

had written, that these things seemed so strange to them. Then Jesus explained the Scriptures to them; but still they did not know him. I suppose they wondered how he knew all about it, but they seemed slow to understand him. As they came near the city or village of Emmaus, Jesus made as though he would go on, but they wanted to be gracious to the stranger who had entertained and instructed them. Jesus went in to supper with them; and when he broke the bread and blessed it, and gave to them of it, then they knew he was the Lord. Then he went away from them. We read that he appeared to them and others three times after this, and gave them commission to go and preach the Gospel and baptize the people in his name. Then he ascended into heaven, and now sits at the right hand of the Father to make intercession for us. He invites all to come unto him and be saved. Who can reject such a Saviour? Come while you may. Do not neglect too long to seek God's favour.

he was making a mistake. They said that Tom would make an excellent farmer or carpenter or blacksmith, but that he was very poor timber to make a minister of. Still, Tom felt that he must try. So he went to college, and one of his tutors, speaking of him, said, "He had the thickest head I ever saw on any boy, and the most difficult to get an idea into; but if once the idea found an entrance, it stayed, it never deserted him, and he was the hardest student that I ever knew." The result was that Tom graduated with honours, for he studied so tremendously hard that he more than made up for the slowness of his mental action, and gradually, as his mind was trained, it acted more rapidly, and he turned out to be by no means a dull young man, and he is now a minister—successful, happy, and beloved by all his congregation.

This quality of grit is well worth cultivating. Everyone who has succeeded in this world has had it; in fact it is the secret of success. Grant had it when the Confederate generals said of him that he did not know when he was beaten. Morse had it when he would not give up the electric telegraph, though he should spend every penny he possessed and many long years over it, and his friends should think him a "crack-brained enthusiast." Palissy had it when he burned the very furniture of his home for fuel whereby to feed the furnace which held the precious vessels which he had glazed, and which at last, after uncounted failures, came out perfect from the fire.

Now when this indomitable will becomes a moral force, and is always thrown upon the side of the "Power which makes for righteousness," what a splendid thing it is. The men who do this are the great ones of the earth—the men who help the world forward and make it better, and nobler, and sweeter; for all who come within the radius of their influence are inspired by them and are helped to do their best.

So, my boy who reads this, if you wish to become a noble, helpful man, cultivate this manly trait. Never give up a purpose or an idea if you are sure it is a right one. Never be daunted by any obstacle or disheartened by any defeat. Never mind how many times you fail—keep on till you succeed. Believe in yourself and your own powers and capacities. Be sure that you can be what you wish, and do what you ought, if you only try hard enough. Then when you are a man you will find that things which are very hard, or even perhaps impossible, for other men to accomplish, will be easy for you, because you have yourself in such perfect training and under such complete self-control. And people will believe in your capacity and trust your sincerity, and they will be willing to follow your leadership toward any righteous cause which needs brave hearts or willing hands to help it.

#### WHAT A BOY DID.

THE following communication from a well-known pastor should stimulate young and old to do all they can for the cause of Christ. There are many places where extensive church improvements are as much needed as they are in Blossburg, and where they would be easily secured if church members, Epworth Leaguers and Sunday-school scholars had the consecration and determination of this eight-year-old boy.

"Our church needs extensive repairs. The people all know it. Even the children desire it. So on Sunday morning, March 3, I preached a sermon from Hag. i. 8, and followed it up with an appeal for subscriptions to a fund to begin the work. The people responded nicely and the sum of nearly \$1,700 was pledged. But during the taking of the subscriptions I noticed an eight-year-old boy in the congregation, and he seemed very anxious about something. First he would look at his father, then whisper to his mother, then, turning toward the pulpit, up went his hand. I at once recognized it and indicated that I was ready to record his subscription. Then in a slow, deliberate tone Arthur Peck said, 'I'll take a half a share' (the shares were \$10 each, payable in five equal annual instalments). Monday morning there was a ring at the parsonage door-bell. We

opened the door and greeted our young friend Arthur. He made his best bow and said: 'Do you want to buy any scouring soap to-day? It's good to clean floors, paint, pans, pots and kettles, and to take out grease.' Of course we wanted to buy some, for we knew that Arthur had gone into the soap business for the Lord.

"The week passed, and Saturday night, about 8 o'clock, my wife and I were entertaining a caller in the sitting room, when there was another ring at the door-bell. The door was opened by the mistress of the parsonage, and there stood Arthur, his face radiant with delight. With a brief salutation and without waiting to be invited in, he dodged under the hand that was still resting upon the open door, and stood before me purse in hand. Opening the clasp he drew out a five-dollar bill, and laying it in my hand he said, 'There! this is for the whole five years, and I made it all this week selling soap.' This is the first payment toward our proposed improvements. Arthur Peck's zeal and example have become an inspiration for both young and old. Our boys and girls alike are now devising means whereby they may earn something toward our church improvements; and our older people manifest a disposition not to be outdone by a boy.

"I am glad to be able to add that the making of extensive church improvements in Blossburg is now an assured fact, and when our district Epworth League convention comes to us in June we expect to have a beautiful church in which to entertain our guests."

#### THE JOURNEY OF THE HOUSE.

I do not believe you ever heard of a house skating, but this winter in Maine a house was put on skates, and accomplished a journey across a lake successfully. The house was moved at the rate of eight miles a day. It was drawn to the top of a hill beside the lake by twenty yoke of oxen, having first been placed on sharp iron shoes. When all was in readiness, the house coasted down the hill and on to the lake, where the oxen were again hitched and the house was drawn on its skates across the lake and then along the road to its destination. A foundation was built under it, and soon it was the home again of the little children who had followed it on its journey.

