

supper the little ones were soon asleep, none the worse for their wanderings. But the motherly little Martha never forgot that anxious afternoon in the forest and the immediate answer to their childish prayer.—'Pacific Churchman.'

### A Curiosity.

I knew a little boy not very long ago,  
Who was as bright and happy as any boy you know.  
He had only one fault, and you will all agree  
That from a fault like this a boy himself might free.

'I wonder who is there, O, see! now why is this?'  
And 'O, where are they going?' and 'Tell me what it is?'  
Ah! 'which' and 'why' and 'who' and 'what' and 'where' and 'when.'  
We often wished that never need we hear those words again.

He seldom stopped to think; he almost always knew  
The answers to the questions that around the world he threw.  
To children seeking knowledge a quick reply we give,  
But answering what he asked was pouring water through a sieve.

Yet you'll admit his fate was as sad as it was strange.  
Our eyes we hardly trusted, who slowly saw him change.  
More curious grew his head, stem-like his limbs, and hark!  
He was at last a mere interrogation-mark!

(Helen Leah Reed, in 'Youth's Companion'.)

### A Little Runaway.

Ethel Royal ran away from home one day, and her mamma searched for several squares up and down Third street before she found her. She had been playing all the time with Tottie. The innocence of the child subdued the mother's excitement over her lost lamb. But she was quite sensible of her duty to punish the child in some way, in order to improve the little one's sense of right and duty. She told her how God looked on her for this wicked act, and shut Ethel alone in a room. After a time the child

was heard to pray aloud to God. In her trustful, confiding way she asked Him to keep her from running away, and had the sweet faith that He would do it because she had asked Him to do it. When her mother asked her, 'What about it, Ethel?' she answered:

'I think now you can let me out, mamma, for God's going to keep me from running away.'

But she ran away again in a day or two afterward. Her mamma asked her:

'Why did you run away again, Ethel? You asked God to keep you from running away.'

'Don't know why He didn't do it—I asked Him,' she said. She looked her mamma, childlike, in her eyes, and kissed her with artless love. But her mamma had no arm around her.

'But, Ethel, when you ask God to help you, you must do a little something to help, too. He expects you to help Him keep you at home.'

Then her mamma shut her up alone again, and the child prayed God to keep her from running away. When her mother asked her whether she could give her liberty again, Ethel said:

'Yes; now I'll be good, and God will keep me; and I will help Him this time.'

She never ran away again.—Ex.

### A Doll's Millinery Store.

#### A True Story.

Lulu had always liked to trim dollie's hats. She was never fretful about her work, but used up the bit of ribbon and silk that she had, and never teased for more.

'Oh, mamma,' she cried one day, 'can't I play that this window is my store?'

Mamma said yes, and Lulu pinned the little hats and bonnets up to the window.

'I'll print a sign and pin that up,' she said.

When the little girls saw the sign and the millinery at the window, they came with their pins and pennies and bought the tiny hats and bonnets for their dolls.

'A number of people are to have a big fair,' said papa, one day. 'They have heard of your millinery store, and want you to move it down to the hall one night.'

'Oh, how lovely!' cried Lulu. And when the time of the fair came, she packed up her dainty millinery, and went with it to the fair. When the evening was over Lulu had earned five dollars.

'Your trade grows so that I shall have to build you a little store out of the boards of the boxes that my goods come in, said papa.

So a little store was built out in the yard. There was a chamber to which one must climb on a little ladder.

There was a counter and behind this Lulu stood and sold her hats. There was a money drawer. Oh, don't you wish you could see how many cents there were in it? There was a window hung with such dainty silk bonnets and straw hats and pieces of ribbon and silk; and over the little door, which had a truly lock and key, this sign was painted:

LULU BURGESS,  
Doll Millinery.

Forenoon and afternoon you could see little girls carrying their dolls to the store to get fitted for a hat, or hurrying out of the yard carrying a tiny bonnet pinned up in a piece of wrapping paper, on which was printed Lulu's advertisement.—Alice May Douglass, in the 'Western Methodist Times.'

### The Bear Hunter.

If I should meet a grizzly bear  
A-roaming from his mountain lair,  
I'd just get down on hands and knees  
And growl around among the trees.

Then if my growling didn't scare  
That great ferocious grizzly bear,  
I'd sing a song, and, at my ease,  
Just try my best the bear to please.  
—Charles Keeler.

### Sample Copies.

Any subscriber who would like to have specimen copies of the 'Northern Messenger' sent to friends can send the names with addresses and we will be pleased to supply them, free of cost.

### A Bagster Bible Free.

Send three new subscriptions to the 'Northern Messenger' at forty cents each for one year, and receive a nice Bagster Bible, bound in black pebbled cloth with red edges, suitable for Sabbath or Day School. Postage extra for Montreal and suburbs or foreign countries, except United States and its dependencies; also Great Britain and Ireland, Transvaal, Bermuda, Barbadoes, British Honduras, Ceylon, Gambia, Sarawak, Bahama Islands, and Zanzibar. No extra charge for postage in the countries named.