

The Family

OPEN THE DOOR.

Open the door for the children. Tenderly gather them in; In from the highways and hedges. In from the places of sin. Some are so young and so helpless. Some are so hungry and cold; Open the doors for the children. Gather them into the fold.

Open the door for the children; See! they are coming in throngs; Bid them sit down to the banquet. Teach them your beautiful songs! Pray you the Father to bless them. Pray you that grace may be given; Open the door for the children. "Of such is the kingdom of heaven."

Open the door for the children. Take the dear lambs by the hand; Point them to truth and to goodness. Send them to Canaan's land. Some are so young and so helpless. Some are so hungry and cold; Open the door for the children. Gather them into the fold.

A REAL CHRISTMAS.

BY S. S. TEACHER.

It was the day before Christmas. The morning had been cold and clear, but in the afternoon a raw cold wind had sprung up, bringing with it low gray clouds, which gave promise of a heavy snow storm. In strong contrast to the dreariness without was the brightness in hundreds of homes, where preparations for the gladdest day of all the year were going forward briskly.

In Mrs. Durham's cheerful sitting room the work of decoration was almost completed; the lady herself being engaged in taping up an illuminated text with its beautiful border of evergreen. She stood upon a chair, while her little daughter Nellie was perched on a table beside her, holding a paper of tacks, and feeling quite proud of "our work."

Nellie sat on the high table, swinging her little slippered feet, and gazing at the bright, quaint lettering in its frame of green, most interestingly; at last she said slowly, "Mamma, what does that mean?" On earth peace good will to men."

Then the mother sat down beside her child, and told her "the old story" of that glad night when the angels sang the blessed song, which still rings clear above the clash and clamor of the world's battle, filling weary hearts with faith that the time we so long for will surely come at last. "And we ought to do all we can to bring peace on earth, Nellie, said Mrs. Durham, "our hearts should be full of love, and good will to men, instead of bitterness, and the spirit of quarrelling."

"Well, mamma," said Nellie, reflectively "I don't hardly think I'm quarrelsome. I fought Freddie Hunt, because he stepped on Rover's tail, but I told him I was sorry, and so we made it up."

"Yes, dear," said her mother; "and if old people than you would be sorry, and try to make up their quarrels, it would be a happy day for the world, and as the lady said just then, she sighed.

Just then a tall, fine looking young man passed the window, gave a quick look at the bright firelight room, and walked on again with his head bent low on his breast.

"Mamma," said Nellie, abruptly, "there went uncle Tom; what is the reason he don't live here any more? I wish he'd come back, for I miss him so."

A pained look crossed Mrs. Durham's face, as she thought of the dear younger brother, whom she too "missed so," but she said quietly, "He and your father have had some trouble, my dear, which you are too young to understand. Now run and ask Nora to dress you, for it is almost time for papa to come home."

Away ran the little girl, but while Nora was smoothing the brown curls that would get rough, the little brain beneath them was working busily. "Dear me," she thought, "and so my papa and uncle Tom have been quarrelling. I do wish they'd make up, as Freddie and I did; maybe papa would if I'd ask him; I believe I'll try anyhow." And so it happened that the bright little maiden who ran into the hall "to meet papa" was laying plans for a reconciliation with a tact worthy of an older head.

Mr. Durham looked like a very proud and a very happy man as he sat by the blazing fire with his wife beside him, and his daughter seated on his knee. "Well, young lady," he said, "so to-morrow is Christmas; now what would you like to give through the child's mind, and she said eagerly, "Papa, will you really give me what I want?"

"Why, yes," said he, "I think so, unless you should ask for a set of diamonds, or a new carriage."

"Well then, papa," she said, while her gray eyes shone like stars, "if you please, I would like to have my uncle Tom back again."

An angry frown came on Mr. Durham's face as he put Nellie down almost roughly, saying to his wife, "Elmhor, this is your doing."

"No, Ralph," said Mrs. Durham, "the child has learned of a better teacher than I am."

After a few moments of silence Mr. Durham drew Nellie towards him again, saying, "My child; your uncle's wronged me, and I sent him away from my house; now do you think I ought to ask him back, before he says he is sorry?"

"Papa," said Nellie, "how do you like the way we have fixed the room?"

were clasped around his neck, while Nellie's voice said, "We've come for you, uncle Tom, we've come for you."

He held her close, and looked around to see who was included in the "we" who had come for him; he found his hand clasped in both of Mr. Durham's, as he said earnestly, "Brother, come home."

In ten minutes more the room was deserted, and the three were walking home through the pure, beautiful snow, which rested on them softly like a blessing.

