

## THE CHILDREN AT BEDTIME.

Every parent, who has been in the habit of reading or talking to the little ones after they are safely tucked in bed, will bear witness to the value of this mode of influence. With laying off the clothes, the angers, the worries and discontents of the day subside. With this brief season of prayer they fly still further into the background. And when the little form rests in its bed they seem to vanish out of sight. The body is at rest. The heart is plastic to the touch of a loving father or mother.

Now is the time to exert a moulding power. At this hour the little ones listen with hushed attention to what is read to them. Hymns, the Scriptures, Bible stories, are heard with close attention, until the reader's voice is stilled, or the hearers sink into a state of rest. Conversation may take the place of reading. The will that was in a state of resistance an hour ago is now relaxed. The anger that blinded moral discernment has passed away. With open heart the child utters his confessions and gladly receives the forgiving kiss.

Plans for the morrow can be discussed and duty can be made to put on an attractive form. Irritation can be looked at quietly, and admonition to watchfulness may be dropped with soothing efficacy into the listening ear. And then how delightful the embrace with which the young arms clasp your neck, the intense "dear mother" with which the "good night" is said. Parents, if you have not thus parted from your birdlings at the evening hour you have something yet to learn of hopeful instruction to experience love's delights. — *Baptist Weekly*.

## WHAT THE BIBLE DOES NOT SAY.

The Bible is a book with a single purpose; and that purpose is to reveal the sinfulness of the human family, and a method of salvation from that sinfulness. And of course, a book that has only one end in view must necessarily be silent with reference to a thousand other subjects. Two years ago a man was galloping on horseback, as if he had seen a spectre, down the bank of a New England river in the dead of night. His mission was to inform the sleeping dwellers in a number of manufacturing towns further down the stream that the great dam further up the river was about to burst the barriers. The horseman, as he sped along, trampled

myriads of flowers under foot, but he had nothing to say of botany. He rushed by hundreds of projecting rocks, rich in stories of prehistoric ages, but he had nothing to say on the subject of geology. Over his head starry hosts were marshalled as they had been since the foundation of the world, but he had nothing to say on the subject of astronomy. He had just one mission — to inform the sleeping toilers of their danger, and how they might escape it, and so had no time to devote to the consideration of any other subject, however important, or however fascinating to other minds. So it is with God's Word. Its single object is to tell us of sin and its cure. On this subject it is full and explicit and infallible.

The following is an approximately correct estimate of the strength of Presbyterianism throughout the world. The population is correct and the membership under rather than over the truth: Churches, 33,000; ministers, 31,500; members, 14,403,000; population, 37,246,000.

Dr. Eddy of Beirut writes that since the capture of Arabi Pasha, and the restoration of order in Egypt the orders for books from the Beirut Press have increased, and there is a prospect of a steady increase in the future.

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