

During the first ten minutes of each morning session, there was a short Bible reading, followed by a hymn, and then the whole school recited together their "pieces," as the little ones called them. All would repeat together one beatitude at a time until all were committed to memory, then individual pupils would be called upon to repeat one beatitude until all were thoroughly learned by all the pupils. Then came the application. If I had observed any ill-feeling or quarrelling among the pupils, I would call their attention to "Blessed are the peacemakers." One morning as I was going to school, I saw two or three of my boys throwing stones at a poor, worn-out mule. That morning we repeated the beautitudes, laying special stress on "Blessed are the merciful." Then a few pointed words followed to carry home the meaning, all uttered in the kindest, gentlest manner. The downcast, shame-faced looks soon told that the lesson was applied. Had I reason to believe that some of the pupils had copied their arithmetic problems from some one else, or did I see them casting stealthy looks on their next neighbour's slate to catch a glimpse of the spelling of a word during the time the recitation was in progress, I took the earliest occasion to read the fifteenth or twenty fourth Psalm, setting forth the beauty of walking uprightly, and doing righteousness. We would also repeat George Herbert's—

Dare to be true, nothing can need a lie ;
A fault which needs it most, grows two thereby,

and the indignant protest of Achilles,

Who dares think one thing, and another tell,
My heart detests him as the gates of hell.

One little quotation that I found pleased the children greatly was Carlyle's "Do the duty which lies next thee," or in another form said to

be copied from over the mantle in an old English rectory, "Do ye nexte thyng." The quaint spelling arrested their fancy, and, when the meaning was explained to them, it sank deep into their memory. "The nexte thyng" might be learning a spelling lesson or copying a writing lesson, or helping a little one find a lost mitten ; if at home, laying the table neatly for dinner, or darning father's socks, or binding up Tommy's wounded finger, or comforting Nelly for the loss of her doll, or putting things in their places to help mother.

Then here the Bible motto came in to help, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might," whether it was sweeping a room, or adding a column of figures.

I strove to impress on their minds that in all the smallest concerns of everyday life, the restoring of a pencil to its owner, the abstaining from taking advantage of a word or figure on their neighbour's slate or paper, they were to be governed by the great law of right—that mere intellectual brilliancy is to be counted as nothing when compared with purity of heart, sincerity of purpose, and integrity of life.

Be good, dear child. and let who will be clever ;

Do noble things, not dream them, all day long,

And let life, death, and that vast forever
Be one grand, sweet song.

That we are to do our duty *now* and *here*, and not wait for some other opportunity, some larger, and, to our distempered way of thinking, grander sphere of action.

Who sweeps a room as for Thy law,
Makes that and the action fine ;

that the faithful performance of the lowliest duties now and here is to fall in with God's way of training and preparing us for the larger responsibilities which He may give into our keeping.