

Helen's earnest, unselfish efforts to perform her duty, and make home pleasant to her father and brothers, began in a few days to produce the desired results. Naturally methodical and systematic, she learned soon so to divide and apportion her time that duties did not conflict, nor the work of one hour drag its weary length on into the next. Through many mistakes and discouragements she persevered steadily in her struggles to leave nothing undone that could add to the comfort of her dear ones. And though mind and body were often worn and weary, she found her reward in the growing cheerfulness of her brothers, and in their loving endeavours to spare her all needless pain and labour, as well as in the tranquil peace, the consciousness of duties attempted and performed, brought to her spirit. Feeling the great importance of keeping Ronald and Sibyl as much apart from Matisie's influence as possible, she took them entirely into her own charge. It was she who dressed them in the morning, and undressed them at night; and throughout the day, no matter how busy she might be, she never allowed many minutes to pass without seeing and knowing where her little brother and sister were. Her loving anxiety to guide them aright compensated in a great measure for her inexperience, and the children soon learned to submit to her authority, and accept her word as their law.

Not always, however, without resistance; there were, now and then, little rebellious outbreaks that taxed Helen's powers of government and persuasion to the utmost. Regularly every day she devoted an hour to teaching them; and the call to study was one that they detested cordially, especially Sibyl. For two or three days she submitted with a tolerable grace; but, when Friday morning came, it found her as unwilling to read her lesson as a skittish colt to take his first drive in harness.

"Come, Sibyl," Helen said, as she called them in from their out-door play; "take off your hood and cloak, and let me hear how well you can read the new lesson I gave you yesterday."

Sibyl stood a moment, her fingers working nervously with the strings of her hood, and then, suddenly throwing herself full length on the rug before the fire, she exclaimed, passionately,

"I wish I could die; I wish I could die—so I wouldn't have to study."

Ronald, who had already brought his book, and taken his seat, looked down at her and said, gravely,

"I guess you wouldn't want to stay died long, Sibyl, if you died a naughty girl; and you'd have to study just the same, too."

"If she don't learn to read now, she'll have to when she dies, won't she?" he turned to Helen.

But before Helen, puzzled and perplexed, could think what answer to make, Sibyl, started up with wide-open, wondering eyes.

"Why, will I know things when I die?" she asked, eagerly.

"Course you'll know," replied Ronald, in a tone of great disapproval; "I guess you'll know, then. You ought to be ashamed for behaving so, Sibyl."

"Oh, dear," sighed the little girl, drawing a long breath of mingled weariness and disappointment. "I didn't know that; I thought I'd be all dead."

It was impossible to help smiling at the little would-be candidate for annihilation, but taking her in her lap Helen dried her tears, and tried, gently and patiently, to make her first steps in reading easy. But it was tiresome work; Sibyl would persist in pronouncing the words in her lesson by the pictures that were opposite them. S—h—i—p was steamboat, and nothing but steamboat, and when Helen insisted that she should pronounce the word right the little mouth closed defiantly, and the curly head motioned a most emphatic refusal.

"Sibyl," Helen said, finally, when she found coaxing powerless to induce her to yield, "if you will not try to read now as well as you can, you must sit down in that chair and stay there until you are ready to obey me. Which will you do?"

Sibyl hesitated; the temptation to be naughty was very great, but Ronald looked at her imploringly, and the memory of the big snow-ball they were making exerted its influence, and very softly and slowly the pouting lips spelled, "S—h—i—p—ship."

"There, she knew it all the time, didn't she, Helen?" cried Ronald.

"Course I knew," retorted Sibyl, rather indignant at this implication as to her knowledge. "Course I knew, but I wasn't going to say."

Helen thought it was no time for advice, so she left the little girl to herself while she heard Ronald's lessons, and when they were done called her gently to her.

"Sibyl," she said, "I am very sorry you were so naughty this morning. What made you so?"

"Don't know," Sibyl answered, gravely.

"Are you sorry? Will you be a better girl to-morrow?"

"I can't see into to-morrow," Sibyl said, in a tone that implied that that settled the matter, and left her mistress of the occasion.

"Do you think," Helen asked, very tenderly, "do you think mamma would be glad to see you now, Sibyl?"

The little girl's head drooped. "Does mamma know, Nellie?" she asked, timidly.

"Perhaps—I think so—our Saviour surely does. Sibyl, do you want to make Him feel sorry?"

"No, no!" Sibyl sobbed, throwing herself into Helen's arms. In a few minutes she looked up, and, kissing Helen, whispered: "I will be a good girl to-morrow, Helen; only—with a smile half-mischvous, half-earnest, breaking through her tears—"only I wish, if you could, Nellie, you'd let lessons wait until I go to heaven."

