

OUR YOUNG FOLKS.

THE PALM TREE.

"I'M sure of it."

"Sure of what, Clara?"

"That this is the warmest day one ever felt; the only cool place is the parlor."

"Let's go there till tea-time."

"There! don't ask me to leave this dark corner till sundown. I am glad there are such things as palm trees; no other kind of fan would be of account to-day. Let's have some sensible talk; we won't feel the heat so much."

"But talk about something cool—trees, for instance. What do you know about palm trees, Ella?"

"Not much, though I was born in South America."

"Just imagine the poor tired Israelites coming in sight of that beautiful Elim with twelve wells of water and seventy palm trees! Don't you believe a shout went up? Jericho, too, always had a pleasant sound—even if the man did fall among thieves going to it—because it was called the city of palm trees."

"And Tadmor in the wilderness, the gorgeous Palmyra."

"Yes; only there was so much else in that splendid city one doesn't give much thought to its palm trees."

"If Harry were here he would say, 'Tall, straight, slender as a palm tree!' No branches, only a beautiful crown of large leaves. Would you believe it, Clara? I have seen some palm leaves thirty feet long and from four to five broad. They don't fall off easily, like the leaves of other trees. When we were in India we saw them spread over the houses for roofs."

"I should feel satisfied if they were good only for fans on such days," said Clara, laughing.

"But it's a real treat to lie on the sofa and hear you talking about palm trees."

"I never see young Mr. Reynolds going down the street with that pretty little cane without wondering if he thinks how it may have been a piece of some slender palm (for the rattan is a species of palm) shooting up into the air a hundred feet or creeping in the forest for two or three hundred feet, on the island of Ceylon or at the foot of the Himalaya Mountains. Uncle has often seen them twisting the strips of the rattan palm into ropes to bind wild elephants. The vessel in which he left Java had its cable of the same material. They even make bridges from these palms."

"While, for breakfast, perhaps, they'll have a cup of cocoa."

"For which we are indebted to another part of the palm tree."

"And to another species of the palm, Ella."

"Yes, and then, too, dates are the fruit of one kind of palm, and cocoanuts of another kind. Palm oil is made from the fruit of a palm that grows in Liberia, and sago from the pith of a palm of Asia. Strong matting is made from palm-bark, and so are ropes and twine."

"It's like trying to feel at home in a labyrinth to think clearly of the different kinds of palm."

"Imagine yourself trying to count the uses

of the palm! The Arabs boast of more than eight hundred ways in which they are helped by it. They sing about it, of course."

"So does Solomon; it is his symbol for stately beauty. And David's symbol for prosperity; you know he says, 'The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree.'"

"Solomon must have had a fancy for it. Don't you remember how he had pictures of the palm put in the temple, all over the walls of the most holy place?"

"Girls, what are you talking about in the dark?" asked Charlie, groping his way into the parlor. "I heard enough to make one think of some conundrums, but I won't tell them yet."

"Who would like to see a letter written with an iron style on a palm-leaf?" asked a laughing voice from a far corner of the dark parlor.

"Why, uncle, are you here, too?" asked the girls.

"Yes; away from the heat and the flies; in India, too, one might fancy, from the talk. Don't let me forget to show you the letter after tea. In some parts of the East it is quite usual to write on the palm-leaf. But, Clara, you know something better still to think of on a warm day. In South America they take strips of parts of the unopened leaves and make into threads, and out of this thread they make hammocks. Just think of swinging in a hammock, under the shade of a banyan tree, on such a day as this! I've done it often."

"Everybody in the family has travelled except me," said Clara, with a little sigh. "If anything remarkable is spoken of, aunts, uncles, cousins, all say, 'Yes, we saw it'—in India or China or Europe."

"Uncle, your style and letter make me think of coins," said Charlie.

"Coins and conundrums," said Ella, laughing. "Have you a fancy for anything else, my dear Charlie?"

"But this is all about the same thing," said Charlie, earnestly. "Don't you know that after the Romans took Jerusalem they had medals struck off, on which was a weeping woman seated under a palm tree? The medal bore this inscription: 'Iudea Capta' ('Captive Judea'). So the palm stands for sad things."

"And glad things too. Those who won in the games of Greece and Rome carried palm branches. When the people went out to meet Jesus, on that triumphal ride into Jerusalem, they cut down palm branches and strewed them in the way. Then, too, don't you remember about the beautiful vision in Revelation where John saw the multitude, whom no man could number, before the throne, clothed in white, with palms in their hands?"

"Yes, indeed; our poor little Lou used to love that verse. She would say, 'Never mind, sister! The pain hurts me very much here, but up there it will all be gone.'"

"Yes; in the glad Hereafter, when sin and sorrow will be no more and God shall have wiped away all tears from our eyes."—*Exchange*.

THE STARS.

"HE telleth the number of the stars, He calleth them by their names," says the Psalmist, illustrating the power and greatness of Jehovah. The significance of the illustration is more apparent to us than it was

to the Psalmist. For we live in the days when astronomy has opened up a vista more vast than greeted his eyes.

According to Argelander, there are visible to the unassisted eye, on the horizon of Berlin, during the course of the year, 3,256 stars. According to Humboldt, there are 4,146 visible on the horizon of Paris. The mean number which can be observed in every part of the heavens, visible at the same time and place, is said to be about 3,000. As only half of the heavens can be seen at the same time by the same person, the sum total for both hemispheres must be at least double these figures. The British Association catalogue gives 5,900.

According to the calculations of Struve, the total number of stars visible in the entire heavens, by the aid of Sir William Herschel's twenty-foot reflector, is more than 20,000,000. Herschel estimates those in the milky way alone at least at 18,000,000. M. Chacomac thinks 77,000,000 not too much for the grand aggregate.

If we could add to these that infinite host which neither eye nor lens can catch the faintest glimpse of, the mind would be overwhelmed by the vastness of that illimitable creation of which we sometimes fancy ourselves the most important feature.

The distance of the stars is as impressive as their number.

Alphi Centauri is the nearest, if we can speak of nearness in connection with 19,000,000,000 miles. The light of that star, travelling at the rate of 185,000 miles a second, is three years coming to the earth. Twenty-two years are required for the light of Sirius to accomplish the same journey; and the Polar star, the most useful and best known of all, flings its radiance down to us, fifty years old.

Each of these sparks gemming the brow of night is a sun, and in all probability the centre of a system resembling our own. Each of them is a source of light and heat to worlds which no earthly vision can ever touch.—*Youth's Companion*.

A LITTLE girl, of three or four years old, learned the Bible text, "Love one another."

"What does 'love one another' mean?" asked her older sister, in honest doubt as to the meaning.

"Why, I must love you, and you must love me; and I'm *one*, and you're *another*," was the answer.

Who can improve on that exegesis?

"CHARLIE," said I to a little fellow of eight years, who was fast sinking into the grave, "are you not afraid to die when you know that death is at the door?"

"O no!" was the reply, "I am glad to depart and be with Christ, which is far better."

"But how do you know that you are going to be with Christ?"

"Because," was the immediate reply, "I have sought Christ, and found Him; and He says, 'Him that cometh unto Me I will in no wise cast out.'"

A BEAUTIFUL answer was given by a little Scotch girl. When her class was examined she replied to the question:

"What is patience?"

"Wait a wee, and dinna weary."