

## Our Young Folks.

### DAISY'S PRAYER.

Darling little Daisy,  
With her golden hair,  
Sitting at the table  
In her own high chair.

Closed her dewy eyelids  
Over blue eyes bright,  
Dropped the golden lashes  
Over cheeks so white.

Bent over the table  
Little head so fair;  
Daisy's supper waiting  
Till she says her prayer.

So she clasps her fingers,  
As when wont to pray;  
"O dear me," sighs Daisy,  
"What does papa say?"

Lower bows her forehead  
O'er the table then;  
And she whispers softly,  
"Jesus' sake. Amen."

Darling little Daisy,  
With your winsome face,  
May the blessed Saviour  
Daily give you grace!

May you never venture  
Any path to take,  
Till you ask God's blessing  
For dear Jesus' sake.

When the light of childhood  
Shall have left your brow,  
May your faith in Jesus  
Be as pure as now!

From all sin and wandering  
May good angels keep!  
And at last in Jesus  
May you fall asleep.

### GOLDEN GRAIN BIBLE READINGS.

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#### GOD'S PURIFYING WATER.

The washing of water by the Word, Eph. v. 26;  
Lev. xiv. 9; John xiii.  
It purifies from the evil, John xvii. 17; Ezek. xxxvi. 25.  
It ministers the comfort of peace, Rom. v. 1.  
It refreshes the soul, Psa. cxix. 25, 93.  
It invigorates the nature, 1 John. ii. 14.  
It is healing in its effects, Psa. cvi. 20.  
It gives life, even eternal life, Acts xiii. 26; Phil. ii. 16; Deut. xxxii. 46, 47.  
It awakens joy, Jer. xv. 16.

### THE OLD SCOTCH WOMAN'S FAITH.

By the side of a rippling brook in one of the secluded glens of Scotland there stands a low, mud-thatched cottage, with its lovely honeysuckled porch facing the south. Beneath its humble roof, on a snow-white bed lay not long ago old Nancy, the Scotch-woman, patiently awaiting the moment when she should fall asleep in Jesus; experiencing with Paul, "We know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

By her bedside on a small table lay her spectacles and her well-thumbed Bible—"her barrel and her cruse," as she used to call it—from which she daily, yea, hourly, spiritually fed on the "Bread of Life."

A young minister frequently called to see her. He loved to listen to her simple expression of Bible truths—for when she spoke of her "inheritance incorruptible, undefiled and fadeth not away," it seemed but a little way off, and the listener almost fancied he heard the Redeemer saying, "Unto Him that loveth us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood."

One day the young minister put to the happy saint the following startling question:

"Now, Nannie," said he, "what, if after all your prayers and watching and waiting, God should suffer your soul to be eternally lost?"

Pious Nannie raised herself on her elbow, and turning to him a wistful look, laid her right hand on that

"precious Bible," which lay open before her, and in a very quiet manner replied:

"Ah, dearie me! is that a' the length ye hae got yet, mon?" and then continued, her eyes sparkling with almost heavenly brightness, "God would hae the greatest loss. Poor Nannie would but lose her soul, but God would lose His honour and His character. Haven't I hung my soul upon His 'exceeding great and precious promises?' and if He break His word He would make Himself a liar, an' a' the universe would rush into confusion!"

By faith the old Scotchwoman had cast her soul's salvation upon God's promise in Christ by the Gospel. In every sorrow she had found Him a "very present help in trouble;" and now, abut to leave the weary wilderness for her everlasting home, could she think that He would prove unfaithful to His word? No. Sooner than poor old Nannie's soul would be lost, God's character, God Himself must be overturned, and "a' the universe would rush into confusion!" Dear old Pilgrim!

### A DOG'S GRATITUDE.

Gratitude is something we are always pleased to remember, though we sometimes discover it where least expected.

A minister says that a number of years ago, while attending the university I chanced one day to be taking a stroll in the suburbs of the city. A few rods from the path was an open sewer drain, built of plank and about four feet deep. As I was sauntering along, enrapt with the beauties of a glorious spring morning, my attention was suddenly called to a terrible yelping and barking that seemed to come from the sewer drain. Upon investigation I discovered an ugly little yellow cur which had fallen into the drain, and because of the steep sides and the water at the bottom, was not able to extricate himself. By standing upon his hind legs and resting his paws upon the sides of the sewer, he was just able to keep his head above the water. Leaning over the side I grasped his paws and lifted him out. With a startling howl he sped away as if some demon were after him, but when he had gone about ten rods he suddenly stopped and looked back as if he had forgotten something. He hesitated a moment, then running back to where I was standing he began wagging his tail and wriggling his ugly little body with great delight. He looked up into my face and gave two or three short barks, as much as to say, "Thank you, sir," then turned and ran away. His action denoted such gratitude and was such an earnest desire to express his thanks that I have never forgotten it.

