In the clear depths of your blue eyes;
And listen to your childish voice, propounding questions, wondrous wise.

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You're seven years old ! childhood appears And you are glad, and full of joy; But I am envious of the years, For stealing off my baby boy.

But still I'll hold you to my heart, And you shill yet take many a nap; And anchor all your childish griefs, In that snug harbor, mother's fap.

What kind of pudding, did you say? (I must begin it, this very minute,) "I'd like to have, for this birth-day, One of that kind with raisins in it.

You shall pa's coming with the plums, And he has bought some currents too; And I have ready nice bread crumbs. With sugar, eggs, and spice for you

And I will make you some good sauce, Because you're not a saucy bey, And you are very seldom cross Dear papa's hope, and mamma's joy.

And I will nurse you often yet, We'll cheat old Time as long as we can, And you'll remain my precious pet, My baby boy, my little man!

And when night comes, you'll kneel to pray, Before you sleep in your warm nest, To thank God for this nice birth day, And may each last one be the best.

#### AT MIDNIGHT.

A STORY EOR THE CHILDREN.

There was a great hush upon the earth. It seemed as if everything and everyone stood still to listen. And vet the people were not listening, but praying: for always when a year passes away, the multitudes of those who feel that they need the help and mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ take the opportunity of pleading with Him for them.

The sound of the organ had quite died away, the preacher's voice was silent, and all the congregation knelt as in the presence of God. Not a sound was heard, excepting now and then a sigh which came from some heart that was burdened with sin and sorrow; and no one moved, lest the spell should be broken.

What were the people asking for? No one knew but themselves and God. Most likely their desires were for more holiness, more love, more Christ-likeness. The minister had earnestly recommended them to spend the last few moments of the passing year in silent prayer and intercession; and especially to resolve then, in those solemn seconds, to give up any sin of which they were conscious, with a full determination to live better and truer lives than

"We are in God's presence," he said. "Let no one try to deceive Him, who can read the thoughts of the heart."

And then the silence began.

Among those who bowed their heads a girl who was thirteen years old, and was whose face bore witness to her earnestness. Her lips moved, and her eyes filled with tears; and then, just as the Do you think God will have mercy?" time had almost gone, she buried her face in her hands, and almost groaned.

"One, two, three !" The great clock struck the hour, and the sound of the first stroke almost made the people start and shiver. But as soon as the twelfth stroke had rung out on the air, the merry bells poured forth such showers of joyous music, that

the world awoke to enjoy them. "Friends, I wish you a happy New Year! May the who led His flock in olden times gnide and bless you still until time is over and eternity has begun." So said the minister, and then everybody wished everybody else "Good morning," and soon the streets homeward direction.

Among tha rest was our young friend. She hastened by the side of her father, for she longed to gain her own room, and lose herself again in thought. She wished people had not so pertinaciously uttered their congrasue her course; and she was both glad and grateful when at last the door of

"I hope you have not taken cold, Ethel. Let me see if you are warm. and have been really well wrapped up. You must take something before you go up stairs," said her mother tenderly.

"Oh, I am quite comfortable, mamma dear, and I should be so very glad if I might retire at once," the girl replied.

"Really? But you must first drink tup of coffee, and then you shall go There wes no help for it, and she stayed a few minutes, then gladly entered her own foom and closed the

Al have promised, and I must do it. Oh God, give me strength;" so she fell upon her knees, and lifted her eyes to heaven.

Then a thought came into her mind which drove the colour from her face, and made her heart beat quickly.

"Why not do it at once? It will be as hard to morrow. I had better lose

She opened the door, and went down stairs again. He father and mother had not vet retired, and they looked surprised to see her.

"Why, Ethel? What is the mat-

"Mamma, I must tell you something, because I have promised God that I would. I have been wicked and deceitful; and I do not deserve to be forgiven."

"Hush, Ethel, do not distress yourself. We bave always found you a duiful and loving child; and you know we rejoice in the good abilities which

"Oh, mamma, pray do not talk so, or it well be harder than ever to tell you. I have been deceiving you both. You have thought me clever, and I let you think so. You have admired the pieces that I have shown you, and I have allowed vou to let you think they were my own, but-how shall I tell you?-they were not mine, but some that I copied and altered from a book. I have known that I was wrong; but you were so proud of me, and your tenderness and leve made me so happy, that I could not bear to undeceive you. But I never saw my conduct in its true light until in the silence to-night I knelt to ask God to bless me this year.

Ethel's sobs almost choked her, and she could not go on. Her father and mother stood looking at ber in amazement. They could scarcely believe that which she told them; and yet they feared that it must be true, for she appeared so covered with humiliation and

Presently her father spoke; "I am very disappointed, Ethel; but I would rather have a truthful daughter than a

Then her mother took the girl in her

"You will have a greater probability of a happy new year than if you had not told the truth," she said.

"Can you ever forgive me, mother? I did not intend to deceive you at first, but always when the opportunity of confessing has come I have been afraid. Mother, I want to begin this year more humbly and truthfully than the last,

"I will give you a new year's text," was the reply. "'If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.""

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### BIBLICAL LITERATURE.

Smith's Bible Dictionary, Farrar's Dictionary, Theological and Ecclesiastical Literature, Stanley's Sinai and Palestine, Thompson's Land and Book, Coneybeari & Howson's Life and Epistles of Paul, We-mer's New Testament Grammar, Trench's Synonyms of New Testament, Lange on Genesis, Alexander on Isaiah, Stuart on Proverbs, Delitzsh on Job, Lange on New Testament, Tholuck on the Sermon on the Mount, Trench on the Parables, Trench on the Miracles.

## THEOLOGY.

dope's Theology, Waton's Institutes Fernley Lectures, Treffry's Sonship of Christ, Butler's Analogy, Chalmer's Natural Theology, Fairbairn's Typology of the Scriptures, McCosh on the Method of the Divine Government, Rawlinson's Historical Evidences, Liddon's Bampton Lectures on the Divinity of Christ, Farrar's History of Free Thought, Bushnell's Nature and Supernatural, Young's Christ of History, R. Payne Smith's Prophecy a Preparation for Christ, Ecce Deus.

#### MENTAL D. MORAL PHILOSOPHY.

Noah Porter's Human Intellect, Hamil ton's Metaphysics, McCosh's Defense of Fundamental Truth, Wayland's Elements of Moral Philosophy.

#### CHURCH HISTORY

Neander's History of the Church, Shaff's History of the Apostolic Church, Schaff's History, Smith's Table of Church History, Milman's History of Latin Christianity, Stanley's Lectures on History of Jewish Church, Shedd's History of Christian Doctrine, Steven's History of Methodism, Missions and D'Aubigne's neformation, Moister on Missions, Dr. Smith's Old and New Testament History, Stanley's History of Early Christianity.

## HOMILETICS L& PASTORAL

THEOLOGY.

Farrar's Life of Christ, Robert Hall's Sermons, Themas Arnold's Sermons, Wesley's Sermons, Robertson's Sermons, Bushnell's Sermons, Fish's Masterpieces Pulpit Eloquence, Spencer's Pastors'

## SECULAR HISTORY.

Cox's History of Greece, Gibbon's Devales General History of Rome, Hallam's Middle Ages, Howe's England, Macaulays England, Robertson's Charles the Fifth, Motley's Dutch Republic, Motley's United Netherlands, Bancroft's United States, Prescott's Mexico.

## NATURAL ECIENCE.

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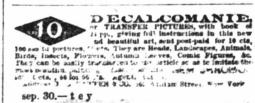
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