

THE CLOCK'S MESSAGE.

Clock upon the tall church tower
Tell the children what's the hour.
"God gives you a bright new day,
Happy hours for work and play—"
So the clock and sunbeams say.

Hark! is that the clock so soon
Twelve loud strokes say "It is noon.
Hungry children, God is good,
Thank our Father for your food,
As the birds do in the wood."

Now the darkness brings the night,
Skies are dark, but stars are bright;
Hear the clock voice, loud and deep,
Say "Dear children, go to sleep—
God His little ones will keep."

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TORONTO, APRIL 16, 1904.

A FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN.

In the early centuries, when Christianity was not established as it is now throughout the world, those who believed in Jesus were bitterly persecuted. All kinds of cruel punishments were inflicted upon the Christians in trying to force them to deny Jesus and forsake their faith.

Polycarp was one of the faithful men whose name is honoured now and beloved because of all he suffered for Jesus' sake.

In his youth he was educated by a Christian lady, and her beautiful influence remained with him all through his life. He was a disciple and friend also of St. John, and was later pastor of the church in Smyrna.

But times of persecution came to the Christians when Marcus Aurelius was ruling in Rome, and the faithful Polycarp

was one of those who were brought forth and bidden to revile Christ.

As the stake was made ready for him, before the assembled people he spoke out: "Four-score and six years have I served Him and He has never done me wrong; how then can I revile my King and Saviour! I tell you again, I am a Christian."

TOMMY TILTON'S VERSE.

Tommy Tilton was to go to church for the very first time one bright Sunday morning. His heart was as full of sunshine as was the day as he walked along with grandpa and grandma towards the village meeting-house. Grandpa carried a book; so Tommy must have one too. The book was almost as big as he, but what did he care for that? He was almost a man to-day.

Tommy walked into the church very soberly and tried to keep very still. But he was a tired little boy who went home at noon; for the seats were not made for little people like him, and Tommy was not used to sitting still.

But the boy learned one thing that day that he never forgot. It was this short verse: "I love them that love me, and those that seek me early shall find me."

"Why," said Tommy, as with bright eyes he told his mother of all the doings of the morning, "the minister said it over so many times it wouldn't go away."

"Why, yes," said grandma, "that was the text."

Tommy went with his grandma every Sunday after that.

THE NAUGHTY FINGERS.

"Mamma," said Bessie, "this finger and this thumb have been naughty to-day."

"What did they do?" asked mamma.

"Took some raisins from the closet."

"Did they eat the raisins?" asked mamma.

"No; they put them in my mouth."

"But you were to blame for taking them. Now what shall I do to punish this little hand?" asked mamma.

"It was only one finger and my thumb, mamma," Bessie said, beginning to cry.

"They are two little thieves, then. They cannot be trusted; we must shut them up."

Mamma found some black cloth, and wound it around the finger, and then the thumb. Bessie went to bed, and got up in the morning with them still tied up.

"Shall I take this ugly black cloth off now?" she asked on going to be washed; and as Bessie was so sorry for being naughty, and as she promised not to let her fingers steal again, mamma let her take off the black cloth.—*Gen.*

UNTO HIM.

"I would like to have been that little boy; but Jesus isn't here any more; and I'm a little girl!"

Jeanie France has just been reading about the little lad who gave his loaves and fishes to Jesus, who with them fed five thousand people. Her mother smiled and, taking Jeanie's Bible, said:

"Even if Jesus had stayed upon the earth, he might never have lived just where we live; while now in heaven he hears every word we speak to him. But he knows, dear, that he would like all of us to do something for him, and so he kindly sends some one to each one of us, who stands in his place."

"O mamma, tell me who stands in Christ's place for me! I'll do anything for that person."

Mrs. France opened Jeanie's Bible and read: "'And he took a child and set him in the midst of them, and when he had taken him in his arms he said unto them, Whosoever shall receive one of such children in my name, receiveth me.' Jeanie is not Paul one of such children?"

Jeanie's face grew red and her eyes filled with tears. Paul was a little orphan cousin who had lived with them nearly a year. At first Jeanie thought it great fun to take care of little Paul, but by-and-bye she grew tired of washing his face so often and mending his clothes; and only lately her mother had heard the little girl speak sharply to Paul.

"I never thought," she said, softly.

"Ah, Jeanie dear, we miss so much by not thinking!" And then Mrs. France put on her bonnet, for she was to spend the day at grandma's.

Paul came home at noon in a great hurry for his dinner. Generally Jeanie would have teased him and kept him waiting; but she was so kind and patient that Paul put down his knife and fork once or twice to see what was the matter! Why, auntie had left two little cup custards for their dessert, and Jeanie gave him the biggest! She was so kind that when she said, "Paul, I'd like to wash your face and hands and put on a clean collar before you go back to school," he tried hard not to grumble.

Jeanie found it was a quite different matter to wash and dress Paul for Jesus. She tried to be as gentle as possible, and felt so full of love and peace that when she tied his ribbon she kissed him. He ran off and told Charlie Dunn that his cousin Jeanie was "as good as her mamma!" But he did not know, as we do, what kept Jeanie kind and patient. Somebody stands in Christ's place in every home. Who is it at your house? It may be a little fretful baby, or a tired-out mother, or a sick old grandmother. But whoever it is, Jesus says to you, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

LITTLE

"I will be a
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LESSON

SECON

SIX MONTHS WITH

LESSON

THE MISSION

Luke 10. 1-16.

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QUESTION

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1-16.