#### A BRAVE LITTLE DAUGHTER.

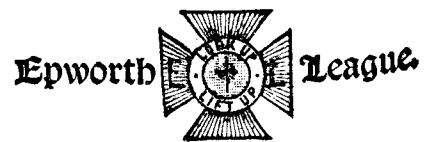
THERE is a very pretty story told by Miss Strickland, in her "Queens of England," of a little girl who saved her father's life.

It was in the time of Queen Mary, and Lord Preston, the father of the child, was condemned to death for conspiring to bring back the exiled King James to the throne. Her name was Lady Catharine Graham, and she was only nine years old. The poor child was, during the trial of her father, left in the Queen's apartment in Windsor Castle. The day after the condemnation of Lord Preston, the Queen found little Lady Catharine in St. George's Gallery, gazing earnestly on the whole-length picture of James II., which still remains there. Struck with the mournful expression on the young girl's face, Mary asked her hastily what she saw in that picture which made her look on it so particularly. "I was thinking," said the innocent child, "how hard it is that my father must die for loving yours." The Queen, pricked in conscience by this artless reply, immediately signed the pardon of Lord Preston.

#### A CURIOUS CLOCK.

A MISSIONARY, travelling in China, happened to ask the native guide who accompanied him the time. The Chinaman immediately went over to a cat that was near by, took it up, and carefully examined its eyes. He then came back and announced that it was about two hours after noon. On being asked on what principle he had made his calculation, he replied that by some automatic device in the eyes of all animals, the pupil contracts or expands as

the light increases or diminishes. We have all experienced this on going into a dark room. At first we can see nothing, or very little, but after a while the surrounding objects become very distinct, owing to the expansion of the pupil of the eye. This is especially so in the case of the cat; so much so, in fact, that the phases of the expansion and contraction of the pupil can be plainly marked. At day-break the cat's pupils attain their greatest size, then they gradually decrease in size till dark; after that they begin to grow larger till daybreak. If we remember these facts, by carefully noting the size of the pupil we can give a pretty shrewd guess at the time. However, it must be admitted that for the proper working of this clock a cloudless day is absolutely necessary, as the least cloudiness lessens the light, and the changes of the pupil are less noticeable.



#### Junior's Song.

I ONCE was a half-hearted Junior,  
Held back and fettered by sin,  
But I've been to the Blood for His cleansing,  
And now through His power I am clean.

#### CHORUS.

There's no joy in half-hearted service,  
No peace to the soul can it bring;  
But fighting for Jesus whole-hearted,  
My spirit for gladness doth sing!

At the penitent-form I saw Jesus,  
With a broken and contrite heart,  
Willing then and forever  
From all that hindered to part.

He laid his dear hand upon me,  
In mighty healing power;  
From every idol he cleansed me,  
I'll live for him now every hour.

Though once a half-hearted Junior,  
Sincere, God now helps me to be,  
In this wonderful Salvation War  
There is a place even for me.

When the fighting at last is over,  
And Jesus' dear face I shall see,  
I'll praise him forever and ever,  
Who's saved a poor sinner like me.

#### JUNIOR LEAGUE.

##### PRAYER-MEETING TOPICS.

June 9, 1895.

##### TWO CONDITIONS.—Acts 3. 19.

Repentance towards God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ must be exercised by every one who wishes to know his sins forgiven. It is therefore a matter of the greatest importance that all young persons should thoroughly understand what is meant by repentance and the Holy Spirit, whereby a sinner, from a sense of his sins, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, doth with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it to God, with full purpose of soul, and endeavours after future obedience. Thus you see repentance means a hatred to, and turning away from, sin, ceasing to do evil and learning to do well. When you see the misery produced by sin, you should certainly hate it and flee from it.

To be converted is to be made a new creature, and this great change is wrought within us, when after repentance we exercise faith in Christ, which is thus defined in the Catechism to be "a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon Christ alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the Gospel." He gave himself for us we believe he did so, and because of this we rest upon him alone for salvation. We do not rest upon our own righteousness, which is nothing better than filthy rags, but trust in him as the only Saviour, saying:

"Behold for me the Victim pleads,  
His wounds are open wide,  
For me the blood of sprinkling pleads  
And speaks me justified."

Let all our young people act thus, and then they may go in peace, for they have accepted of God and pardoned through the Beloved, their sins are blotted out, just as the merchant blots out a debt which has been paid.

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## Pleasant Hours:

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK.

Rev. W. H. Withrow, D.D., Editor.

TORONTO, JUNE 1, 1895.

#### ON "GRIT."

CANADIAN boys have a word which they use when they wish to describe a nature which is absolutely indomitable, and it is about the highest praise which they can give to a comrade when he puts out the last ounce of his strength in the last spurt which wins the boat-race, or comes out a fraction of a per cent. ahead of the classmate with whom he has been racing in his Latin or his Algebra all the year. When it is over and the prize is won, his admiring friends crowd around him and slap him on the shoulder and shake him by the hand and say to him cordially, "Tell you what, old fellow, you've got grit;" and so he has; and it is this magnificent quality which sooner or later always wins the prize. The grown people call it "indomitable perseverance;" the boys call it grit, and I like their word better than the others.

"But," you say, "grit is not everything. A boy has to have a very strong body if he does much at athletics, and he has to have an exceptionally bright mind if he comes out ahead intellectually."

Think a minute. In any trial of strength which is the most apt to win, the lad who is brimful of pluck and science, who knows just exactly what to do and how to do it, or the big fellow who has twice his muscle and only half as much determination and knowledge? And as for scholarship, every teacher knows that often it is not the most brilliant boy who wins the prize; it is the boy who studies the hardest.

Once I knew a lad who thought he had a divine call to be a minister; he had plenty of good common-sense, but he was dull at his books, and some of his friends thought