

## A Little Brown Penny.

A little brown penny, worn and old,  
Dropped in the box by a dimpled hand;  
A little brown penny, a childish prayer,  
Sent far away to a heathen land.

A little brown penny, a generous thought,  
A little less candy just for one day;  
A young heart awakened for life, mayhap,  
To the needs of the heathen far away.

The penny flew off with the prayer's  
swift wings.

It carried the message by Jesus sent,  
And the gloom was pierced by a radiant light  
Wherever the prayer and the message  
went.

And who can tell of the joy it brought  
To the souls of the heathen far away,  
When darkness fled like wavering mists,  
From the beautiful dawn of the Gospel  
day?

And who can tell of the blessings that  
came  
To the little child, when Christ looked  
down?  
Or how the penny, worn and old,  
In heaven will change to a golden  
crown?

## DID HE UNDERSTAND?

BY MRS. G. R. ALDEN.

"For unto this day they drink none,  
but obey their father's commandment."

"Why, yes," said grandma, with her  
finger on Rollo's verse, and her eyes tender  
with old memories, "I remember a  
story about that verse, and it is a story  
which I think likely I shall remember in  
heaven."

"Let's hear it right away, if you  
please," Ralph said, and the others  
settled into quiet as soon as possible.

"It wasn't so very many years ago,  
not more than fifty-five," began grandma,  
and then Rollo nudged Harold and  
chuckled, and Marion looked with grave,  
astonished eyes at a woman who thought  
fifty-five years was not a long, long time!  
But grandma took no notice of them.

"Yes," she said, "it is just about fifty-  
five years ago. There was a pretty little  
boy whom I knew; he had yellow hair  
and the bluest eyes, and he was a dear,  
bright little fellow. One day he went  
visiting out to a nice old lady's who lived  
near his father's old place. While he  
was there who should come along but  
two trim little girls who were out getting  
signers to the total abstinence pledge.

We called it the teetotal pledge in those  
days. There was quite an excitement  
about it in town. A man lectured every  
evening, and had meetings for the chil-  
dren in the afternoons, and gave them  
each pledge books, and the one who got  
the greatest number of signers was to  
have a medal with his name on. It  
wasn't a gold medal, but it shone, and  
had a nice blue ribbon to put around  
your neck; and the children all liked it.

"Well, these two had come to Aunt  
Patty's door and asked for signers. Aunt  
Patty invited them in, and got out her  
quill pen, which wasn't used very often,  
and she and her eldest girl, Prudence,  
put down their names. The little fellow  
stood looking on; he wasn't four years  
old yet, but he lived where he saw a  
great deal of writing going on, and be-  
hold he wanted to sign his name. Aunt  
Patty laughed and tried to explain to him  
that he was too young; but he said not,  
he 'writed' his name once when 'favver'  
held his hand! and he wanted to do it  
again. That was true enough. One day  
his father bought him a picture book and  
guided the pencil in his hand and let him  
put his name in it.

"After a good deal of coaxing, Aunt  
Patty sat down and took him in her lap,  
and held that old quill, guiding it as well  
as she could, and he did get what looked  
something like his name in the book.  
It was very queer writing," said grand-  
ma, stopping to laugh at the thought of  
it, with that same tender look in her  
eyes, "but the little fellow was just as  
proud of it as could be. He told of it  
the first thing when he went home, but  
his mother—oh! you don't know how  
badly she felt."

"Why?" interrupted Marion and Rollo.  
"Wasn't she a good mother?" asked  
Marion. "Didn't she believe in temper-  
ance?" asked Rollo.

"Oh, yes, she believed in temperance,  
but she had some very strong notions  
about promises. She wanted her little  
boy to know all about it whenever he  
made one, and then to keep it as he would  
the eighth commandment; and she said  
he was too young to take a pledge, that  
he could not understand what it meant,  
and he would think that signing his  
name to a paper was a light thing, just  
for play. Why, she felt so badly about  
it that she just sat down and cried."

"Ho!" said Rollo, "I think she was  
foolish. I dare say he understood."

"Go on, grandma," said Marion.

"Well, while the mother was crying  
the father came home and wanted to  
know all about it, and he thought as Rollo  
does, that the boy understood, or could  
be made to. He took him on his knee,  
and they had a long talk all about drink-  
ing, what a dreadful thing it was, and  
about pledges, and then what should he  
tell him but this old story of the Recha-  
bites, how they kept the promise made  
to their father, never forgetting it once,  
and how God was pleased and rewarded  
them. Then he made the little fellow  
hold up his hand and say after him—  
'Unto this day they drink none, but  
obey their father's commandment.' Then  
he explained that the paper the child had  
signed was a promise that he would obey  
his father's command and never touch  
liquor. 'I won't, favver,' the boy said;

'I'll 'member.' And he looked very  
earnest. But in two or three minutes  
he was playing with the cat, and his  
mother couldn't feel that he really under-  
stood much about it.

