

## Our Young Folks.

## A CRADLE SONG.

Oh, little child, lie still and sleep !  
Jesus is near, thou needst not fear ;  
No one need fear whom God doth keep  
By day or night—  
Then lay thee down in slumber deep  
Till morning light.

Oh, little child, be still and rest ;  
He sweetly sleeps whom Jesus keeps ;  
And in the morning wakes so blest  
His child to be.  
Love every one, but love Him best—  
He first loved thee.

Oh, little child, when thou must die,  
Fear nothing then ; but say " Amen "   
To God's demand, and quiet lie  
In His kind hand,  
Until He say : " Dear child, come fly  
To heaven's bright land."

Then when thy work on earth is done  
Thou shalt ascend to meet thy Friend ;  
Jesus, the little child will own  
Safe at His side ;  
And thou shalt dwell before the throne,  
For He hath died.

—Home Songs of Sweden.

## A GOOD REFERENCE.

John was fifteen, and very anxious to get a desirable place in the office of a well-known lawyer, who had advertised for a boy, but doubted his success, because, being a stranger in the city, he had no references to present.

"I'm afraid I'll stand a poor chance," he thought, despondently, "however, I'll try and appear as well as I can, for that may help me a little."

So he was careful to have his dress and person neat, and when he took his turn to be interviewed, went in with his hat in his hand and a smile on his face.

The keen-eyed lawyer glanced him over from head to foot. "Good face," he thought, "and pleasant ways."

Then he noted the neat suit—but other boys had appeared in new clothes—saw the well-brushed hair and clean-looking skin. Very well, but there had been others here quite as cleanly ; another glance, however, showed the finger-nails free from soil.

"Ah ! that looks like thoroughness," thought the lawyer. Then he asked a few direct, rapid questions, which John answered as directly.

"Prompt," was his mental comment ; "can speak up when necessary. Let's see your writing," he added, aloud.

John took the pen and wrote his name.

"Very well, easy to read and no flourishes. Now, what references have you ?"

The dreaded question at last !

John's face fell. He had begun to feel some hope of success, but this dashed it again.

"I haven't any," he said, slowly, "I'm almost a stranger in the city."

"Can't take a boy without references," was the brusque rejoinder, and as he spoke a sudden thought sent a flush to John's cheek.

"I haven't any references," he said, with hesitation, "but here's a letter from mother I just received. I wish you would read it."

The lawyer took it. It was a short letter :—

MY DEAR JOHN,—I want to remind you that wherever you find work you must consider that work your own. Don't go into it, as some boys do, with the feeling that you will do as little as you can, and get something better soon ; but make up your mind you will do as much as possible, and make yourself so necessary to your employer that he will never let you go !

You have been a good son to me, and I can truly say I have never known you to shirk. Be as good in business, and I am sure God will bless your efforts.

"H'm !" said the lawyer, reading it over the second time. "That's pretty good advice, John—excellent advice ! I rather think I'll try you even without the references."

John has been with him five years, and last spring was admitted to the bar.

"Do you intend taking that young man into partnership ?" asked a friend lately.

"Yes, I do. I couldn't get along without John ; he is my right-hand man !" exclaimed the employer heartily.

And John always says the best reference he ever had was a mother's good advice and honest praise.

## ONLY ONE FIGURE WRONG.

When the daily recitations in Arithmetic were about to close, the teacher always gave a test problem to see how well the class remembered past lessons. One evening, of the fifteen boys in the class Martin White was the only one who had an incorrect answer.

"I don't see any need of being so particular," said Martin, sullenly, as he looked at the one marked figure. "I'll lose my place in a game of ball just because one figure was wrong."

The teacher talked to him very kindly about how careless he had been lately in preparing his lessons, and now he was harming himself by allowing such a bad habit to grow. He

corrected his mistake and walked away with angry thoughts towards the patient teacher.

"I'm not a man yet," he thought. "When I am I will be more careful in my accounts than I am with these silly little sums."

The boys were having a fine game of ball, but there was no room for him ; and it was not often his mother gave him permission for a game after school. It was no pleasure to stand and watch them, and be teased for having been "kept" after school ; so he soon hurried home, growing angrier every moment, and rushed into his mother's room, exclaiming : "That hateful teacher kept me just because one figure was wrong on my slate."

Then, surprised at his mother's pale face, he paused as she motioned to him to sit down on the sofa by her.

