



HOW THEY TRAVEL IN THE NORTH-WEST.

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THE Rev. R. Young and other Methodist missionaries in the North-West have traveled for hundreds of miles in just such a sleigh as this—sleeping in the snow under the open sky at night—that they might take the gospel of salvation to the far-off tribes of the North.

### TAKE A SHEEP.

THERE is a pertinent temperance lesson in the following anecdote.

A farmer once employed a young man to labour upon his farm without knowing anything of his habits. All too soon the farmer found that his new hand was addicted to drinking alcoholics; and this habit interfered with his usefulness.

"John," said the farmer to the man, "I'll give ye one o' my best sheep if ye'll give up drinkin' while ye work for me."

"It's a bargain," declared the man.

A grown son of the farmer, overhearing this agreement, looked up and asked. "Pa, will you give me a sheep too if I will not drink?"

"Yes," replied the father, "you may have a sheep."

Then the little boy spoke up and said: "Pa, will you give me a sheep too if I'll not drink?"

"Yes, son, you shall have a sheep too."

After a moment's pause, the little boy turned to his father and said: "Pa, hadn't you better take a sheep, too?"

"I dunno, I dunno," the farmer replied, doubtfully, and then suddenly concluded, "I declar', I'll try it again!"

The old gentleman was heard afterward to declare that he made the best investment of sheep that season he ever made in his life.

is not a good thing.

"Busy! busy! busy!" Listen to what the bees are buzzing about our ears. You know what workers they are. God meant them to work, and they do so.

"Chirp! chirp! Chatter! chatter!" Well, little birds, you seem to have nothing to do but to hop and fly about.

"Indeed," answer the little birds, "we have a great deal to do—more than you. You can buy your food; we have to find ours and carry it home. You can buy your homes, but every bird has to make his own house, and hunt for things with which to build. We have a great deal to do, and we are glad of it." And away they fly, singing, "Water, water, where are you running so fast?"

"Oh, I have work to do," gurgles the water. "I must turn that great wheel at the mill, and then I must carry these logs and other things; and after that go to the sea."

I think our walk will make us feel sure that God means everyone and everything to work.

It is almost impossible for a child who is strong and well to do nothing; but all *doing* is not *working*. "Satan finds some mischief still for idle hands to do." Little folks who have no work to do generally do a great deal of mischief. Children who have proper work to do are the happiest. How do people make silver shine? By hard rubbing. So good, honest work makes bright, shining faces. Don't you know that a top spins when it is busy spinning?

God's holy word says, "Work with your own hands." He has work for us all. Do not leave your work undone; it will hurt you and grieve God.

Be pleasant and kind to those around you.

### BUSY.

ARE any of you grumblers, little ones? Do you ever sigh or fret? Let me tell you what to do to make yourselves happy: go and work. You think that is very hard. You will find, if you try, that it is a very happy thing.

Let us take one of our "make-believe" walks and see if we meet any workers. If we find that they are very unhappy, then we may think that work

### GOOD-NIGHT, DOLLIE.

My Dollie darling, it is time  
For you to go to bed;  
I'll bring a tiny pillow now  
For your dear little head.

"The baby-birds that swing all night  
Up in the little nest,  
And all the wee, wee chickens, too,  
And lambs, have gone to rest.

"There, little pet, now shut up tight  
Your cunning eyes of blue  
Till morning, when the pretty sun  
Will come to peep at you.

"You wouldn't be a naughty girl,  
And cry and pout, I know,  
Because you have to go to bed,  
For that would grieve me so.

"I wonder if I'm always good  
When mamma says to me,  
'Come, tell papa good-night, my bird;  
'Tis getting dark, you see'?"

"Perhaps—sometimes—I fret and scowl;  
But, Dollie dear, 'tis true,  
That after this I'm going to try  
To be as good as you."

### ANSWERING CHILDREN'S QUESTIONS.

ANY one who has the ability to ask a question that, to him, is worth asking, has the capacity to receive an answer that, to him, is worth receiving. A thoughtful child, on inquiring about the location of heaven, was told by his mother that he could not understand her, even if she explained it. She was probably right, in so far as the child's ability to understand *her* was concerned; but she was wrong in not telling him that the fault was with herself and not with him. Had she known as much about answering him as he knew about questioning her, there need have been no trouble about his understanding her explanation. There is no question that a child can seriously and fairly ask that cannot be as seriously and fairly answered. To tell a child, or to lead it to infer, that it is "too little" to know anything more on any subject about which it already knows enough to frame a question, is to deny its capacity for further growth. It is to thrust the child's mind into a dungeon, instead of opening it to the light. It is to bind it in fetters, instead of giving it freedom of action. Ability to ask pre-supposes capacity to receive. And no questions are better worth answering and worth better answers than a child's.—*Sunday School Times.*