

From the Independent.

WHAT MADE JOHN GO AWAY ?

Little JOHNNY would listen with wonder and delight while his pious mother daily read to him some portion of the Bible. Scenes in the life of Christ took strong hold of his young and ardent imagination. He was particularly interested in our Saviour's friendship for John, "the beloved disciple." He loved to hear her read how he leaned on Jesus'



bosom at the last supper, how after the crucifixion he took the mother of our Lord "to his own home," how he was distinguished as "the disciple whom *Jesus loved*." On one occasion, as his mother was reading that deeply-thrilling account of Christ's betrayal in the garden, when she came to the text, "*Then all the disciples forsook him and fled*," little Johnny, with tears streaming down his cheeks, looked up and said,— "Mother, what made *John* go away?" O how full of meaning is this question of little Johnny!— Again and again have I asked myself, "What made John go away?" What makes me go away? What makes any one of his disciples go away? Have we not often, when "weary and heavy laden," found rest in going to Jesus, and "leaning on his bosom?" Have we not had intimate and sweet communion with him, as with "an elder brother?" Is not his smile life? Is not his

love more than all earthly good? Then how can we ever go away? O, with what tenderness, with what affection he says, "Will ye also go away?" How sad the consequences of going away! We "wound the Saviour in the house of his friends," we "give occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully," we become "a cause of stumbling" to others, we bring "leanness to our own souls." Then can we ever go away?

"Ah no! with thee I'll walk below,
My journey to the grave;
To whom, my Saviour, shall I go,
When only thou canst save?"

From the N. Y. Sunday School Advocate.

SHOULD WE PUT IT OFF ?

MY DEAR CHILDREN,—Let me ask you a question, and a very serious one, too. It is this:—Should we put off preparation to meet God until life is far spent, or we are brought upon a bed of death?

Now you know death selects his victims very impartially. The aged and infirm are his lawful prey, but he *more frequently* seizes cruelly upon the tender infant, also, and upon the blooming, vigorous youth, and the man in the meridian of his strength.

A far greater number, it is estimated, die in youth than live to old age, or even middle life. And you know it is a great thing to die—to leave this pleasant outward world, and go to dwell in the cold, dark grave; to leave the friends we tenderly love, and the house of God where we learn our duty and the way to heaven, and feel the Spirit drawing us to the Saviour and urging us to be reconciled to God. And why is it so great a thing to die? Because death ends our state of trial and brings us to the judgment; and what a fearful thing it will be if we