

WISHING.

ONE day a lonesome hickory-nut,
At the top of a waving tree,
Remarked, "I'd like to live in a shell,
Like a clam, beneath the sea."

And just at this time a clam observed,
'Way down in a tossing sea,
"I'd love to dwell in a hickory-nut
At the top of a lofty tree."

Thus both of them wished and wished and
wished,
Till they turned green, yellow and blue;
And that, in truth, is just about what
Mere wishing is likely to do.

HAVE YOU DONE YOUR WORK?

THE Lord gave you a work to do; it was needful and important. Have you done it? Of course there were obstacles in the way. The Master knew it when he gave the work, and gave you health and strength to do it, and knowing that you would meet these obstacles, he promised you his grace to help you to surmount them. Have you done this? Have you been frightened from your work by dangers and by foes? Has it been taken out of your hands by officious friends? Has it been assumed by some committee, society, or organization? Have you been content to allow a work which God gave you to do to be wrested from you and absorbed by others who never were called of God to do it, and only took it up when they saw that you were likely to succeed in it?

If you have done this, you may find that you have erred. The Lord has distributed to every man his work. He has given you your work; and if you do it faithfully he will give you your reward, but if you allow others to take from you the work which God intended you to do, you may see your work marred, hindered, and destroyed by men whom God never appointed to do it; and when the great day of reckoning comes, and the Master looks over the wreck and ruin which others have made, he may not say to you, "Well done." Christian worker, see that you do your own work. There may be obstacles, adversaries, doubts, and dangers; but, through God, you may overcome them

all, and stand at last approved in the presence of the Master, and crowned with glory in his kingdom. Oh, worker in the vineyard, see to it that no man take thy work, and that no man take thy crown!

TRUST HIM ANYWAY.

MABEL and Edith were sisters and loved each other—as all sisters should. They were also beloved by all who knew them, for they had learned the secret of true happiness—they had given their hearts to their Saviour, and were trusting in him. One day, as they were looking up some of their favourite texts on prayer, Mabel asked:

"Edith, what would you do if you should call upon Jesus, and he did not answer you?"

"I should keep asking," replied Edith.

"But suppose he never answered you?" said Mabel.

"Then I should trust him anyway."



WHICH IS THE WISER?

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THIS is a difficult question to answer, for we think both these mountain goats in our picture are very wise—a great deal wiser, indeed, than many human beings. The one that has the easier part to play is certainly that which is lying down; for it is no simple job, on so narrow a trunk, to jump across an obstacle of such size. There is a deep ravine beneath them, and if either slips he will go flying through the air and be dashed to pieces. However, we are quite sure that they will get past in safety and reach their destination without any mishap, for these goats are very sure-footed, indeed, and rarely miss their footing at all.

CALL upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver thee.—Psa. 50. 15.

HOW A CAT HELPED A DEAF AND DUMB WOMAN.

THE chill wind was moaning, the rain falling drearily, and day darkening rapidly, when a lady might have been seen walking along quickly. She was thinking of home, with its bright, warm fire, and how soon she should be sheltered from the cold and wet.

Suddenly she stopped, as a feeble cry arrested her footsteps, and looking round she perceived a cat crouched against some steps. The storm was beating on the poor harmless creature, and night coming on.

The lady did not turn away and hurry on, as some selfish people would have done, but pitied and called the poor cat. It looked so forlorn, and gave a frightened glance in her face. Gaining courage from what it saw there, it trusted her, and jumped up, curled its tail over its back, and trotted contentedly after her. The lady went on. When she looked back now and then, there was pussy trotting steadily behind.

Presently the lady knocked at a hall door, and when it was opened they passed into a bright room, and pussy sat down to dry herself before a warm fire, where two other cats, sleek and well fed, kept her company.

Well, our puss, whose name was "Gipsy," very soon was lapping a saucer of warm milk. After that she looked at the fire, and winked her eyes until she fell asleep.

A deaf and dumb woman, named Sarah Darby, was at that time living in this house. Pussy became very fond of Sarah, and liked to sit in her lap, because she was kind to it. Now, Sarah did not think a cat could help her, but she knew that God commands us to be kind to helpless creatures, and he is always pleased when we obey him.

You will wonder how a cat could help any one, so I will tell you. Sometimes Sarah was alone in the house, and when a knock came to the hall-door there was no one to tell her but puss, and puss did so. How? She jumped down off Sarah's lap, and looked up in her face every time a knock came, and waited till the knock was repeated and Sarah opened the door. So this is how the cat helped the deaf and dumb woman.

"PLEASE, GOD, FORGIVE ME."

BERTIE and Susie, two little four-year-old girls, were playing on the grass together, when Susie said something naughty. She immediately looked upward and said, "Please, God, forgive me," "What makes you do that?" asked Bertie.

"When we do wrong," said Susie, "we ought at once to ask the Lord to forgive us."

I am glad Susie learned that lesson when she was a very little girl. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."