

Childrens' Department.

THE BIRD OF PARADISE.

Paradise means the best and most beautiful land. The garden of Eden where Adam and Eve lived was called Paradise, and the name is sometimes given to heaven. It means a place of great beauty and delight. These birds of paradise live in the warm climates where flowers and fruits are always growing and make the whole land seem like a beautiful garden—like a paradise. The birds themselves are so beautiful that the natives once called them the birds of the gods, which afterwards became changed to birds of paradise.

They are as beautiful as the little humming-bird, only much larger. Almost every color is seen in their feathers, bright green, violet, gold, purple, red, bluish black, and white.

Their tail feathers are very long, and they cannot fly as well as other birds; if they try to go against the wind they fall to the ground and cannot get up again very easily. In this way great numbers are caught.

They are sold for a great deal of money. The whole bird is used as an ornament for the head of the prince and princesses of India, and the feathers are very much liked for ladies' bonnets in this country.

There are several kinds of paradise-birds. Some live on rice and seeds, and some on flies and insects.

They are not famous for song. They have a sharp loud cry something like the crow. Do you notice that birds with the most beautiful plumage are not usually fine singers; while the little birds, as the lark and nightingale and thrush, that charm us with their melody, are dressed very plainly? It shows us that God does not give all His gifts to any one. We must be satisfied with our own and not discontented and envious of our neighbors.

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"LOVE ONE ANOTHER."

"Go away, Daisy," cried Walter crossly; "you'll spoil all our play," and the boy of seven raised his hand to push the golden-haired little sister of three.

"Please don't," said Susie; "Why can't we play steam-cars instead, and have Daisy for a passenger? See, Walter, this old rocking-chair will make a splendid passenger-car; it's all cushioned," and Susie put the little sister in; and Walter, now that a new play was started, very willingly joined in.

After a while Walter tired of steam-cars and Daisy cried to keep on, but dear little Susie said:

"Now we'll go to London and play that Daisy is maid of honour to the queen. She must have on this velvet sacque and the wolf-skin robe to

cover her feet, and you, Walter, must be an out-rider. Here, take father's cane for a horse."

So in fine style they pranced away, singing merrily, "God save the queen."

Aunt Martha sat by making a dress for the baby. She quietly watched the children's play, and then looking up at her sister, Susie's mother, said, "Blessed are the peacemakers."

"That's just what Susie is, said mamma. "It is always just the same. She never seems to think of herself, but only of making her brother and sister happy. I do not know what I should do without Susie; she is a precious child, worth her weight in gold."

"What a beautiful world this would be," said Aunt Martha, "if it was so with all of us! Quarrels and strife make a great deal of sorrow in the world. We are always wanting to have our own way and don't find it easy to give up to others. Now I know if Susie had had her choice this afternoon she would have read the nice book I brought her, yet she has spent the whole time in playing with the children and trying to make them happy. She's a dear child."

Just a few days, and Daisy was with the angels. Do you think Susie was sorry she had tried to make her baby sister happy?

"Little children, love one another."

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POMEGRANATES.

The word pomegranate means a grained apple. The fruit looks something like an apple, but has a hard rind, brownish-red in color. This hard skin holds a quantity of fine juice, the taste of which is both sweet and sour, and is very cooling and refreshing. The fruit grows very plentifully in the land of Palestine and was as much prized as its figs and grapes.

The tree is not very high, is full of thorns, but has handsome bright green leaves and bears beautiful scarlet blossoms.

It was so pretty in shape that it was often made in imitation as an ornament. The skirt of the high priest's robe was trimmed with golden bells and pomegranates and carvings of the pomegranate adorned the pillars in Solomon's temple. The fruit is full of white seeds and a bright red, juicy pulp.

CONFIRMATION.

Some of our boys and girls are now looking forward to confirmation; perhaps have already pronounced the solemn words "I do," in answer to the question of the Bishop, "Do ye here, in the presence of God, and of this congregation, renew the solemn promise and vow that ye made, or that was made in your name, at your baptism; ratifying and confirming the same; and acknowledging yourselves

bound to believe and do all those things which ye then undertook, or your Sponsors then undertook for you?"

It was a very large promise, and they were very great things that were then promised for you, as you will see by referring to the Baptismal Service; such a large promise and such great things as were far above your power and the power of your parents to keep. They were promised *by faith*; that is, on a strong belief that all the power of God would be at your disposal to help you keep them, and that His promises of help and grace, "He, for His part, would most surely keep and perform."

Now we are so anxious that all the boys and girls to whom we talk from month to month, and who are thinking of taking this solemn step, should realize and understand fully what they are about to do, that we want to warn them just here of a serious danger. It is this: older people are sometimes apt to tell young people who wish to be confirmed, that the words in the Baptismal Service, "I renounce the devil and all his works, the vain pomp and glory of the world, with all covetous desires of the same, and the sinful desires of the flesh, so that I will not follow nor be led by them," "do not mean quite what they seem to mean; that, of course, it could never be expected that young persons should really do all this—should really live up to these words in their strict sense," and so they soften them down and take from their meaning, until those who are about to promise them hardly know what they are to promise.

Now we want to have our young friends understand that these words mean just what they say, and that if they intend to take them upon their lips, they must do it with the full knowledge that only by the great power of God can they either understand or do what they promise by them. That great power of God is the Holy Spirit, who will come, if you ask Him, right into your heart, and when He is come, will show you what these words mean; and, more than that, will make you want to promise them just as they stand; and, still more than that, will be in you the power by which you will do them. He knows just what secret spring in your heart must be touched to make you feel as you ought about this solemn step. The best preparation for Confirmation is such a real love for the Lord Jesus that you will want to do all that He requires, not just as little as you can. This love it is the work of the Holy Spirit to give you, for the Bible says, "The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.—Parish Visitor."

HOW LITTLE WAGTONGUE GOT OUT OF HIS FRAIDNESS.

First he was afraid to go in any dark place, and how he got out of it, that's just what we know; he said a little prayer and that got him out of it. One night his Aunt Bessie asked him to go into a room and get some cherries. They were in a little room by the stairway and he was afraid to go, because it was so dark, and there was a rug in there, that scared him. It was the skin of a tiger, and he thought it it was a real tiger coming

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—ON—

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