

THE QUARRELSOME BROTHERS.

Dot and Spot and Fido,
Marmaduke and Ned,
Five bright-eyed little doggies
Live down behind the shed.
Spot and Ned and Fido
Are happy and polite,
But Dot, alas! and Marmaduke
Are always in a fight.
They quarrel in the morning
Before they're out of bed;
They leave their food at breakfast time
And snap and snarl instead.

"What naughty, naughty doggies!"
I hear the children say;
And yet—I know some little folks
Who act the self-same way.

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Happy Days.

TORONTO, SEPTEMBER 20, 1901.

WORKING FOR JESUS.

Lelia and Tiny were sitting under the tree in the garden. Tiny said: "I am so happy; I do love the flowers and birdies and you and everybody so much; and I love God, who made us all so happy. Sister, I wish I could give him something, something that would give me trouble. Can't you think of something?"

Lelia thought a moment, and then said: "Perhaps you could print a text for the flowers mother sends to the hospital every week."

"Oh, I should like that; I will print; 'Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not.'"

Tiny was only six years old, and she could not print more than two letters a day. When the text was done she knelt down and said: "Please, God, I did this text for you; please take it from Tiny, for Jesus' sake."

The text was sent to the hospital, and was given to a little boy who was very sick and afraid to die. It led him to love the Saviour, and he was no longer afraid. Just before he died he said: "Please, Lord Jesus, I am coming." The little girl's work had helped to bring him to Jesus, and he is waiting for her in heaven.—*Westminster Junior Quarterly*.

ALFRED THE GREAT.

BY FRED MYRON COLBY.

Once upon a time, long, long ago, a young prince was growing up in England who became one of the best and wisest of kings. Everybody loved and respected him, and everything that is great and glorious in England to-day can be traced to the labour and inspiration of this great king. We call him Alfred the Great; but in his own day he was spoken of as Alfred the Atheling, and sometimes as Alfred the Truth-teller, because he always spoke the truth.

When Alfred was growing up the people of England were very much afflicted by the incursions of the Danes. These people lived in Denmark, and were pirates and sea-kings. They came in great fleets, and landing wherever there was promise of booty, they ravaged the coast far and wide, burned the houses, and carried away the children. Sometimes they would capture a town, and driving away the inhabitants, settle there themselves. The English were not strong enough or brave enough at this time to drive them away, and every year they grew more and more afraid of the cruel Danes.

They were thorns for many years in Alfred's life. All through his boyhood he had heard nothing else talked of but the Danes, their burnings, their plunderings, and their murders. His father's life had been shortened by anxiety on their account, and three older brothers perished in the long, uncertain contest. And so at last the crown came to Alfred.

His subjects had confidence in Alfred, and they believed he would be able to drive their cruel enemies away. But it was a long, distressing struggle, and many times the young king was almost discouraged.

On one of these occasions, when everything looked dark, he hid himself away to think over what was best to do. He took refuge in the hut of a poor cow-herd, and was there quite a while. The cow-herd's wife did not know that he was the king, and one day she left him to watch some cakes that were baking upon the hearth, while she was away. The king, full of his thoughts about the Danes and how he was going to drive them out of his kingdom, forgot all about the cakes, and they burned black as a coal.

When the cow-herd's wife returned and saw their supper spoiled, she scolded him

angrily. "You are a lazy, careless wretch!" she exclaimed. "You can eat cakes fast enough, but you cannot watch them."

I can imagine how the good king must have laughed to himself at the poor woman's sharp words.

It was not long after this that Alfred went out to fight a battle with the Danes. No one knew the strength of the Danish host, and so Alfred disguised himself as a harper and went boldly into their camp. He was an accomplished musician, and was summoned to the tent of the Danish king. You may be sure that he kept both eyes and ears open, and learned all that was to be learned of the strength and the weakness of his enemies. At any rate, when the two armies met, Alfred won a great victory. After this the Danes were obliged to stay in one place and become the subjects of Alfred.

This great king lived to help his people. He was an earnest student, and had wise and learned men about him. He established churches and schools all over England. He built a great fleet to keep the Danish and Norman sea-kings away, and thus laid the foundations of England's naval greatness. He taught his subjects how to measure time. There were no clocks or watches in those days; and Alfred had candles made which would burn just eight hours, and had them marked to indicate the passing of each hour. As the houses of those days were more or less draughty, the wise king placed shields of horn around the candles to keep the wind away from the blaze. They are the first lanterns, or lanterns, that we read of.

King Alfred made wise laws for his people, and they were executed so faithfully that men said a purse of gold would hang untouched for a year in a tree by the highway in his reign, for no thief would dare to take it.

All his life he was a great sufferer from a bodily affliction, and hardly knew a well day, but he was so patient and so industrious that he accomplished more in his short reign of twenty-nine years than any other English king has done. He was only a little over fifty when he died, and though a thousand years have passed away, still the name of good King Alfred is dear to every English heart, and all men love to repeat the words which he spoke with his dying breath: "While I have lived I have striven to live worthily."
—*Zion's Herald*.

TWO AND ONE.

Two little eyes to look to God,
Two little ears to hear his Word,
Two little hands his work to do,
Two little feet his way pursue,
One little tongue to speak the truth,
One little heart for him in my youth;
Take them, dear Jesus, and let them be
Always obedient and true to thee.

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