Helen kissed her fondly, and without more words dismissed the children to their play. All the rest of the day her mind was troubled and anxious; a painful sense of failure in training them depressed her. "I don't know what to do," was her desponding cry. "Oh, if I had only some one to advise me, and tell me how to teach them."

(To be continued.)

THE HIGHLAND TARGET.

Many readers will be surprised to learn how moderate were its dimensions. The specimen here figured are not more than twenty or twenty-one inches in diameter—somewhat about half the width of the great round shield borne by the Homeric heroes. Probably the Highlandmen were in the right of it, their target made up in handiness what it abandoned in area. Being of no great weight, it would be readily movable, and to a certain extent it could even be a weapon of offence, for in several of these examples a formidable spike may be affixed to the central boss. When this is not in use, a case is provided for it in the deerskin lining of the inner side. The material of the target is wood covered with leather; the metal-covered or metal shields are found only as exceptions. Mr. Drummond has figured one bronze shield dug out of a marsh, and ornamented in a thoroughly archaic style, and one plain iron one, of whose date nothing is stated or conjectured. The regular covering of leather gave occasion for excellent ornamental work. It is best explained in bookbinder's language as blind tooling; and indeed there are many patterns on these targets from which the modern bookbinder might well take a hint. The flowing interlaced curves of some of them show a really admirable decorative taste and execution. We likewise find—sometimes together with this kind of ornament, sometimes instead of it—symmetrical arrangements of nail-heads and metal studs, and now and then of larger brass plates. These additions would to some extent increase the strength of the target, but their first purpose was evidently decoration. It was not until the seventeenth century that shields were fairly discarded in the rest of Europe. The swordsmen of Italy and France made the discovery, which at the time must have seemed a paradox, that the sword is stronger without the shield than with it. But the discovery was long in travelling northward; the Highlandman clung to his target for more than a century later, and its final disappearance from the Highland regiments is not much beyond living memory. Certainly one who possessed an ancestral target like those figured here might be excused for not willingly putting it aside as obsolete.—*The Saturday Review*.

ESQUIMAUX DOG-TEAMS.

The dogs are attached to the sledge by harness made of either reindeer or seal skin. One loop passes around the neck, while each leg is lifted through a loop, all three loops joining over the back and fastened to a long seal-skin line. These lines are of different lengths, so as to allow the dogs to pull to a greater advantage than if all the traces were the same length, causing the dogs to spread out like a fan. At every few miles the traces have to be unloosened and extricated from the most abominable tangle that it is possible to conceive. This comes from a habit the dogs have of constantly running under and over the other traces to avoid the whip, or, in some cases, merely from a spirit of pure devilry.

The leader of the team is a dog selected for his intelligence, and is one known as setting an example of constant industry under all circumstances. You will always see the leader of a team of dogs working as if the load was being drawn by him alone. He goes along, his head bent over, and tugging in his harness, his mouth open and his tongue lolling out, while his ears are ever ready to hear the word of command from the driver. To go to the left the command is given, "A-root," and to the right, "Why-ah-why-ha." Then he sometimes, to encourage or urge to greater exertion, says, "Ah-wah hagh-oo-ah." To stop the team, he says, "Whoah," as one says in driving horses. It is the noisiest method of travel yet invented, for the driver is always talking to his team, calling each by name, and usually following the word by a blow of the whip, so that the next time that dog is spoken to he will understand that it means to "hurry up." The work of the driver is not confined to his team. He has constantly to keep watch over the front of the sledge, to turn it to the right or left in order to avoid hummocks or stones that would upset the load or tear the ice from the bottom of the runners.

Inns are fond of riding on a sledge while travelling, and as long as there is a spot that will hold them they will pile up there. But should there be no place for them, they will run alongside without any apparent discomfort for almost any length of time or distance. This is equally true of the children of both sex, and when any are compelled to walk for lack of dogs or room on the sledge, it is the women and girls who have to give way to the men and boys. With a light sled, and from nine to fifteen good strong dogs, the Esquimaux of Hudson's Bay will sometimes make a journey of from eighty to one hundred miles during the long days of spring.

EFFECT OF THE BIBLE.

Taine's "English Literature" has a remarkable passage, with reference to the effect of the Bible on the English people, as read and learned for the first time from Tyndal's Translation—

"One hid his book in a hollow tree; another learned by heart an epistle and a Gospel, so as to be able to ponder it to himself even in the presence of his accusers. When sure of his friend, he speaks with him in private; and peasant talking to peasant, labourer to labourer, you know what the effect could be. It was the yeoman's sons, as Latimer said, who, more than others, maintained the faith of Christ in England, and it was with the yeoman's sons that Cromwell afterward reaped his Puritan victories. When such words are whispered through a nation, all official voices clamour in vain. The nation has found its poem; it stops its ears to the troublesome would-be distractors, and presently sings it out with a full voice and from a full heart. But the contagion had even reached the men in office, and Henry VIII. at last permitted the English Bible to be published. England had her book. Everyone, says Strype, who could buy this book, either read it assiduously or had it read to him by others, and many well advanced in years learned to read with the same object."

BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

CHICAGO has one hundred ministers against 5,000 bartenders.

DEAN SWIFT could read any chapter in the Bible at three years of age.

THE "Alpine Choir" is made up entirely of young ladies, numbering in all fifteen.

MRS. GLADSTONE has written a preface for a volume entitled "Early Influences."

MR. ARCHIBALD FORBES while lecturing in Australia, has made over \$60,000.

SIR GARNET WOLSELEY has a brother serving with him in Egypt, also a nephew.

THERE is an alarming outbreak of small-pox in several of the towns of South Staffordshire.

THE cost of the Egyptian war is said to be £20,000,000, and it is to be raised by income tax.

A Bank of England note for a million pounds is preserved at the Bank of England as a curiosity.

THE Bishop of Liverpool has occupied the pulpit of a Presbyterian Church on two occasions lately.

OBERLIN COLLEGE at Oberlin, O., opened on Sept. 12th with the largest attendance it has yet known.

SIR STAFFORD NORTHCOTE speaking at Glasgow last week denounced the war and the Government.

GENERAL ALISON has been appointed to the chief command of the British army of occupation in Egypt.

IT is rumoured that the Duke of Albany will succeed the Marquis of Lorne as Governor-General of Canada.

STANLEY, in his latest travels in Africa, adopted a flag of his own, under which all his marches were made.

THE American expedition to observe the transit of Venus, has sailed from Southampton to the Cape of Good Hope.

A NEBRASKA savings bank has opened a children's department in which a deposit as small as one cent can be made.

TWENTY-ONE thousand slaves in Cuba have been declared free since January 1st, in accordance with the emancipation act.

INGESTRE HALL, near Stafford, England, the seat of the Earl of Shrewsbury, has been destroyed by fire, causing a loss of £500,000.

BARONESS BERDETT-COUTTS BARTLETT is said to own the smallest pony in the world. It stands thirteen inches high, and is five years old.

THE "Sun's" London special says that the individual claims for damages incurred at Alexandria during the reign of terror amounts to the sum of \$30,000,000 up to date.

A GREAT Northern Railroad train with an eight foot single driver outside cylinder engine, lately run from Leeds to London, 186½ miles, in exactly three hours—62 miles an hour.

A FEW days ago Victor Hugo presided at a banquet given at Venes, in France, at his expense to eighty poor children, many of whom were orphans of drowned sailors and fishermen.

HARRISON, the boy preacher, is now at Grand Rapids, Michigan. He is thirty years old, which suggests that it is about time for him to leave off the "boy" part of his advertising.

THE first recorded snow-fall in Melbourne, Australia, occurred July 26th. It extended over the whole south-eastern portion of the colony, and on the higher lands was quite heavy. In some places the ground was covered with twenty inches of snow.

THE library of Rochester University, N.Y., now contains about 20,000 volumes, and is remarkably well arranged. Last year this institution had a pleasant balance of income and expenditure.

THE walking costume of the Empress of Austria for wet or cold weather is a waterproof, Newmarket coat, a brown straw hat and thick navy boots. In hot weather she wears a thin hunting slip.

THE number of gallons of ardent spirits in bond 31st December last was in England 7,658,133, in Scotland 20,718,464, and in Ireland 20,577,913. We are thus ahead of other nations in bonded wealth!

THE Swedish Government has decided that after January 1st, 1883, no individual shall be employed on railways or on board ships in that country till his sight has previously been tested as to colour-blindness.

A CHINESE teacher in Hong-Kong has composed a stanza of poetry which contains thirty-three distinct and well-formed Chinese characters, written out in the full style without any contractions, on one grain of unhulled rice.

"LE GALIGNANI," of Paris, highly praises a young Canadian painter, Mr. J. Foster, of Toronto, who returned to this country by the "Polynesian," and who has been studying in the Parisian studio of M. Bouguereau.

THERE are 1,000 charitable institutions in London, with an aggregate income of no less than \$20,650,000. Of these eighty-two are hospitals, and forty-seven dispensaries, the united yearly receipts of which reach the total of \$2,685,000, or about one-eighth of the whole.

THE "Times" publishes a letter from Major-General Sir Havelock Allan, flatly denying the report that English soldiers had slaughtered wounded Egyptians, and giving perfectly satisfactory explanation of the so-called plundering of General Havelock Allan's baggage.

THE Egyptian ministry has been given to understand that England considers Arabi a prisoner of war entitled to the protection of England, although in the custody of the Khedive; that he must be accorded the English right of choosing his own counsel; and that, in addition, the counsel assigned by England to defend him must be paid from the Egyptian treasury.