

Young People's Department.

CALENDAR.

- March 6 - 2nd Sunday in LENT.
 " 13 - 3rd Sunday in LENT.
 " 20 - 4th Sunday in LENT.
 " 25 - ANNUNCIATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY.
 " 27 - 5th Sunday in LENT.
 April 3 - Sunday next before EASTER.
 HOLY WEEK.
 " 8 - GOOD FRIDAY.
 " 9 - EASTER EVE.

THE MESSAGE DICKIE CARRIED.

BY MRS. GEORGE A. PAUL.

DICKIE was indeed the dearest little pet that any one could have, and many a happy hour Carrie Manning spent in playing with her little feathered playfellow. He was a very young bird when he was first given to her, so he soon learned to know his little mistress and love her dearly. Carrie would leave his cage door open and he would fly to her shoulder, and nestle there while he sang his sweetest songs to her, and she would put his favorite hempseed between her lips and let him eat it from that hiding place.

Carrie had neither brothers nor sisters, but she was never lonely when she could play with Dickie.

One of Carrie's little playmates was almost as fond of Dickie as Carrie herself, and she often used to beg Carrie to lend Dickie to her for a few days, so that she might pretend that he was her "really own" bird, but Carrie was never willing to do this.

"I couldn't lend you my own darling birdie, could I?" she asked, as she held her little pet close up to her and stroked his bright yellow feathers, and Dickie turned his mischievous little black eyes up to her face, as if he quite agreed with her, that they could not be parted. One day when Carrie expected her little friend to come and pass the day with her, she waited in vain for her to make her appearance, and late in the afternoon word came that as Nellie was about to run down the high brown stone steps in front of her home, on her way to Carrie's house, she had slipped and fallen, and had broken her ankle bone very badly.

The weeks that followed seemed very long ones to the little girl, who had never known before what it was to be shut up in the house, and sometimes it seemed as if the confinement was almost as bad as the pain. Carrie came very often to see her, but she had her school work; there were many hours in every day that she could not possibly spend with her little friend, and Nellie sighed over her loneliness, and wished that she had some little playfellow who could stay with her all the time.

"I wish you would lend me Dickie just while I am sick," she said one day to Carrie, as the little girl was bidding her good-by.

"Oh, I couldn't, possibly," Carrie replied, hastily. "Why, I should miss him so dreadfully that I wouldn't know what to do with myself, and anyhow I think Dickie would miss me, too, and it might make him sick to pine for me."

"I wish you would try anyway," Nellie pleaded, but Carrie only repeated her refusal, and ran quickly homeward, thinking to herself that there was no one in all the world to whom she could possibly spare her little feathered pet for even a whole day.

When she reached home she went up into her own room and lifting the cage down from its hook, opened the door, and let Dickie fly out. The little bird flew to her shoulder, and nestled there as lovingly as ever, while he sang a sweet tune to show his love for her.

Carrie was very thoughtful as she stood stroking the soft feathers. She was thinking about her little sick friend, and her wish that Dickie might come and be company for her. If she were in Nellie's place, how glad she would be if her little friend would be willing to deny herself some pleasure, when it would so lighten the long hours in the sick room. Could she do it?

At first it seemed as impossible as ever, but the text she had chosen only the week before, for her birthday text, came into her mind, and she could not banish it.

"Even Christ pleased not Himself."

Had she not made up her mind on her birthday that this new year should see her following in the footsteps of Him who pleased not Himself? Had she not determined that, for His dear sake, she would give up her own wishes and try to make others happy?

Still how could she lend her little bird when she loved him so dearly? To be sure she