

Children's Treasury.

THE TREASURE FOUND.

A traveller one day stopped at a lowly cottage to ask for some water. He found the parents cursing and quarrelling, and the unhappy-looking children crouching in a corner; the room showed marks of deep degradation and poverty. He asked them, "Why they made their house like a den of beasts?"

"Ah, sir," said the man, "you do not know the life and trials of a poor man, when, do what you can, everything goes wrong!"

The stranger remarked (as he noticed a Bible hidden in a dark and dusty corner), "Dear friends, I know what would help you, if you could find it. There is a treasure concealed in your house; search for it."

After he had left them the cottagers laughed at his remark, thinking it a mere jest; however, when the woman went out, the man thought he would search and see if he could find the treasure, and when the man was out the woman did the same. But they found nothing, and more troubles came, bringing with them more quarrels, discontent, and strife. Once, when the woman was alone, thinking over the traveller's words, she suddenly noticed the Bible which her mother had given her; but since she was dead and gone, it had

hardly ever been opened. The thought came across her mind, "Was this what the traveller meant?" She took it down, and turning to the title page, she found in her old mother's handwriting, "The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver." It cut her to the heart. "Ah," thought she, "this then is the treasure;" and tear after tear fell fast upon the page. She began from that time to read the Bible daily. This led to prayer, and then she taught her children to pray too. But she dared not speak to her husband about it. One day he came home in a rage, ready for a quarrel; she, however, instead of meeting his angry words with angry replies, spoke kindly and gently.

"Husband," she said, "we have sinned grievously; we have only ourselves to blame for all our misery, and we must now lead a different life."

He looked amazed. "What do you mean?" he said.

She brought the old Bible to him, and said, "There is the treasure, see! I have found it."

His heart was moved; she read to him of the Lord Jesus and of his love. Day after day she read to him and the children, and when the following year the traveller again called at the cottage, the scene he then saw was a contrast indeed to what it had been before.

Editorial Notes.

CLOSE OF THE FIRST YEAR.—This number of THE CHRISTIAN MONTHLY closes the year for all those whose subscriptions began with July, 1873. It is desirable for various reasons, that all those parties who wish to continue our readers should send their subscriptions at once. Inasmuch as the intention is to begin in future each volume with January, it is perhaps best that parties whose time is

now up, should at present remit only fifty-six cents, which will pay for their CHRISTIAN MONTHLY to the end of 1874. On the cover of the MONTHLY may be seen a list of Christian friends who are willing to take the trouble of sending us names and moneys. If any of these local agents are convenient to subscribers it is best to hand the fifty-six cents to them for transmission. But