There was joy in Ralph Durham's home that night, as explanations were made, and the story of Nellie's text was told with brimming eyes. There were glad shouts next morning as the well-filled stockings and Christmas tree gave up their treasures; but the happiest time of all for Nellie, was when seated on her mother's knee, in the winter twilight with one hand resting in that of her uncle, her father stopped to kiss the little brown head, and softly called her "our peace."

IN HONOR PREFERRING ONE ANOTHER.

This is a sermon, a kind of sermon, at any rate, and of course it must have a text, or rather the part of the verse placed at the head of it. This sermon will have three parts, an explanation, an illustration, and an application.

1. The Explanation. The explanation is to be an explanation of the text. The text means that in our dealings with our fellow creatures we must treat every body with kind and respectful consideration.

The whole verse is this, "Be ye kindly affectioned one to another in brotherly love; in honor preferring one another." The word honor means respectful politeness; and the precept therefore means that in our dealings with our fellow creatures we must treat every body in a respectful and proper manner.

Everybody. It does not say in honor preferring the rich and great, but one another; that is every body that we have any thing to do with. So much for the explanation of the text. Now for an explanation of the meaning of it.

2. The Illustration. A poor old woman was engaged one morning mopping down the stairs at a hotel. Before she had finished the work some gentlemen began to come in—travelers who had arrived by an early train.

The first that came was a man they called Colonel. He was not a real Colonel, but only a make-believe. He came hurrying along, and without giving the poor woman time to move her pail, said to her in a rude and surly voice, "Take your pail out of the way, old woman. Can't you get your work done up in the morning earlier than this?"

He looked upon the woman with an expression of contempt upon his countenance, as he passed her, and muttered to another man, who was close behind him, as he went up the stairs, "What an ugly old hag!"

Very soon afterward, two other gentlemen came in. The foremost, who was somewhat advanced in life had a traveling bag in his hand. The other one, who was younger, followed him. The old gentleman passed a moment as he came up, and then said, "Don't move your pail, ma'am, I can step over it." She, however made haste to remove it. "I am sorry to disturb you at your work," said he, and looked down on her with a smile, and nodded as he passed. The poor woman's face was lighted up with something like a smile in return, and as the gentleman passed on she said to herself: "There's one man at least that don't hate me." And a tear came into her eyes.

When the two gentlemen reached the top of the stairs, the younger one said to the older, in a joking way, "You were very polite to the old woman, brother George."

"Well," rejoined George, "stop a minute and look at her."

They had by this time reached the top of the stairs and had begun to go along the hall—but they stopped and looked over the banister at the woman, still going on with her work below.

"Look at her," said the old gentleman speaking however in a low tone so that the woman did not hear him. She did not even notice that the gentlemen had stopped. "Look at her. See her hollow and sorrowful expression upon her face. There was a time when she was a young girl, with blooming face and white neck, and young men fell in love with her. Every thing in life looked bright and happy to her. But look at her now. Poor thing! We can't help her much, but we can at any rate respect her misfortune, and speak kind words to her as we go by."

8. And now for the application. Whenever you see a poor woman, or a poor man, or even a poor child, in the streets, do not treat them in a harsh and contemptuous manner, but speak to them, if you have occasion to, in a kind and considerate tone. By so doing, you will be obeying the precept of the text, and instead of adding to the humiliation and suffering of the poor and the miserable, you will do what you can to lighten their sorrows. To find that you do not look upon and speak to them with contempt, but treat them with some degree of kindness and respect, will make them feel not quite so unhappy perhaps as they did before.

This is the end of the sermon.—Congregationalist.

ICE-HOUSES.

If the aim be merely to keep ice through the summer, a very cheap and simple house will be sufficient. Three things are essential: drainage, thorough packing, and ventilation. The first should conduct away the water which may arise from the ground, and that which comes from the melting ice, without giving the air access under the ice. A foundation of small stones two feet deep, will answer this purpose; or boards may be laid on the ground, sawdust or tan placed on these, and the drainage made by a tube with an elbow in it which will be always filled with water, and thus exclude the air. At any rate the sawdust layer under the ice is reliable.

Next pack the ice as solidly as possible, in a mass not less than ten feet square. Between the ice and the walls enclosing its space of ten inches at least should be filled with sawdust or chaff or finely cut straw, packed firm.

On the top of the ice a layer of the same a foot or two thick should be placed. It will packed in sawdust, and the drainage is right boarded; but if double walls are made, allow the air to circulate between bottom and top. Give also free ventilation over the top of the ice, and make the roof double to exclude heat.

