

Kind Children.



LADY tells how that once while travelling, her train stopped at a wayside station and she amused herself by looking out of the window at a waterfall which came tumbling and splashing over the rocks, and spread into a wide pool, that flowed up to the railway. Close by stood a long cattle train crowded with sheep. The day was very hot, and every crevice of room between the bars across the doorways was filled with pathetic noses, sniffing eagerly at the sultry gusts that blew by, with now and then a fresher breath from the pool that lay dimpling before them. How they must have suffered, in sight of water, with the cool dash of the fall tantalizing them, and not a drop to wet their poor parched mouths!

Just then there came along two little girls. They saw the poor sheep and seemed at once to think upon a plan to relieve them. One pulled off her apron, spread it on the grass, and emptying upon it the berries from her pail, ran to the pool and returned with it dripping, to hold it up to the suffering sheep, who stretched their hot tongues gratefully to meet it, and lapped the precious water with an eagerness that made little barefoot's task a hard one.

"But to and fro she ran, never tired, though the small pail was so soon empty; and her friend meanwhile pulled great handfuls of clover and grass for the sheep, and, having no pail, filled her "picking dish" with water to throw on the poor dusty noses appealing to her through the bars. I wish I could have told those tender-hearted children how beautiful their compassion made that hot, noisy place, and what a sweet picture I took away with me of those two little sisters of charity."

Dear children, we hope you will ever be ready

to imitate those dear little girls. You may never be required to do just as they did, but there are opportunities for doing deeds of kindness every day. It is Christ-like to be kind and to do good. Jesus "went about doing good" the Bible tells us, and though you may be very young yet you may tell some poor thirsty and suffering sinner of Jesus who is "the Water of Life."

The Queen's Crown.



IN the Queen's crown there are Two thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight diamonds, large and small! besides pearls and sapphires and rubies, and many other brilliant gems. There is one ruby in the crown which was given to

Edward the Black Prince by the King of Castile, more than five hundred years ago, and after that, Henry the Fifth wore it in his helmet at the great battle of Agincourt.

There are some crowns we read of in ancient history which were not like this, flashing with jewels, but were simple wreaths of green leaves, laurel, or parsley, or olive, and only valuable because of

the honour it was to receive them. They were given to racers or to wrestlers when they had won the day; and this is what St. Paul alludes to when he says: "Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown, but we an incorruptible" (1 Cor. ix. 25).

We read also of "the crown of life" which God will give us if we have been faithful unto death (Rev. ii. 10). Ah! then, it is not given to those who have not earned it. I do not mean that we can ever earn it in one sense. Jesus has died to purchase it for us, and we have only got to accept it; but still it does not come to us by chance: we must "be faithful," we must run in the race, or the victor's crown will never be on our brow.

You know you have often said, in the words of the hymn, "I mean to fight for Jesus, and wear a crown of gold." That means, you must struggle



TWO LITTLE MINISTERS OF MERCY.