit; that instead of being discon tented she should rejoice; but Self-Love received this counsel with indig

After proceeding a short distance they met a youth whose countenance showed traces of overwhelming grief While Salf-Love turned away in scorn, Friendship, on seeing him, became interested and addressing him inquired his name and the cause of his sadness. "My name," answered the youth, "is Guilt, and I am in search of a friend who will guide me to the street of Re pentance that I may there find Honor and Virtue, whom I am told are the most suitable companions of youth. "Come with me," said Friendship" and she led him by the paths of Amendment until in the distance he could discern the home of the friends

whose society he sought. In the meantime, Self Love, finding the atmosphere of the City contrary to her idea of happiness, retraced steps, inwardly resolving to quit the home of Friendship, where her strength and vigor were visibly declining, and a few days later of her hostess and withdrew to the village of Self-Interest, which has ever since been her home. Finn (Ursuline Academy, Chatham) in Easter "Echoes from the Pines."

How the Storm Went Round,

The big school-room clock said ten ninutes to 9 one Monday morning. It was a dark day; a heavy gray fog blotted all the window panes and really seemed to have crept indoors and settled down on the spirits of the scholars, who were gathering thick

Two small girls, standing below the row of pegs where hats and wraps were growing hung, were arguing with temper over the possession of one parknob. Finally one of them enatched the other's jacket and flung

it fiercely down on the floor.
"I was here first!" she stormed, " so you can just take your coat away. shan't have my place !" You shan't have my place! Very well, Miss Katie Brown,"

marching on with her chin in the air.

"When you get ready you may hang
my coat up to suit yourself; I'm not
going to touch it. I don't suppose Miss
Wright will want it lying there all
day, and you know what she always
eave about flinging things around." says about flinging things around.

Meantime, at the other end of the room, Herbert Decker, after rum-maging two or three times through his desk and book bag in a vain search,

broke out fretfully:
"Just my luck! I've gone and forgot that old pencil again. I do believe a lead pencil is the speakingest thing on this earth; it's forever getting away from a fellow!" I guess your luck won't turn,

said his brother Charley, "till you shorten your last morning nap a little and quit rushing everything through at the end at about ten times the

proper speed."
"I didn't ask your opinion, thank
"I didn't ask your when I wish
"estd Herbert. "When I wish to engage a private chaplain I'll let you know. Say, Al Jones, will you lend me a pencil?"
"Can't do it," said Al. "I don't

keep supplies for the whole school. "Not even of manners, do you?" re-

torted Herbert, snappishly.
Half way toward the door two smaller boys were scuffling over an atlas, across the aisle a little lame lad had just shaken his fist in the face of a neighbor whom he suspected of laugh

ing at his deformity.

Miss Wright, the young teacher, had been trying hard to shut her eyes to the brewing storm about her. She felt dull and out of sorts herself, and now, as she looked at the overcast faces in her school room and remembered the long hours that stretched ahead, she heaved a long, deep, discouraged sigh.

Midway in the sigh the door once more opened and shut to, letting in a little rosy-cheeked girl wearing a plaid shawl over a much darned frock. This was Minty Morris. None of the other girls wore a shawl, and none of them had quite so many patches as she but I doubt whether anybody had ever thought about that-certainly nobody minded. Minty was smiling and breathless

"I ran all the way," she said cheer-illy. "Our clock never is just exactfully. ly right. It's horrid hurrying so, but then it makes a nice relief for you when you find out you're in time, after

Here she stumbled over the jacket that Katie Brown had thrown on the

floor "Somebody's coat will get mused, she said, hanging it up in place and straightening two or three hats on their pegs as she passed. Then she to fumble in her dinner-pail and pres ently drew out a splendid crimson apple. She looked at it admiringly while she polished it off on the end o her shawl until its smooth surface shone When she was fully satisfied again. that she had done her best to heighten its perfections, she started across to the corner where Larry Miles, the crippled boy, was still frowning tremendously

over his grievance.
Since Minty came in there had been a lull in the angry talking and the shuffling of feet on the school room floor had stopped, so that now when she spoke, quiet as her voice was, every

body heard.
"Larry," she said, smiling and dimpling in irresistible friendliness, Grandpa "here's a present for you. Grandpa brought us some of these on Saturday and I saved a nice one just for you. Don't you like this kind?"
As if Larry didn't like all kinds!

ragrance of flowers. As And if Grandpa Morris had brought so any apples that " one,"

did not count ! I think that every mind in the listening school-room travelled to the little tin pail on Minty's desk and remembered how seldom it was that anything like a luxury was brought to light

from under its cover.
Suddenly one of the small boys took his hand away from the disputed atlas.
"You can have it," he said; "I

don't care. And Al Jones took out his kuife and cutting his pencil in two, offered half to Herbert. "I guess this was too long for com-

fort ; and anyhow, it's a pity if there isn't some way to get the best of circumstances.