More expensive houses have cooling rooms attached. A good way is to build this under the ice, letting the latter rest on an iron floor. The ice melts on the bottom, and of course

keeps the room at a very low temperature. Another plan is to build a very long house, and store the ice in one end. Make the walls and partition double, and the cooling of the air in the space near the ice will cause a circulation of cool air around the store room. For most farm purposes the simple house is the best.—Am. Rural Home.

A Hint.—Some time ago a superintendent of a successful mission school was asked to make another school a visit, and afterward, when asked by a friend what he thought of it, gave a reply that has a bit of wisdom as well as fun in it: "If that man would keep still for one Sunday the children would be so surprised that they couldn't make any noise for a month."

But few persons will eat sour bread, and many a loaf has been still will be wasted by the housekeeper not knowing that by dipping into water in which a little bread soda has been dissolved, and then browning in the oven, and making it into toast it will be eatable.—Ohio Farmer.

Perhaps not every housekeeper knows that fried mush to be really "tip-top" should be previously frozen. The improvement made by freezing is evident to the dullest palate, though the reason thereof will probably always remain a mystery.—Ohio Farmer.

With God, even across the sea; without him not even to the threshold.—Russian Proverb.

For the Provincial Wesleyan. MERCIES AND TRIALS.

Sin developed early curses, Withered—blasted Eden fair; But through grace abundant mercies, Gather round us everywhere.

Healthful days sick ones outnumber, Smiles more numerous than tears; Nightly hours of gleeful slumber, Chase away perplexing fears.

Friendship's voices often gladden, Driving gathering grief away; Rarely tones of anger sadden; Darkness quickly turns to day.

More enjoyment than distresses, More of sunshine than of shade; Less backbiting than caresses, More of hope than gloomy dread.

Seldom travel fierce tornadoes; Zephyrs daily round us play; Pestilential waves evade us; Happy moments love to stay.

More of singing than of sighing, Less discord than harmony; More truth-telling than of lying; More of joy than misery.

O thou bounteous God,—life giver, While we thus thy mercies prove, May we never lose thy favor, Never turn to wrath thy love.

Still let mercies round us gather, It thy holy will it be; But if trials come, O Father We in grief will cling to thee;

Well assured that even trials, By thy guidance, mercies bring; Empty cups are wonderful phials; Still of mercy will we sing. G. O. H.

Canning. AN ENIGMA IN RHYME.

Tell me my boy a river's name, That out of ancient Eden came; Tell me a famous seaport town, That fell beneath Jehovah's frown; A modern island, far more famed, Than tell beneath Jehovah's frown; A modern island, far more famed, Than tell beneath Jehovah's frown;

At St. Mary's York Co., N. B. after a lingering illness of heart disease, Ariana, eldest daughter of James and Eleanor M. Pickard, aged seven years and nine months.

Obituary. One whose timid little footfall, Now we listen for in vain; And whose voice like bird notes ringing, Never will be heard again.

Her black eyes with gladness beaming, Never more will meet our own; Oh, her absence makes most dreary, Our once cheerful happy home.

And the other little sleeper, For a shorter season given; Like a submarine sent to cheer us, Quickly taken back to Heaven.

Side by side in garments spotless, Angels twain how blest are we; Jesus Christ did kindly call us, Little children, come to me.

Soon the Lord will call you Heavenward, Side by side we then will come, Stand to greet you at the portals, Of our everlasting home. L. G.

Mr. John Demings was born at Shelbyville in the year 1800, was convinced of sin under the preaching of the venerable Rev. Wm. Black, in Halifax in the year 1822 or 3, and obtained the forgiveness of sins on the voyage home. He did not unite himself with the people of his choice until the year 1826 at Whitehaven, under the ministry of Rev. Mr. Well. From the time of his union with the church until the time of his death, December 2d, 1871, at Fugate River, to which place he removed in the year 1833, he was a lover and a liberal supporter of the cause of God. Suddenly was he gathered in the 71st year of his age by the heavenly harvest, as a ripe shock of corn to the garner of God. May all his children be so gathered in their harvest day. D. W. McLACHLIN.

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Day SUN. MOON. H. T. at Rises. Sets. Rises. Sets. at Halifax

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FOR THE LENGTH OF THE NIGHT.—Subtract the time of the sun's setting from 12 hours, and to the remainder add the time of rising next morning.

THE PROVINCIAL WESLEYAN, ORGAN OF THE Wesleyan Methodist Church of N. S. Address: Editor—Rev. H. Pickard, D.D. Printed by Theophilus Chamberlain, 176 ANGLIA STREET, HALIFAX, N.S.

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