

Little hands will soon be strong  
For the work that they must do ;  
Little lips will sing their song  
When these early days are through.  
So, you big boys, if we're small,  
On our toes you needn't dance ;  
There is room enough for all—  
Give the little boys a chance.

—Selected.

### THE KIND PIER MASTER.

**H**AD occasion lately to go a short distance by one of the steamboats on business. On coming back to the pier in the river, with the view of returning home, I had to await a short time for the steamboat to arrive, and I noticed a number of sparrows hopping about the pier or perched on the chains which hang around it, in a very fearless way, quite contrary to their usual habit. I was not long, however, in finding out the cause of this, for I saw at one end of the pier a small wooden trough containing bird seed, and the old pier master had a piece of bread in his hand which he broke up and threw to the sparrows, a piece at a time, which was quickly carried away by one of them.

I entered into conversation with the old man, and he told me, amongst other things, that he knew the sparrows from each other, but that now and then he missed one of them, which he feared was caused by wicked boys throwing stones at his pets, and thus injuring or killing them.

I said to him that the sparrows seemed to know him ; to which he replied—" Yes ; they know the hand that feeds them ; a lesson which " (he went on to say) " we too often forget ! " And the good pier master was right ; as we do, indeed too often forget our heavenly Father, who sends the rain and sunshine to cause the wheat and other food to grow and ripen for our use and enjoyment.

The old pier master feeding the sparrows should lead us to think of God, who really feeds us all ; and not only to think of Him, but also to return thanks to God for His goodness and mercy in providing for our bodily wants, and especially for sending Jesus Christ, His dear Son, to die that we might have everlasting life. Let us also imitate the good pier master by being kind to all dumb creatures, for cruelty to even the smallest animal is a thing which is displeasing to God, who is love.