

A CHILD'S PRAYER.

JESUS, I would come to thee.
And a little Christian be;
Help me walk from day to day
In the straight and narrow way.

All my sins do thou forgive,
Teach me how for thee to live;
May my heart be always thine,
And thy peace forever mine.

May my childhood and my youth
Be directed by thy truth;
And if later years are given,
May they help me on to heaven.

When at last my time is o'er,
And I dwell on earth no more,
May a heavenly mansion be
Mine in vast eternity.

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HOME HAPPINESS.

DEAR boys and girls, you can add very much to home happiness, especially if you have a mother who is not very strong, or a grandpa or grandma who is aged and feeble, by being thoughtful and mannerly. There is a right way to open and shut the door, a right way to move from one part of the room to the other; a right way to sit down, to rise, to hold a book—a right way to do everything that is worth doing at all. And yet we have known children to give their parents sad hearts by the neglect of these little home duties. It is more easy to do these things right than to do them wrong. One very ugly habit some young people have is that of calling aloud the name of a brother or sister, or even of a father or mother, who may be in

another room, or up-stairs or in the yard. A polite person will always go to the one whose attention is required, and speak in a low and modest tone of voice. The home might be far more pleasant by a strict observance of many of these little matters.

A HOME FOR MOTHER.

It is delightful to turn from the too frequently sad example of novel-bitten runaway boys, bringing themselves and their parents to grief, to a picture of filial love and duty like this.

Says a letter written from a Western city:

"Business called me to the United States Land Office. While there, a lad apparently sixteen or seventeen years of age came in and presented a certificate for forty acres of land.

"I was struck with the countenance and the general appearance of the boy, and inquired of him for whom he was purchasing the land.

"For myself, sir."

"I then inquired where he got the money. He answered, 'I earned it.'

"Feeling then an increased desire for knowing something more about the boy, I asked about himself and his parents. He took a seat and gave the following narrative:—

"I am the oldest of five children. Father is a drinking man, and often will return home drunk. Finding that father would not abstain from liquor, I resolved to make an effort in some way to help my mother, brother and sisters. I got an axe and went into a new part of the country to work, clearing land, and I have saved money enough to buy forty acres of land there."

"Well, my good boy, what are you going to do with the land?"

"I will work on it, build a log house, and when all is ready, will bring father, mother, brothers and sisters to live with me. The land I want for mother, it will secure her in her old age."

"And what will you do with your father if he continues to drink?"

"O sir, when he gets on the farm he will feel at home and be happy, and, I hope, become a sober man."

"Young man, may God's blessing attend your efforts to help and honour your father and mother."

"By this time the receiver handed him his receipt for his forty acres of land. As he was leaving the office he said, 'At last I have a home for my mother.'"

A BAD THOUGHT.

ONCE I knew a little boy who had a thought in his heart. He thought must "pay back" every bad thing that happened to him. He did not know that Jesus said we must do good to those who treat us badly, that we may be the children of God. If his little brother struck him he would strike him again very hard, and if one happened to step on his things he would run after him and strike him.

One day he was playing in the hay and struck at a wasp that was flying and it stung him. He got very angry and going down the ladder he ran to the house, and when his mother was not looking took some matches, and ran back to the barn to set fire to the wasps' nest which was up in the roof of the barn. It was not long before the barn was a mass of flames and smoke. The people ran and got the bad boy out, but his poor little brother was burned up. And all that he could do was to take what they thought were the ashes of his dear little body and put them in a silk case and bury them.

Many people get into great trouble because they try to "pay back" their wrongs.

A PREPARED PLACE.

It is not a very pleasant thing to go to a strange place all alone, to have no one there to welcome one, no place where one can rest and be at home, but to have to walk about seeking a lodging. How much happier it is when a friend goes before and makes all ready.

The Lord Jesus tells us that he has prepared a place for each of his children, so that when we reach that happy land we will not feel like strangers, but like children going to a new home, where all is prepared for them and every comfort waiting and where all the family will gather together in joy.

Have you a place prepared there, my dear one? The Lord Jesus will see that all is made ready for you, if you give him a place in your heart here. Many dear children have come to the Saviour here, and are now singing his praises in glory. Will you not go there too?

"In that beautiful place he has gone to prepare

For all who are washed and forgiven. And many dear children are gathered there,

For of such is the kingdom of Heaven.