

How the Seed.

BY DAVID W. WELCH.

Up, little sower, early rise,
And to the tillage quickly go;
The open field before you lies,
Prepare the precious seed to sow

Oo, children, on a mission go,
Behold the field is long and broad,
Good seed among the wanderers sow,
And lead them to the house of God.

You in a Christian land are blest;
Think of the heathen far away!
There's work to them who idly rest;
Beatir yourselves from day to day.

To heathen lands you cannot go,
But all a helping hand can lend;
Good seed among the heathen sow;
Cast in your mite, the Gospel send.

Go, little sower, sow the seed!
Do not be weary; steady keep;
Be bountiful; in time of need
You'll an abundant harvest reap.

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Pleasant Hours:

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK.

Rev. W. H. WITHROW, D.D., Editor.

TORONTO, MARCH 3, 1838.

FEED ME.

THERE is a beautiful little prayer for young readers in the Bible, in Proverbs xxx: "Feed me with food convenient for me." It is a prayer we should all pray before we open God's word, both young and old! for it is no use merely reading the Bible, unless we are fed by it.

We should die if we had not proper food. If a little baby were left in its cradle, and no one gave it any food, or supplied its wants, it would soon die, some one must feed it, and feed it with convenient food. If you gave a baby a plate of roast beef, it could not eat it—it has no teeth to chew the meat. It wants milk and light food now, and as it grows older it will be glad of the meat.

Now, our souls need to be fed. We are all like tiny children before God; we do not know what food we most need, so we must just ask God himself to feed us.

I hope all the little readers of this

paper read their Bibles every day. And do you not find that sometimes, after reading a whole chapter through, you can hardly make out what it is all about, or what it has to do with you? Well, at such times ask God to feed you with convenient food, ask him to teach you by his Spirit, and then go slowly over the chapter again, and I think you will not fail of finding some precious food, which will nourish you and make you grow a stronger Christian. There is a time coming when we shall hunger no more, but till then the promise is sure. "He shall feed his flock like a shepherd, he shall gather the lambs with his arms."

ALCOHOL.

ALCOHOL comes from the Arabic *al-Koh'l*, the collyrium, the fine powder used to stain the eyelids, from *kahala*, stain, paint. See Ezekiel xxiii. 40. It appeared in English and other modern languages in the sixteenth century. The first use of the word was for the fine powder of the ore of antimony, the trisulphide, which was used for staining the eyelids. Bacon (1626) says: "The Turks have a Black Powder made of a Mineral called Alcohol; which, with a fine long Pencil, they lay under their eyelids." From this origin very fine impalpable powders, especially such as were obtained by sublimation, came to be called alcohols. Sir H. Davy, in 1812, refers to the alcohol of sulphur. This use of the term brought in the seventeenth century the idea of anything distilled, and was particularly applied to the alcohol of wine, and this has become the sole meaning.—*Reformer*.

CHILDREN AT CHURCH.

THE father of eight children, who have attained a mature age and "have families of their own," makes the following communication to a religious paper in regard to their training. They are worthy the consideration of parents who would train their children for Christ and for usefulness in his Church:

"Did you compel your children to go to church against their inclination? No, we did not. They went to church as soon as they were old enough, and that was while they were pretty young. I do not think we ever asked them whether they wished to go, and I don't believe they ever objected to going. They were made ready and went, just as they were made ready and went to school, and just as they were made ready, when old enough, and went to work. There was no need of compelling in these goings, especially in the first. They sat in the same pew with their mother, who was there, not much less than fifty-two times in a year.

"Our children learned the catechism at home, and I think without any reluctance. They went to Sabbath-school in the same way, and did not omit going to church on account of



GILBERT ISLAND WARRIORS.

the Sabbath-school. If they could have attended only one, I suppose it would have been the preaching and other services in the church. They went to the prayer-meetings in the same way. I don't suppose it occurred to them that they should be asked whether they wished to go. They certainly went with alacrity. They all attended the services preparatory to the Lord's Supper while they were young, and all of them—eight—became communicants at an early age. There was never any reluctance in their observance of those services, nor any need of special insisting upon them. It was understood that this is God's method of grace."

MISSIONS.

THE Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States opened its last financial year with the cry "A million for missions." The year's work has been summed up, and the result is \$1,044,795.91, of which \$932,208.91 was raised by collections only. This is glorious work.

Tidings come from distant Singapore of the baptism of the first Malay convert, a woman who has had a remarkable career. When a child she was taken prisoner, with her father, by cannibals. The father was killed and eaten, but the daughter was rescued by a trader. She is spoken of as "devout, child-like and truly converted."

Eighty years ago the Directors of the East India Company placed on solemn record:—"The sending of Christian missionaries into our Eastern possessions is the maddest, most expensive, most unwarranted project that was ever proposed by a lunatic enthusiast." A few months since, Sir Rivers Thompson, Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, said:—"In my judgment, Christian missionaries have done more real and lasting good to the people of India than all other agencies combined."

Six native Christians living on the banks of the Euphrates, whose property averaged about \$800, gave towards their chapel and school-room \$308—an average of more than \$50

each. "This contribution," says the missionary, "means for one of those poor mountaineers more than 1,000 days' work!" In 1881, the 1,200 Church members belonging to the missions of the U. P. Church in Egypt—most of them very poor men and women—raised £4,546, or more than \$17 each, for the support of churches and schools. But Christians in rich America give only 50 cents each to missions!

GILBERT ISLAND WARRIORS.

FORMERLY, the natives of the Gilbert Islands, in the Pacific, had no guns, but fought with curious clubs and spears; and even now they like to take their old weapons into battle with them, to use when their powder is gone. Some of the spears are armed with sharks' teeth, and are almost twenty feet long. To protect themselves they have a kind of armour, made of coconut fibre-cord. A part of this resembles a great-coat; and it comes up behind their heads, to shield them from behind, or when they run. They also make coverings for their legs, arms, and head, of the same material, and still another covering for the head, of the skin of the porcupine-fish. The picture is quite life-like. Through the recent labours of Missionaries from the United States and native Christians from other groups, most of the Gilbert Islands have been, to a great extent, Christianized. These islands were formerly very treacherous and ferocious; but a most pleasing change has taken place in the disposition and habits of very many of them.

A SHORT STORY.

DR. GUTHRIE once told the following story: "One of our boys, a very little fellow, but uncommonly smart, entered the lists and carried off a prize against the whole of England and Scotland by his answer to the question: 'Can you give the history of the Apostle Paul in thirty words?' His answer was, 'Paul was born at Tarsus and brought up at Jerusalem; he continued a persecutor until his conversion; after which he became a follower of Christ, for whose sake he died.'"