

### Children's Department.

#### THE BRIDGE TO HEAVEN.

A little maiden often watch'd  
The rainbow in the sky,  
And thought the arch must surely be  
A path to Heaven on high ;  
And much she wished to cross the bridge  
And reach those realms of light,  
Which mother said were ever fill'd  
With Angel- robed in white.

The home in which the maiden dwelt  
Was 'neath a cliff's tall crest,  
And on a ledge far up above  
The rainbow seemed to rest.  
"Ah ! if," the little maiden thought,  
"I could but climb up there,  
It would be easy then to cross  
The only bridge that hangs in air."

At early morn she started forth,  
The lovely summer's day,  
And up the cliff's steep rugged face  
She bravely made her way.  
Till step by step she neared the spot  
She wished so much to gain.  
A few more struggles, and the child  
Would then her wish obtain !

But one false step—a slip—a fall !  
A cry in air is giv'n ;  
The child has crossed the only bridge  
That leads from earth to heaven.

#### WHAT THE FLOWERS MEAN.

In all ages, and among almost every people, flowers have been adopted as symbols, types and emblems of human affections, loyalty or truth. The readers of CHURCH WORK need scarcely be reminded of the red and the white roses which were the badges of the Lancastrian and Yorkist rivals to the English throne.

But the symbolism of flowers dates back to periods far older than the war of the Roses. Ancient nations had the emblematic flowers. The special flower of the Hindoos, for

instance, has always been the marigold. The Chinese display as their national flower the gorgeous chrysanthemum. And only the other day the flower selected for the United States was, we believe, the golden rod.

The Assyrians for ages wore proudly the water lily. Egyptians delight most of all in the heliotrope ; though the papyrus leaf, used by the ancient Egyptians in place of paper, may also be regarded as to some extent the symbolic plant of the Nile. The Greeks and Romans were in the habit of distributing flowers in their luxurious gardens among their gods and demi-gods ; just as in yet remoter times the sweet basil and the moonflower were sacred to Asiatic deities.

According to Roman customs, to Juno was devoted the lily, to Venus the myrtle and the rose, to Minerva the olive and the violet. Diana had the dillbany, Ceres the poppy, Mars the ash, Bacchus the grape leaf, Hercules the poplar, and Jupiter, naturally the monarch of trees, the oak. So we may infer that among the Romans, according to this, the lily and the oak were the emblems of power ; the myrtle and the rose of love ; the olive and the violet of learning ; the ash of war, and the grape leaf of festivity.

Even the days of the weeks as we use them now, are named from the deities, who had each his special flower. The sun (Sunday) the sunflower ; the moon (Monday) the daisy ; Tuesday (the god Teu's day) the violet ; Wednesday (the god Woden's day) the blue monkshood ; Thursday (the god Thor's day) the burdock ; Friday (the goddess Freia's day) the orchis ; Saturday (the god Saturn's day) the horsetail.