"It was three years afterwards, and the  
little boy was seven years old—a beauti-  
ful child. One winter his mother was  
very sick; everyone thought she would  
die. She was so low that she didn't  
know her own little boy, and she couldn't  
bear the least noise. So her boy was  
taken to his auntie's, and stayed there  
for weeks. One evening he was in the  
parlour with his uncle. There were three  
or four gentlemen there, and pretty soon  
cider was brought in. The little boy sat  
beside a gentleman who offered him a  
drink of cider from his glass. The boy  
refused politely, and the gentleman,  
thinking he was timid, coaxed him.  
Then his uncle spoke up. 'That young  
man has never tasted cider, he tells me.'  
At this they all laughed. It was a very  
unusual thing in those days to find a  
child seven years old who had never  
tasted cider. It sounded almost as  
strange as it would to say now that one  
had never tasted water.

"The gentleman said that accounted  
for his not wanting some; that he did  
not know how good it was; so he urged  
him to just try a swallow, and kept coax-  
ing until at last his uncle said, 'Try it,  
my boy; if you don't like it you need not  
take any more.' 'No, sir,' the boy said,  
'I don't want to try it.' Well, then, his  
uncle thought he was rude and dis-  
obedient, and ought to be made to mind;  
so he said, 'I command you to take a  
swallow of it, my boy, and I am to be  
obeyed, you know.' What did that little  
seven-year-old baby do but get up in the  
middle of the floor, with his eyes flash-  
ing and his cheeks glowing, and shout  
out in a loud, strong voice, 'Unto this  
day they drink none, but obey their  
father's commandment,' and I don't  
neither. I promised, I did; and I never  
will; not if you whip me to death.' Then  
he burst out crying, and ran out of the  
room."

"Good for him!" said Rollo.

"Oh, hurrah!" said Harold.

"I am so glad!" said Marion. "I won-  
der what his mother thought then, if she  
ever heard of it. Did she get well,  
grandma?"

"Yes, she got well, and was a proud  
and happy mother when she heard the  
story. But that is only the beginning of  
it. I saw that boy when he was a young  
man and came home from college as  
handsome as a picture, and I heard his  
father say to him: 'Well, my boy, they  
tell me most of the young men use liquor  
more or less; how do you get on with  
them?'"

"And he looked around with his bright  
laughing eyes and said:

"I'm all right, father; to this day I  
drink none, but obey my father's com-  
mandment. That pledge of mine ought  
to be printed in gold on my tombstone  
when I die, for it has held me in the  
midst of many temptations!"

"And there his mother thought he was  
too young to understand!"

And Grandma Burton actually wiped  
the tears from her eyes, though she was  
smiling yet.

"Grandma," said Marion, "what was  
that boy's name? You haven't spoken  
his name once."

"I guess something," said Ralph, eager-  
ly. "Wasn't his name Mott, grandma?"

"Robert Mott Burton, that was his  
name, my darling."

"Our own Uncle Mott!" said astonished  
little Sarah.

"Then that's what makes him such a  
red-hot temperance man now, isn't it?"  
said Rollo. "Didn't he begin early,  
though?"—Montreal Witness.

## SPOKE WISER THAN SHE KNEW.

Tom is a thirteen-year-old boy, and  
takes great delight in asking his little  
seven-year-old sister questions which he  
thinks she will not be able to answer,  
and thus enable him to air his own  
knowledge before her to his utmost satis-  
faction. One evening he came home  
from school with a fresh lot of questions,  
and commenced on her in the following  
manner:

"Louise, do you know what they call a  
place where they make stoves?"

The little one confessed her inability to  
answer the question, whereupon Tom in-  
formed her that it was called a foundry.

"Now," says Tom, "do you know what  
they call a place where they make whis-  
key?"

Louise studied a little while, and then  
exclaimed: "Yes, I guess they call that  
a 'con-foundry!'"—Ex.

JUNIOR EPWORTH LEAGUE.  
PRAYER-MEETING TOPIC.

March 22, 1896.

The four Hebrew children, who refused  
to eat of the king's meat. (Temperance).  
—Daniel 1. 3-21.