"You must not speak so of your teacher," she said. "Your hasty words, 'one figure wrong,' bring up afresh to-day's trouble. I had not meant to tell you, for I would shield you from every unnecessary sorrow. You know how much you love your Uncle Jamie. To-day—"

"What is it, mother ? Has something happened to him ?" asked Martin, as his mother's tears fell on the hand in hers. He has lost his employer thousands of dollars by careless book-keeping, and lies in gaol until his father can make things right. He has been arrested for robbery, for such it appears to be to those who have trusted him. But his dispatch to me was : 'Sister, it is only one of my careless mistakes in changing bills. I will work till every dollar is restored, if you can help me out of gaol.' I used to talk to him about his lessons, and he would only say thoughtlessly, 'Only one figure wrong.' Please let me never hear it again from my boy's lips. As the boy in the schoolroom, so will the man be in business."

"I'll try to do better, mother, indeed I will," was the earnest reply. And he meant what he said, for his teacher was surprised at the accurate and careful way in which he prepared his lessons. Instead of "only one figure wrong," he took for his watchword, "Every figure must be right."

## BROTHERLY JACK.

Good boys, real kind hearted fellows, are not all confined to the story books, and Jack Hershaw is one of them. Jack is one of the sort that are too big to be little boys, and not quite old enough to be young men, at the uninteresting age, as some would say, though a man who says a boy is uninteresting at any age, ought to be subject to a fine or imprisonment.

One day last week Jack went out into the country some ten or twelve miles with Mr. Cooper, one of the city engineers, and after a hard day's work he sat down and wrote a letter to his little sister. The letter finished he was about to set off to the post office three miles away, when Mr. Cooper asked him where was he going.

"To the post office. I am sending a letter to my little sister," said Jack.

"But we expect to go home to-morrow night, Jack, and the post office is three miles away," said Mr. Cooper.

"But my little sister never got a letter her own self, and she will be so pleased," said Jack.

And Mr. Cooper did not discourage him any further. So off Jack went, three miles there, and three miles back again. And if he was tired when he returned, he was paid a thousand times for his trouble next evening on reaching home—receiving as he did kisses and hugs by the score from the little sister, and no end of approving glances from his mother who had so much reason to be proud of him.

## MAKE FRIENDS AT HOME.

Many boys and girls and boys are very anxious to make friends among strangers, while no pains are taken to make friends of those at home. Father, mother, brothers, and sisters, all seem to be beyond the pale of friendship. They may be slighted and insulted with impunity ; no courtesy or respect is paid them ; they are expected to make up at a moment's notice, no apology of any kind being offered or thought of. Brothers and sisters have become life-long enemies from small beginnings. Bitter quarrels have resulted from unpremeditated, but nevertheless cruel, injustice. Relatives imagine themselves privileged to criticize as no stranger would dare to do. Now this is all wrong. Brothers and sisters should speak words of praise and encouragement. Leave others to do the disagreeable—it will be done, never fear. Be as courteous at home as you are abroad. Respect your home and family as you wish to be respected. Don't save all your smiles for strangers and all your frowns for home. Love your brothers and your sisters, remembering that love begets love ; you will never regret the kindness you have shown, while your thoughtfulness and indifference to your own may reap a bitter harvest. Life would be smoother in many a home if everybody would endeavour to understand his or her neighbour in the home, and if everybody were taken at the best, and not at the worst, valuation.

ECONOMY : "100 Doses, One Dollar."  
Merit : "Peculiar to Itself."  
Purity : Hood's Sarsaparilla.

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## Sabbath School Teacher.

## INTERNATIONAL LESSONS.

Aug. 23,  
1891.

## CHRIST THE BREAD OF LIFE.

{ John 6 :  
26-40.

GOLDEN TEXT.—Lord, evermore give us this bread.—John vi. 34.

## INTRODUCTORY.

After feeding a great multitude in a miraculous manner the people were desirous by force of making Jesus a king. He told the disciples to take to their boat and cross the lake again to Capernaum. He Himself went up into a mountain and spent the greater part of the night in communion with His Father. He who came to earth to do His Father's will spent much of His time in solitary prayer. In this as in all other respects he has left us an example that we should follow in His steps. Meanwhile one of those sudden tempests, common on the Lake of Galilee, burst upon the anxious disciples. In the fourth watch of the night, the early dawn, Jesus came to them, walking on the water. At His approach they were at first terrified, but were reassured, and He went on board and they speedily reached Capernaum. The people who had been fed on the other side of the lake followed after, and to them the words of the present lesson were primarily addressed.

