

CHRIST AND THE LITTLE ONES.

Out from among the crowd
 Of listeners standing by—
 From among the Pharisees, stern and proud,
 And Rulers, learned and high—
 An innocent babe did Jesus call,
 And placed him there, in the midst of all.

And when the dear mothers pressed
 Close to the Master's side—
 Eager to have their children blessed
 Though the multitude deride—
 He said, as they gathered about his knee,
 "Suffer them all to come to me."

O what a wondrous place
 For the little ones to fill—
 Type of the kingdom of his grace
 In those who love his will.
 Then come to Christ, and be reconciled,
 With the trusting faith of a little child.

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The Sunbeam.

TORONTO, NOVEMBER 8, 1884.

A HIGHER HAND.

A LITTLE boy sat in front of his father, and held the reins which controlled a restive horse. Unknown to the boy, they passed around him, and were also in the father's hand. He saw occasion to pull one of them. With artless simplicity, the child looked around, saying: "Father, I thought I was driving; but I'm not, am I?"

Thus it is often with men, who think that they are shaping destiny which a higher hand than theirs is really fashioning. They do their own will, but they also do the will of God. A stronger hand guides them—a mightier power holds the helm of their vessel, and saves from rock and wreck. Happy are they who quietly yield to the guidance of an Almighty hand.



TABBY IN TROUBLE.

WHAT LITTLE ARTIE DID.

LITTLE Artie and his brothers, three of them, and dear little fellows they were, all were brave and self-reliant, and had been brought up by their parents in the right way.

As these children lived some distance from town, it was found necessary to leave them at home when father and mother attended meeting; especially was this the case in cold weather. Through the summer months the children were often taken along, to their great delight. And as their parents were Methodists of the good old-fashioned kind, the boys were in the habit of hearing—at such times—the hearty "Amen" break forth from their father's lips when the sermon was particularly enjoyable.

One cold Sabbath day these children were left at home, with many cautions to be very careful; yet hardly had the parents left ere the woodwork near the stove-pipe was discovered to be on fire, and out of the children's reach: but, with wonderful activity and energy, the eldest climbed upon the table and put out the flames.

When the father and mother returned they shuddered to see the danger to which their dear ones had been exposed, and with thankful hearts praised them for their courage.

"How did you manage, Tommy, to reach the fire?" asked their father.

"Why," said Tommy, "I pushed the table up to the wall and got upon that."

"And did you help your brother, Jimmy?" to the next.

"Yes, sir; I brought him a pail of water and handed him the dipper."

"And what did you do?" said the proud father to his pet, the youngest of the group.

"Well, papa," said Artie, "you see I was too small to help put out the fire, and so just stood by and hollered 'Amen.'"—
Kind Words.

TABBY IN TROUBLE.

WHAT do you think happened to Tabby? I will tell you. Tabby watched a pair of these birds when they were building their nest. Tabby thought to himself there would be some young birds in that nest after awhile. So he watched the birds every day, until the mother bird laid her eggs, and the young were hatched. Tabby knew there were young birds in the nest because he saw the old birds carrying food to them. When the young birds were a week old Tabby thought he would like to have one for his breakfast. So while the old birds were gone to gather food, he stole up to the nest, and ate up all the little birds. Just as Tabby was coming down the old birds saw him, and they flew at him and pecked him terribly.

WHOSE ERRAND?

"Do you want to do an errand for me, Charley?" said Mrs. Grey to her son. Charley did not look very pleasant. He wanted to stay by the fire and read. Mrs. Grey waited a minute, and then she said, "Will you do an errand for God, Charley?" He could not say no to that, but he wondered what his mother meant. She did not tell him, but she gave him a basket of nice things to eat, and an armful of wood to carry to a little house down the street; and when Charley saw how glad a poor, sick woman was to get these things, he said to himself, "Now I know. Going on errands of kindness is going on errands for God."