The boy who had roused Larry's wrath leaned over a seat or two to speak "What are you mad at me about,

old man?" he demanded. "I was just laughing at the face Katie Brown was If you want to fight me for ght. But I think we'd betmaking. It you that, all right. ter shake hands and be friends.'

Katie Brown squirmed uneasily for a time, then she peeped over her shoulder at the neighbor whose coat she had maltreated, and finally she turned around and said shyly: "My Aunt Mary is going to Europe;

did you know it?" And so it seemed as though the fog and gloom that had threatened crept off under the door and through the cracks of the windows to join the gray

March storm outside.
"Dear little Minty!" said Miss Wright, looking over at the desk where Minty with her tongue thrust into her cheek and a studious frown on her face, was "doing examples" with all her might. "Dear little girl! She her might. Dear little girl! She doesn't know how much she has helped us all; and just by being sweet and kind and contented."—St. Nicholas. ber might.

One Who Can be Trusted. "Well!" exclaimed young Roger Glasgow, raising himself up, "that is all right at last, but it cost me one full

hour's work !" ur's work : "How much short?" yawned Louis Markham.
"Nine cents: but it is all right now.

Louis gave a prolonged whistle and then broke into a loud laugh. "You are a greeny, Roger, to trouble about such small mistakes. I would not have

spent an hour over as many dollars."
"How would you have closed your Roger inquired. account, then ?" "Changed a figure, of course, to

make it tally. "Changed a figure, without having discovered your mistake?" echoed Certainly I would have known that

a mistake existed, and to save time and trouble, I would have made it balanc "What if some member of the firm would see proper to examine your ac-

count? "Even under such circumstances they would not observe so trifling an error ; or, noticing it, would attribute it to a mistake, of course. Nine cents! Why, Roger, a hundred times that amount could not affect them in the

least "It would surely affect me, Louis. I have no right to equander the funds of the firm because my carelessness or dishonesty would not be felt. leave nothing in my handwriting that

will not bear the light of day. "How much do you make by your honesty?" sneered Louis. "Perhaps you are not aware that your over righteousness cost you your clerkship ; and if a bookkeeper had not been in demand you would bave received your walking papers. Perkins' rascaitty was in your favor just then, as it hap

Roger looked up from his ledger

with a puzzled expression.
"I see they did not tell you that your disagreeable habit of pointing out the defects of goods could not be toler-The firm was losing money every day, and you would have been asked to take a back seat had not Per kins' treachery come to light just then. The condition of affairs made an hones bookkeeper above par that morning, and you were quietly smuggled into his place. You see an upright book keeper is just the thing; but the great rascal the salesman-the better Every man for his business, you

"But I thought you had been taught something about 'doing unto others as you would have them do to you,'" replied Roger, gravely.

"Humph! You cannot bring such rules into everyday business," replied Louis.

"Then I would not try to follow it all; for a rule only to be applied as fancy dictates can be of no practical importance."
"Render unto Casar, the things that

are Cæsar's and unto God the things that are God's,' repeated Louis. "That is the very thing that I am

trying to do. Every penny that be longs to my employers I am under obligations to guard; but my conscience s God's and I have no right to sacrifice it on the altar of Mammon. "Where did you learn to preach? retorted Louis.

"I am preaching only such a sermon as every child can understand. If we are Catholics, we should try to be true to our faith, no matter what it costs us," urged Roger.

At that moment Mr. Morrison, the enior member of the firm, came out of the office, and as he passed the lads he on them a searching look. They had been ignorant of his proximfelt somewhat abashed; but ity, and ger's clear eyes were not downcast, for he had only done his duty.

Mr. Morrison said nothing but he kept the boys in view; and when a more responsible position offered, it was not Louis whose heart was made When Louis glad by promotion. When Louis Markham's name was mentioned, Mr. Morrison shook his head, saying he wanted a boy who could be trusted: one who would spend an hour in order to keep his henor bright and his record clean was not going to prove unfaithful where thousands of dollars were at

To-day Roger is an honored partner of the firm he first served, while Louis' dishonesty has made it difficult for him to secure a position.

CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN.

It is an old proverb that he who aims at the sun will not reach it, but his arrow will fly higher than if he aimed at an object on a level with himself. Just so in the formation of character. Set your standard high, and, though you may not reach it, you will hardly fail to rise higher than if you aimed at some inferior excellence.—Joel Hawes.

A Bicyle Revival Year.

Manufacturers of bicyles predict that 1900 is to be the greatest year for their business that this country has ever seen and they base their predictions on the size of the orders already received, The West, especially, is sending in big orders. Good roads in the prairie districts and the prosperity of the farms account for it. While the well paved cities of the East and West are pretty well supplied with machines, countless farm lads in the agricultural regions of the West and South are having their first experience with the bicycle, and the development of the trade bids fair to reach enormous proportions in 1900. A well-known bicycle expert figures that for every mile of good road constructed a sale of from ten to twenty bicycles in its vicinity can be ex-

answered the second little maid, My bungling way of making nine pew, or contribute in any way to the marching off with her chin in the air. caused the trouble. I called it zero." to appeal to them. It is said that grad uates of Catholics colleges are particu-larly remiss in this respect. During the years of school life they are seldom asked to contribute to any religious or charitable object, and the duty of sup porting religion is not practically inculated. As a rule, students money for all their needs, and many of them form habits of extravagance during their college days. Regular collections for the Propagation of the Faith and other works which appeal to the generosity of the faithful where should be taken up in all Catholic colleges. No matter how small the amount realized, the lesson would be of great importance. - Ave Maria.

Carefulness in Speech There is one thing many of us neglect and that is carefulness in Most of us speak more than we even read or write, and many of us are too little careful that every sentence we utter be as grammatically correct as what we write. Yet fre quently people judge our education by our conversation. Perhaps if we ex-ercised greater control over what we say, and took care never, even in our most familiar talks, to utter what we would be ashamed to see accredited to ourselves in print, our improvement in English would be rapid and marked.

You Can't Take Every Trick "It is an old enough theme," says W. S. Walker in the Chicago Tribune that of nil desperandum, but always in order. Once more, heart weary, and perhaps almost heart broken strugnever give up!' The hooked gler, trout's last despairing jerk often frees him from his torment, and lets him scud away to liberty. Surely you

have as much fight in you as a fish. "One thing more, in a different direction. Keep faith with yourself. When you have said in your heart that you will or won't do a thing, live up to your pledge. If a man keep his word to himself, with whom

he keep it? "Finally, don't groan because you do not succeed in every undertaking. No game has ever yet been invented in which a man can take every trick all the time.

Evening Hours. The value of the evening hours to students and young people depends entirely upon the use made of them, and the place and association in which they are spent. The best place to spend an evening is at home. In the great majority of homes, fortunately, there is every requisite for the enjoy ment of pleasant and profitable even ings, in study, reading, music, or conversation. The worst place for children and young people to be is on the streets, or in places of resort where they are in the company of those with whom they meet and form an acquaint ance on the street. The most unprofitable associations are those which are made in this way. Street acquaint ances are almost invariably danger-The evenings spent in such com pany are always worse than wasted. The associates of the street corner, the fence-roost, or the outside of the

church door, are likely to be met later in life in the saloon, on the race course, in the jail and the penitentiary. evening gatherings of boys and girls which are so often to be seen on the streets are classes in the school of vice and crime, the graduates from which receive their diplomas as criminals from the police justice at the bar of his

court.

In bright contrast to this picture is the matter?" Raising his head, with the progress of the home loving child a twinkle in his black eyes, he said, the progress of the home loving child and youth, whose education has been had in the school room and the home circle, and who is utterly ignorant of the subjects taught on the street corner

That is an ignorance which rejoices the hearts of parents, and recommends a young man or woman to an employer as likely to be a faithful, honest, and reliable employe.

These two schools are open to all young people-the home and the street. To find the records of the graduates of the two schools, read the daily papers. The after history of the one class will be found in the criminal column; the other, in the notes and news, and honorable mention of worthy achievement in all the occupations of life. which school do you belong? What classes are you attending ?-The An-

Scatter and Increase.

People will not believe it, and yet it is as true as the gospel, that giving leads to thriving. This is an old saying, one which is as old as the hills, and as

"Give and spend And God will spend."

