

Our Young Folks.

THE LITTLE BELL IN THE HEART.

My heart keeps knocking all the day !
What does it mean ? What would it say ?
My heart keeps knocking all the night !
Child, hast thou thought of this aright ?
So long it has knocked, now loud, now low ;
Hast thou thought what it means by knocking so ?

My child, 'tis a lively little bell,
The dear God's gift, who loves thee well,
On the door of the soul by Him 'tis hung,
And by His hand it still is wrung ;
And He stands without and waits to see
Whether within He will welcome be ;
And still keeps knocking, in hopes to win
The welcome answer, " Come in ! come in ! "

So knocks thy heart now, day by day,
And when its strokes have died away,
And all its knockings on earth are o'er,
It will knock itself at heaven's door,
And stand without, and wait and see
Whether within it will welcome be,
And here Him say : " Come, dearest guest !
I found in thy bosom a holy rest.
As thou hast done, be it done to thee ;
Come into the joys of eternity ! "

—From the German.

HAVING SOME FUN.

" Now, boys, I will tell you how we can have some fun," said Charlie to his companions, who had assembled one bright moonlight evening for sledding, snow-balling and fun generally.

" What is it ? " asked several at once.

" You shall see," said Charlie. " Who's got a saw ? "

" I have. So have I," replied three of the boys.

" Get them ; and you and Fred and Nathan each get an axe, and I will get a shovel. Let's be back in fifteen minutes."

The boys separated to go on their several errands, each wondering of what use saws, axes and shovels could be in the play. But Charlie was a favourite with all, and they fully believed in his promises, and were soon back again for the fun.

" Now," said he, " Widow Bradley has gone to sit up all night with a sick child. A man hauled her some wood to-day, and I heard her tell him that unless she could get some one to saw it to-night she would have nothing to make a fire with in the morning. Now, boys, it will be just as easy for us to saw, split and pile up her wood as to make a snow-man on her doorstep, and the surprise of the first will be better than that of the last. What say you, boys ? "

One or two of the boys objected, and could not see the fun, but the majority went for it with the inward satisfaction and joy that always results from well-doing.

It did not take long for seven smart, healthy boys to split and pile up that load of wood, and to shovel a good path from doorstep to woodpile. They felt great pleasure and satisfaction over their fun, and then all went to a neighbouring carpenter's shop, where shavings could be had for carrying away, and each brought an armful ; then they went home with light and joyful hearts.

The next morning, when the poor, weary widow returned from watching at the sick bed, and saw what had been done, she was astonished, and tears of gratitude ran down her cheeks. She wondered who had done the kindly deed ; and when afterward told, her fervent invocation : " God bless the boys ! " would have richly repaid them could they have heard it.

YOUNG MAN, THIS IS FOR YOU.

1. Save a part of your weekly earnings, even if it be no more than a quarter of a dollar, and put your savings monthly in a savings' bank.

2. Buy nothing till you can pay for it, and buy nothing that you do not need.

A young man who has grit enough to follow these rules will have taken the first step upward to success in business. He may be compelled to wear a coat a year longer, even if it be unfashionable ; he may have to live in a smaller house than some of his young acquaintances ; his wife may not sparkle with diamonds nor be resplendent in silk and satin, just yet ; his children may not be dressed as dolls or popin-jays ; his table may be plain and wholesome, and the whiz of the beer or champagne cork may never be heard in his dwelling ; he may have to get along without the earliest fruit or vegetables ; he may have to abjure the club-room, the theatre, and the gambling-hell ; and to reverence the Sabbath day and read and follow the precepts of the Bible instead, but he will be the better off in every way for this self-discipline. Yes, he may do all these without detriment to his manhood, or health, or character. True, empty-headed folk may sneer at him and affect to pity him, but he will find that he has grown strong-hearted and brave enough to stand the laugh of the foolish. He has become an independent man. He never owes anybody, and so he is no man's slave. He has become master of himself, and a master of himself will become a leader among men, and prosperity will crown his every enterprise.

Young man, life's discipline and life's success come from hard work and early self-denial ; and hard-earned success is all the sweeter at the time when old years climb up on your shoulder and you need propping up.

OBEYING PLEASANTLY.