These distinguished persons were Jews  
who were taken captive from Jerusalem  
to Babylon, when Nebuchadnezzar be-  
sieged the holy city. These honoured  
persons were selected among others to fill  
honourable positions in the land of their  
captivity, but before entering upon their  
respective duties, they were required to  
be put under a peculiar training, one part  
of which related to their diet. Those  
under whose care they were placed were  
anxious that the requirements of the  
monarch should be carried out to the  
very letter.

Daniel and his compeers, while not in  
the least disposed to do anything un-  
reasonable, positively refused to do that  
which they conceived to be improper, or  
contrary to the claims of truth and  
righteousness; hence, in respect to the  
delicacies which were sent them from  
the king's table, and certain kinds of food  
which were regarded as sacrifices offered  
to idols, they positively refused to par-  
take.

Those in charge were afraid that in-  
jury would befall them if the king's re-  
quirements were violated, but Daniel  
made a proposition which was reason-  
able, and would prevent trouble to all  
concerned. Read verse 12. This was  
a noble proposal, and was a real practical  
remedy to avoid evil. Some might think  
it strange that such a proposal should be  
made, but such was Daniel's confidence  
in God that he was not afraid of the re-  
sults. The God whom he served would  
not forsake him in the time of trial. God  
had hitherto been his support, and he  
felt sure that no evil would be allowed to  
befall him.

The noble conduct of Daniel and his  
friends is worthy of emulation. Consider  
their situation. They were captives. To  
act contrary to the requirements of those  
in authority might endanger their posi-  
tion. It is to be feared that many would  
have acted very differently had they been  
situated as Daniel and his friends were.  
They were men of principle. They  
sought to do right rather than pursue a  
course which might avoid present trouble,  
but in the end it would have been other-  
wise. "Do right if the heavens fall."

Young people are sometimes placed in  
circumstances when to do right requires  
great firmness and decision of character.  
They will see others drink intoxicants,  
or maybe even use tobacco or cigarettes,  
or in some instances use profane lan-  
guage. Sometimes they may be solicited  
to take a glass of wine at a social party,  
where the majority present partake of  
the liquor without a moment's hesitancy.  
In all such cases let them do right and  
breathe a prayer for divine help.

A certain minister, when a boy, was  
asked to take a glass of wine with a gen-  
tleman to whom both he and his father  
were under great obligation. He re-  
fused. The gentleman became more  
urgent in his request, even asked him  
just to touch the liquor with his lips,  
but happily he was firm, and the result  
was that the gentleman expressed his ad-  
miration for his consistency to the boy's  
father some time afterwards. Act con-  
sistently on all moral and religious  
questions and your interests will not  
suffer. Public sentiment is so strong  
in favour of temperance, that all who  
keep their pledge will have less difficulty  
in so doing than was the case formerly.

## SPECIAL DEVOTIONAL MEETINGS.

The churches are now, or soon will be,  
engaged in special efforts for the salva-  
tion of souls. Cannot the Junior League  
join heartily in this good work? We  
suggest that the question of the conver-  
sion of the children be carefully and  
earnestly presented. Let the way of life  
be pointed out, and the plan of salvation  
made very plain. If the Juniors shall  
have their hearts warmed by the love of  
the Saviour they may be wonderfully use-  
ful in leading others to the joys of salva-  
tion.—Epworth Herald.

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## Pleasant Hours:

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK.

Rev. W. H. Withrow, D.D., Editor.

TORONTO, MARCH 14, 1896.

## TEMPERANCE NUMBER.

Both Pleasant Hours and Onward for  
March 14th are special temperance num-  
bers, designed to enforce the temperance  
lessons of March 22. We are sure that  
superintendents and teachers in all our  
schools will strenuously endeavour to  
make these quarterly temperance lessons  
thoroughly effective in promoting temper-  
ance principles in the great army of a  
quarter of a million of scholars in our  
schools. Try and get their names all  
enrolled on the threefold temperance  
pledge against strong drink, against  
tobacco, and all bad books and words.

In the class books furnished by our  
Book-Room is given a form of pledge.  
If you have not got this, you had better  
send for it, and let each teacher secure  
the names of all the boys and girls in  
their class for this pledge. Thus shall  
we train up an army of intelligent,  
patriotic citizens, who have, like young  
Hannibal of old, vowed eternal enmity  
against the greatest foe of their country.  
In the case of Canada it is that organ-  
ized sin against God, and crime against  
humanity, the Liquor Traffic.

In this connection read the story by  
Mrs. Alden, in this number, "Did he  
Understand," and don't fail to profit by  
its obvious moral.