If a man cannot pay his debts he must not think of giving, for he has nothing of his own, and it is thieving to give away other people's property Be just before you are generous. give to Peter what is due to Paul. They used to say that "give" is dead, and "restore" is buried, but I do not believe it any more than I do another saying, "There are only two good men, one is dead, and the other is not saving,

born. No, no; there are many free hearts yet about, and John Ploughman knows a goodish few of them — people who don't cry, "Go next door," but who say, "Here's a little help, and we wish we could make it ten times as much. God has often a great share in a small house, and many a little man has a

There is general complaint of a growing indifference among young men to the financial needs of their parishes. Many of them do not rent a factorial needs of their parishes. Many of them do not rent a factorial needs of their parishes.

LABATT'S ALE PORTER

Used Medicinally: Have the recommendation of nearly all vsicians. Reports of 4 chemists furnished on application. Used Dietetically: Stimulate the appetite, improve digestion,

promote sleep.
NECESSARY with cheese—VALUABLE with soup and meat -ENJOYABLE with oysters.

As Beverages: Pure and wholesome.

Ask for "LABATT'S" when ordering.

till they are put to bed with a a shovel; they often get so wretched that they grudge the expense of the rope. rous souls are made happy by the hap piness of others ; the money they give o the poor buys them more pleasure than any other that they lay out.

I have seen men of means give coppers, and they been coppery in every thing. They carried on a tin-pot business, lived like beggars and died like dogs. I have seen others give to the poor and to the cause of God by shovelfuls and have had it back by barrow - loads. They made good use of their stewardship, and the great Lord has trusted them with more, while the bells in their hearts have rung out merry peals when they have thought of widows who blessed them and orphan children who smiled in their faces.

Ah, me, that there should be creatures in the shape of men whose souls are of no use except as sait to keep their bodies from rotting! Please let us forget them, for it makes me right down sick to think of their nasty ways. Let us see what we can do to scatter joy all around us, just as the sun throws his light on hill and dale — John Ploughman.

The Sign of the Cross.

A curious incident occurred to an erstwhile friend of the writer in the city of Chicago, says the Colorado Catholic. This happened when our bald heads were the possessors of a goodly crop of black hair. was the custom of my friend to

walk to business whenever time permitted. He was a very practical young man in many ways; and in his opinion walking to business was not at all detrimental to health, as his occupa tion confined him within four walls during the greater part of the day. He was like thousands of other young men, he was not a practical religion ist; by this I mean to infer, that anyone who knows the right way and will not walk in it is lest practical than those who never knew the right way and follow the promptings of impulse without restraint. In other words was the son of respectable, good Catholic parents; he had been carefully trained by the Jesuit Fathers, and had een well drilled in the essential parts of his religion, knowing the way

wherein he should walk. But the world ! -ah ! yes, the world! with its powdered wings, that attracts so many hearts during the ages of sixteen and forty years, at which time if Almighty God has spared them, they find the pretty colored powder is be-coming a sombre grey, and they return again to things substantial - had taken possession of this good young man's heart. It was a case of not being able to serve God and Mammon.

One morning as usual, seated at his desk, I noticed his bright face was a little flushed, and on his check was a solitary tear. Yes, there it lay, and solitary tear. as I quietly observed it, the light played upon it, as if it were dancing tor no other purpose than to attract my attention. "Billy," said I, "what's "Matter? oh! nothing," then after a momentary reflection he came to my side and said, "I don't mind telling you, old man, but its such a silly thing. As I was walking down State street this morning, and as I passed a certain door, I looked up and I saw a brightlooking girl coming down the steps to the streen, she was making the sign of the cross; I stopped just as if I had been struck by lightning. I locked at her, she locked at me; she passed and as she did so her solemn face relaxed into a soft smile; she passed on carrying her little lunch on her arm, and was soon lost in the busy throng; I followed. Well it paralyzed me; I began to conjure up old recollections. There was no My! but what a cross. mineing about that girl's cross. It seems to me that I never realized what that sign means until now. cowards we are, when I saw that brave girl arm herself for the day's work, I felt like a cur; silly, isn't it, but what do you think of it?"
"Think of it—let us do likewise,

Billy."

"The Noblest Mind

"The Noblest Mind
the best contentment has." Yet, however
noble in mind, no man or woman can have
perfect contentment without physical health.
The blood must be kept pure and the stomach
and digestive organs in good order. The
best means for this purpose is Hood's Sarsaparilla. It promptly cures all blood humors and eruptions and tones up the system.

