

"This is my home! This is my home!"

A lady said: "Willie, the house next door is just the same as this one. Suppose you should hang your hat up in that hall, wouldn't that be home as much as this?"

"No, ma'am," said Willie, "it would not."

"Why not?" asked the lady. "What makes this house your home more than that one?"

"Because my mother lives here," said Willie.

THE QUIET HOUR.

O Thou hope of all the ends of the earth, and of them that remain in the broad sea; Thou on whom our fathers hoped, and were delivered; waited, and were not confounded; my own hope from my youth, and from my mother's breasts, be Thou my portion in the land of the living. In Thy nature and Thy name, and in the experience of those who sought Thee, we find strength to lay hold upon. O Lord Thou who art a rock and refuge let us not be disappointed in our trust in Thee. Thou who knowest whereof we are made, and whereby our short-comings, have pity on all, O Lord. Lord both of the dead and of the living, live we or die we, be Thou our hope; have pity on both living and dead. O Helper of the helpless, and stronger than the strong, remember all who are in distress of mind, body or estate; succour them according to their need. God of all grace and truth, establish all who stand, and lift up the fallen out of delusion or sin. Defender of all on whom Thou porest out Thy gifts, let Thy love be a perpetual ransom to the captive and distressed. Grant that all Thy children calling upon Thee may be joined in the fellowship of one Holy Spirit. Remove not our candlestick, with its imperfect light, out of its place, until Thou givest us better light. Amen.

AN IF IN EVERYBODY'S LIFE.

Everybody has an "if" in his life. Boys bristle with "ifs" whenever you give them good advice. They would go to college—if they loved study. They would stop smoking—if they had a little stronger will. They would be promoted—if they had not preferred pleasure to study. They would get along better in society—if they had more money to spend. They would try to lead a Christian life—if it did not involve so much sacrifice. Well, there is always a time in a boy's life, and he knows it, whether he will admit it to others or not, when, in some secret place, and always at a moment which proves afterwards to have been one of

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the eventful ones of his life—If and he come to a hand and hand, almost a life to life, encounter. What is left of a boy, at all events, if it does win, is a sorry remnant.

—Many a child goes astray, not because there is a want of prayer or virtue at home, but simply because home lacks sunshine. A child needs smiles, as much as flowers need sunbeams. Children look little beyond the present moment. If a thing pleases, they are apt to seek it. If it displeases, they avoid it. If home is the place where voices are sour and words harsh, and fault-finding is ever in the ascendant, they will spend as many hours as possible elsewhere.

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A BEAUTIFUL THOUGHT.

There was a great pile of bricks on the pavement—more than a wagon load. The owner wanted them piled back in the yard, where he could use them when he wanted them. Several boys were asked to do the work, but they all refused. Finally a little fellow, not yet ten, said he would do it for a dollar.

"But you can't carry those heavy bricks," said some of the other boys.

"I can carry one at a time, and I want that dollar."

So he went to work and carried those bricks back, one or two at a time. He got the dollar, and a neighbor who saw him at work gave him a half a dollar more, "just because he was so plucky." And so it is with all the hard work; we only need to do a

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little at a time, and by and by it is all done.

READING ONE HOUR A DAY.

There was once a lad who at the age of fourteen, found himself an apprentice to a soap-boiler. Having a spare hour every day, he decided to pass that fleeting time in reading. Within a few weeks the habit became fixed, and then he thoroughly enjoyed his lesson. He stayed seven years at the place, and when he was twenty-one he took a position that could be filled only by an educated man.

Now let us see how much time he spent in reading during the seven years. At the rate of one hour a day, the whole time thus passed would be 2,525 hours. In other words, it was equal to the time one would spend in reading at the rate of eight hours each day, three hundred and ten days, or nearly a whole year.

PUSSY.

Did you ever think why we call the cat "puss?"

A great many years ago the people of Egypt, who have many idol gods, worshipped the cat. They thought she was like the moon, because she was more bright at night, and because her eyes change just as the moon changes, which is sometimes full and sometimes only the bright crescent, or half-moon, as we say. Did you ever notice your pussy's eyes to see how they change?

So these people made an idol of the cat's head and named it Pasht, the same name as they gave to the moon, for the word means the "face of the moon."

That word has been changed to "pas" or "pus," and has come at last to be "puss," the name which almost everyone gives to the cat. Puss and pussy cat are pet names for kitty everywhere.

—Professor Bonatelli, in a note to the Venetian Institute, relates an incident showing the reasoning powers of ants. He had observed a procession of the little insects going and returning from the branch of a tree to a house touched by the latter. He cut the end



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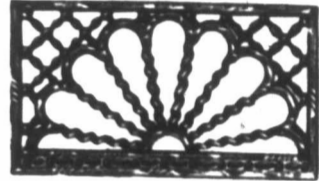
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twig, making a gap of about half an inch between the tree and the wall, so that the ants could no longer pass. At the end of half an hour they had found out another twig of the tree, when moved by the breeze, came into contact with the wall every now and then. They took advantage of this flying bridge, and reformed their procession, waiting each time for the moment of contact in order to pass.

—No prayerless life can either be comfortable or great. No man is equal to the crisis of life who does not pray. Prayer puts our life into God's hand to be shaped and guided and protected. Prayer puts God with His infinite attributes into connection with us that we may use them in our heaven-assigned tasks. Christ could not live His human life without prayer; neither can we. He spent whole nights in prayer; and no one can tell the outcome of power attributable to those nights. The perfection of His human life came out of them. Prayer brought Him the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Prayer brought Him His transfiguration on the Mount. Prayer carried Him through Gethsemane. Of Gethsemane it is written, "Being on an agony, He prayed; and an angel came and streng-

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