I. The Soul's Hunger.—The people were attracted to Christ by the miracles He wrought. The full meaning of these they did not understand. They saw the results of the miracles, the diseased made whole, the hungry fed, but they did not perceive the spiritual meaning of the miracles. "Ye seek Me not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves and were filled." This was His answer to the question they put as to how He had reached Capernaum. He desires to raise their thoughts to higher and more spiritual things, preparing them for what He is about to tell them. Then He shows them that life has higher ends than merely labouring to secure the supply of our bodily wants. "Labour not for the meat that perisheth." How many there are whose whole energies are exclusively directed to no higher end than this. The true aim ought to be to obtain the bread that maintains the life of the soul. The living bread is contrasted with the daily food for the body. That perishes ; this endures to everlasting life. For this bread we are to labour, to seek earnestly, and yet it is Christ's own free gift to us, "which the Son of Man shall give unto you." He gives an assurance that He will do this "for Him hath God the Father sealed." God had borne direct testimony of His approval of the mission of the Son. The people's attention and interest are now aroused, and they ask what they are to do to secure the satisfaction of the soul's wants. To this He answers that the essential work is to believe on Him whom God has sent. Faith is the means of salvation. They ask Him for proofs of His claims to be the Messiah. What they had already seen had not convinced them. They instance the case of Moses who gave their fathers manna from heaven while they sojourned in the wilderness. This they held to be a proof that Moses had been divinely commissioned. In the fewest possible words Jesus explains to them that the manna was not the gift of Moses, but the gift of God, and that God is the giver of the bread of life. Now their longings are aroused, and they say, "Lord, evermore give us this bread."

II. Jesus the Bread of Life.—Christ's death, His teaching and example, and the Holy Spirit's sanctifying power are fitted to satisfy the deepest wants of the soul, therefore, He says with emphasis "I am the bread of life." He adds, "he that cometh to Me shall never hunger, and he that believeth on Me shall never thirst." Coming to Jesus and believing on Him mean the same thing ; they present a two-fold aspect of faith. Coming to Christ means the acceptance of Him as the Saviour ; believing on Him implies the confident resting of the soul on Him for all the blessings of salvation. In Him henceforth all the wants of the soul are satisfied. There is such a thing as seeing Christ and yet not believing on Him. Some of those listening to His words were in that condition and He tells them that such is the case. Then in few words He states the mystery of redemption. All who are saved are given by the Father to the Son ; all who come to the Son receive a cordial welcome and a permanent place in His kingdom. "Him that cometh unto Me, I will in no wise cast out." This declaration is if possible still further strengthened by what immediately follows. "For I came down from heaven not to do Mine own will, but the will of Him that sent Me." It was for the express purpose of saving sinners that Jesus came to this world and this was the will of the Father in sending Him. It is the unalterable will of God that none given to Christ shall be lost. The lesson closes with a repetition of the statement that it is the Father's will that "Everyone which seeth the Son and believeth on Him may have everlasting life." Seeing Christ means the soul perceiving Him as the real and only Saviour, and believing on Him necessarily follows. When the soul is awakened to a sense of its need and sees in Christ the Divine Redeemer, then it rests trustfully on Him alone for salvation. The result of saving faith is immediate—everlasting life is a present possession. The soul enters on everlasting life. The body dies and is laid in the grave, but Christ declares "I will raise him up at the last day" when everlasting life in all the fulness of its meaning will be completely revealed. Though some of those who had seen Christ's miracles and had listened to His teaching did not believe on Him, and though many who are now within the sound of His Gospel refuse or neglect to accept Him as their Saviour, He nevertheless gives the most positive assurances that all who do believe His message shall be accepted of Him. All who come to Christ in His own appointed way are assured of a cordial welcome. "Him that cometh unto Me I will in no wise cast out" is surely sufficient to encourage the most timid. There is a place for them in His love, in His guidance and protection through life, in death, and an eternal home with Him in His glory. This purpose of Jesus to save all who come unto Him is based upon the immutable will of the Father. The will of the Father and the will of the Son in the work of redemption are in perfect harmony. God's will and power to save have been made manifest by Jesus Christ, and we have the assurance that "He is able to save unto the uttermost all that come unto God through Him." Then the full blessings of salvation are guaranteed. There is the immediate entrance upon everlasting life. The soul passes from death to life. He came that we might have life, and that we might have it more abundantly. There is the pledge that at the resurrection Christ, who is the Resurrection and the Life, will raise every one who believes in Him to glory, honour, immortality, eternal life.

## PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

God gives us our daily bread ; He has also provided for our souls the imperishable bread.

We need daily supplies of the Bread of Life if our souls are to be in health and prosperity.

It is by faith alone that we can partake of the Bread of Life.

The Bread of Life imparts to the soul life everlasting.