

## PRIMARY TEACHERS' DEPARTMENT.

BETTER to strive and climb,  
And never reach the goal,  
Than to drift along with time,  
An aimless, worthless soul.  
Ay, better to climb and fall,  
Or sow, though the yield be small,  
Than to throw away day after day,  
And never to strive at all.

## The Child's Attendance at Church.

BY ALICE MAY DOUGLAS.

THERE is some discussion whether or not it is wise to take very young children to preaching service. Some of the most careful observers have given their views in regard to this important subject. For example, Zschokke says: "Lastly, the child should hear of Jesus, his good deeds and his sufferings. But the child's religion should not be made a mere matter of sensibility, mere material for the operation of the feeling."

Bishop Vincent has said that he would take a child to church before he took him to the Sunday school, that his first impression of God's temple might be inspired by the sacredness of the service which is of necessity more quiet than that of the Sunday school. There is much food for reflection in this thought, for, as Schiller says, "What no understanding of the intellect can perceive is silently perceived by the pious feeling." And Rousseau remarks: "All his first experiences remain ever permanent with the child. The first color, the first music, the first flower constitute the foreground of his life."

We make a great mistake in apparently thinking that a child's life is wholly outward, that the little one can be reached through his senses alone, that he is capable of enjoying only what we imagine he understands. A child is very susceptible to impressions. If adults were as responsive to mental influences as are children, a great majority of them would be posing as mental philosophers or mountebanks, for in these two opposite classes meet those versed either by study or nature in the greatest science of the future—the one that by its more wonderful discoveries shall yet put to shame the great inventions in the material world of to-day—Psychology.

When one adult wishes to make his mind known to another adult he must do so by speech. When

a mother wishes to make her mind known to her child she can do so in many a way in which speech has no part. How quickly a child can tell whether or not his mother wishes him to do a certain thing—even if no word is passed between them. Why is this? It is because the child's mind is so susceptible to impressions—to mind-waves, perhaps the psychologists would say.

This being the case, think how much the little lambs of God can enjoy during a preaching service, even if they cannot remember a word of what is said. How often we see them looking intently at the minister as if they were eagerly drinking in every word, whereas his words play but a small part in the interest thus manifested. O no, it is not the sermon but the magnetism of the speaker, the power of the Holy Spirit if he be a true son of God, that thus captivates the little listener.

And here it may not be out of place to note that the Friends, whose religion is the most simple—the most like His who said that in order to inherit the kingdom of heaven we must become like a child—in their early days, and now, in some part of the world, will sit for an hour in their churches in silent meditation, the preachers enjoying their own impressions and the audience theirs, until the meeting, during which perhaps not one word has been spoken, is broken up by a mutual shaking of hands all round.

So never keep the little ones away from the house of God because they cannot understand the profound words of the preacher. Let them go, for their little souls can gain much from the impressive surroundings.

## Tiny Tyrants.

BY JULIA E. PECK.

A GROUP of primary teachers were discussing their troubles with "those boys," and several who were completely discouraged were planning to hand in their resignations before another Sunday. It began to appear that soon there would be no primary teachers in that school to face the bad-boy problem, when one of their number hit on the following plan:

Said she, "What is the use of having three or four classes completely spoiled by unruly members