The favorite cathartic is Hood's Pills.

The favorite cathartic is Hood's Pills.

"It is a Great Public Benefit."—These significant words were used in relation to Dr. THOMAS' ECLECTRIC OIL., by a gentleman who had thoroughly tested its merits in his own case—having been cured by it of lameness of the knee, of three or four years' standing. It never fails to remove soreness as well as lameness, and is an incomparable pulmonic and corrective.

Severe colds are easily exped by the years'

Severe colds are easily cured by the use of ont cry, Go next door, oue who yellow the could make it ten times as much. On soften a great share in a small ouse, and many a little man has a lirge heart.

Now, you will find that liberal people re happy people, and get more enjoy.

CARLING

When Ale is thoroughly matured it is not only palatable, but wholesome. Carling's Ale is always fully aged before it is put on the market. Both in wood and in rottle it is mellowed by the touch of time before it reaches the public.

People who wish to use the best Ale should see to it that they receive Carling's.

CARLING LONDON.

A LIBERAL OFFER.

Beautifully Illustrated Catholic Family Bible and a Year's Subscription for §7.

The Holy Bible con aiming the entire Canonical Scriptures, according to the Decree of the Council of Trent, translated from the Latin Vulgate: diligently compared with the Hebrew, Greek, and other editions in divers languages. The Old Testament framework of the Hebrew of the Hebrew

other Memoranda, as wen as for traits.

FOR THE SUM OF SEVEN DOLLARS we should be pleased to express a copy of this beautiful book and prepay charges for (carriage, as well as give one year's subscription (old or new) to the CATHOLIC RECORD. It is good book well bound, gilt edges, weight about thirteen pounds, is about the inches thick, eleven inches long, twelve inches wide. Cash must in every case accompany

Cash must in every case accompany order. Address, Thos Coffey, Catholic Record London, Ontario.

indows WINDOW Cathedral COMP'Y, 2 MFG. igh-Class HOBBS

Cobbett's "Reformation." Just issued, a new edition of the Protestani
Reformation, by Wm. Cobbett. Revised, with
Notes and Preface by Very Rev. Francis Aidam
Gasquet, D. D., O. S. P. The book is printed
in large, clear type. As it is published at a new
price of 25 cents per copy in the United States,
30 cants will have to be charged in Canads. It
will be sent to any address on receipt of that
sum, in stamps.

CATHOLIC RECORD Office,
London, Ontarie,

THE LONDON MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE

COMPANY THOS. E. ROBSON, D. C. McDONALD PRESIDENT. MANAGER.

The Only Mutual Fire Insurance Company
Licensed by the Dominion Government. Licensed by the Dominion Government.
GOVERNMENT DEPOSIT, - \$59,038.78.
The advantages of the "London Mutual," in a local sense, are that—It is the only Fire Company owning its own property and paying city taxes. That if a fire occurs within a day an adjustment is made by one of the experienced inspectors of the Company and the full indemnity is paid at once without any vexations delay.

A. W. BURWELL, 476 Richmond-st., City Age Agent also for the London and Lancashire Life Co, and the Employes'.

ONTARIO MUTUAL LIFE \$20,000,000

This Company holds its Reserve on the Actuary 4 per cent. Tab.

aerve on the Actuary

IN FORGE

BOBEUT MELVIN, Passibary

O M. Taylor, lat Vice-Pres.
Alfred Hoekin, Q.O., and VicePresident.

Pracident.

W. H. Ribbett.

W. H. Ribbett.

Servatary.

REAL PROPERTY OF STREET, STREE

PROFESSIONAL.

DR. CLAUDE BROWN, DENTIST, HONOR Graduate Toronto University. Graduate Philadelphia Dental College, 189 Dundas st. Phone 1881.

DR. STEVENSON, 391 DUNDAS ST. London. Specialty—anaesthetics. Phone DE. WAUGH, 587 TALBOT ST., LONDON

DR. WOODRUFF, No. 185 Queen's Avenue Defective vision, impaired hearing, name and troublesome throats. Syes test sit. Glasses'adjusted. Hours: 12 to 4. LOVE & DIGNAN, BARRISTERS, ETC. 418 Talbot St., London. Private funde JOHN FERGUSON & SONS,

180 King Street,
The Leading Undertakers and Embalmers
Open Night and Day,
Telephone—House 375: Factory 548.

ree. GE atly nts dil-