How many children, nay, older people, fail to show as much appreciation of kindness as did this little yellow dog.

### CHOOSING COMPANIONS.

The story of poor dog Tray has many illustrations among higher beings. Though a good dog and having many friends, Tray loved bad company, his evil companions led him astray, until he lost his friends, his good name, and at last his life. Bad company ruined him. Like Tray, many a young person is led away by evil companions, until friends, good name, health, and everything else worth keeping, are lost. It is impossible to be among evil associates without being injured by them. A black coal may not burn, but it will blacken if you only touch it. If the black be not felt, it is seen, and too often others see it before we do ourselves. Thus will evil company leave its stain upon us. Though we may not notice, others will; and they will remember, too.

The world judges us by the company we keep, it judges all by the worst of the company. Nor is this so far from wrong. There is more probability of our becoming bad than of the worst becoming good. A man owned a swearing parrot, and to reform him kept him in the company of another that never used bad language. It was not long before both parrots became very profane. Vice works more quickly than virtue, and sticks more closely.

The world not only judges us by the company we keep, but is ready to treat us as the worst of our companions deserve. Success or failure in life depends very much on the company one keeps. What, then, must be done to have good company?

Choose your companions. Do not take whoever

may choose you, but choose for yourself your own company.

Choose those whom you know. You would hardly trust strangers with property; will you trust them with that which is worth far more—your comfort, your reputation, your life, your soul?

Choose such as you can trust. He who deceives or flatters others may flatter and deceive you. If he be unfaithful to another, what assurance can you have of his faithfulness to you?

Choose such as tell you kindly, yet frankly, your faults. Only true friends will do that: "Faithful are the wounds of a friend."

Choose those who respect their parents and are loved at home. Nowhere is there such an opportunity given to study one's character, and nowhere is the character so closely studied, as at home. Those who respect their parents will respect what is worthy and good in you, and those whom the little ones of home love and trust you may regard as worthy your confidence. Respect for parents and love and care for little ones are rarely found in hearts that are very bad.

Choose true Christians. They live from principle, and believe that God's eye is upon them. Being friends of God, they will bring you into the best company; and they will be likely in their prayers to keep you before the mind of the Almighty, so that you may share in their own blessings. Their friendship will last. They are everlasting friends, for heaven—the place you hope for—is their home. You never need say a last "Good-bye" to such friends.

### JIMMIE'S FIRST MONEY.

Jimmie Kay had acted as clerk in a shop for one week, and received five shillings for his pay—the first money he had ever really worked for. These shillings made Jimmie a very happy lad, and he wanted to do the best he could with them. So, like a good son, he asked his mother about it.

"Mother, how much do you think I ought to give the missionary collection to-day?"

"Well, Jimmie, I think your father's rule of giving one tenth a very good one for you to follow. You know we are told to cast our grain upon the waters, and that we shall find it again, though it may be many days after."

Jimmie had a twinkle in his eye as he said—

"Well, mother, I've seen a good deal of casting down, and now I'm waiting to see some of it come back again."

This made his mother feel anxious, fearing that Jimmie, after all, might not want to give any of his money. Then she spoke of the widow's two mites—that she was not content to give a portion of her money, but had given all that she had to give—even "all her living."

As they walked home from Church, Jimmie said, "Well mother, how much do you suppose I gave this morning?"

"Why, sixpence," said his mother.

"More than that," said Jimmie.

So his mother went on guessing, adding a little each guess, till she reached one shilling and sixpence, when she stopped, saying he must tell her.

"Well, then, mother, I did as the widow did. I cast in all that I had—I gave the five shillings."

You may be sure his mother was very glad and happy indeed to find him so willing to consecrate the "first fruits" of his labour to the service of the Lord, who loveth the cheerful giver.

### FACTS ABOUT THE BIBLE.

The Bible contains 3,586,489 letters, 793,692 words, 31,174 verses, 1,189 chapters and sixty-six books. The word "and" occurs 46,277 times; the word "reverend" but once, which is in the 9th verse of the 111th Psalm. The 21st verse of the 7th chapter of Ezra contains all the letters of the alphabet except the letter J. The finest chapter to read is the 27th chapter of the Acts of the Apostles. The 19th chapter of 2nd Kings and the 37th chapter of Isaiah are alike. The longest verse is the 9th verse of the 8th chapter of Esther. The shortest verse is the 35th verse of the 11th chapter of St. John. The 8th, 15th, 21st and 31st verses of the 107th Psalm end alike. All the verses of the 136th Psalm end alike. There are no names or words of more than six syllables.