

THE SUNBEAM

ENLARGED SERIES.—VOL. IX.]

TORONTO, NOVEMBER 17, 1888.

[No. 21.

FINDING THE KEY.

WHEN Mary Simms was in the country last summer she became acquainted with a little boy who lived next door. He was slow to learn and rather lazy, and so no one had taken pains with him, and he had never learned to read. Mary, who could read very well, wondered that a boy as old as he did not know his letters, and she made up her mind to teach him.

It took a good deal of patience for Mary to do this, but she had been taught by her mamma to try and be useful. "Do all the good you can," mamma would often say, "in all the ways you can, to all the people you can, for Jesus' sake."

So Mary, without saying a word to any one about it, undertook to teach Lawrence to read. When Lawrence didn't feel like studying his lesson, Mary would coax him with a story. This was one of the stories she told him:

"Once there was a great king who had two nice little boys. One day their father said to them, 'I have a large chest full of the most beautiful and precious things, and you may open it and have all the treasures



OUR BABY

in it if you will find the key. You must look two hours for it every day.' Eric was a good boy and did as his father wished, but Otho was a lazy boy and would not try.

By and by Eric found the key, and then what treasures he had! Otho was angry when he saw his brother's good times, and sulked because he could not have them too; for, you see, he couldn't even get a look into the chest, because he hadn't found the key."

"He was foolish, wasn't he?" said Lawrence.

"Just as foolish as you will be if you don't learn your letters," said Mary. "This A B C is the key that will open all the beautiful books in the world, so that you can enjoy the treasures in them and call them your own."

"Oh, I will try, I will," said Lawrence. He began to study with all his might, and before Mary went home he could read in words of three letters quite well.

LOVE WARMS THE BODY.

"Are you cold?" asked a teacher one raw winter day of a little girl who had walked a long distance to school.

"I was, ma'am, till you smiled," was the reply.

Love is an invaluable remedy in the teacher's work. It will thaw out the heart as well as the body. Try it with your Sunday-school class.