Little Harry had seen some older boys fly their kites from the tops of the houses, and he thought it would be nice fun if he could do so too—so he came to his aunt and said :—

" Aunt Mary, can I go up to the top of the house to fly my kite ? "

His aunt wished to do everything that was proper to please him, but she thought this was very unsafe, so she said :—

" No, Harry, my boy ; I think that is very dangerous sort of play. I'd rather you wouldn't go."

" All right. Then I'll go out on the bridge," said Harry.

His aunt smiled, and said she hoped he would always be as obedient as that.

" Harry, what are you doing ? " said his mother on one occasion.

" Spinning my new top, mother."

" Can't you take the baby out to ride ? Get out the carriage, and I'll bring him down."

" All right ! " shouted the boy, as he put his top away in his pocket, and hastened to obey his mother.

" Uncle William, may I go over to the store this morning ? " said Harry, one day at breakfast. " I want to see those baskets again that I was looking at yesterday."

" O, yes, Harry," said his uncle ; " I shall be very glad to have you."

" But I cannot spare you to-day, Harry," said his mother ; " I want you to go out with me ; you shall go to the store another time."

" All right," said Harry, and went on eating.

No matter what Harry was asked to do, or what refusal he met with when asking for anything, his constant answer was : " All right." He never asked : " Why can't I ? " or " Why mustn't I ? " Harry had not only learned to obey, but he had learned to obey in good humour.

THE LONGEST DAY.

It is quite important when speaking of the longest day in the year to say what part of the world we are talking about, as will be seen by reading the following list, which tells the length of the longest day in several places. How unfortunate are the children in Tornea, Finland, where Christmas Day is less than three hours in length !

At Stockholm, Sweden, it is eighteen and a-half hours in length.

At Spitzbergen the longest day is three and a-half months.

At London, England, and Bremen, Prussia, the longest day has sixteen and a-half hours.

At Hamburg, in Germany, and Dantzic, in Prussia, the longest day has seventeen hours.

At Wardbury, Norway, the longest day lasts from May 21 to July 22, without interruption.

At St. Petersburg, Russia, and Tobolsk, Siberia, the longest day is nineteen hours, and the shortest five hours.

At Tornea, Finland, June 21 brings a day nearly twenty-two hours long, and Christmas, one less than three hours in length.

At New York the longest day is about fifteen hours, and at Montreal it is sixteen.

HANDSOME IS THAT HANDSOME DOES.

" She is about the plainest woman I ever saw," said my friend ; " but her face radiates so much sunshine that I never think of her looks."

And it was so true. No one who came within the magnetic influence of her sunny spirit ever gave a more than passing thought to the fact of her extreme plainness of feature and awkwardness of form.

She had been a homely child, and they had called her Grace—such a misnomer. Poor little thing ! No one went into raptures over her beauty, and said sweet things to her as they did to her pretty sister, Maud. It had been a heavy cross to the shy child, and during the years of young maidenhood, when other girls were showered with the gallant attentions so flattering to their girlish pride, she was always the one who was " left out of things." But Grace had a wise mother, who tenderly and judiciously showed her young daughter how she might win love and hold it in spite of physical defects—that she must first gain a golden heart, which would ensure a bright, sunshiny face that would win scores of friends. Grace Brown is a plain woman still, but she is also a very attractive woman, with a devoted husband, three or four pretty children and a multitude of friends.

So don't worry, girls, if there is something awry in your features—the worry will only make it worse. It is perfectly natural for you to desire to be beautiful, but if nature has denied you that blessing, why, just make the best of what you have, and cultivate the grace of self-forgetfulness and a sunshiny face.

"THE GIRL WITH A TASTE FOR MUSIC."

This attractive series of papers to be published in *The Youth's Companion* will interest every girl. The contributors include the famous singers—Madame Albani, Miss Emma Juch, Madame Lilian Nordica, Miss Emma Nevada and Miss Marie Van Zandt.

Sabbath School Teacher.

INTERNATIONAL LESSONS.

Nov. 30,
1890.

JESUS RISEN.

{ Luke 24
1-12.

GOLDEN TEXT.—Now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept.—1 Cor. xv. 20.

INTRODUCTORY.

When Christ died on the cross care was taken to ascertain that He was really dead. The legs of the two malefactors were broken by the soldiers. Coming to the body of Jesus, they did not fracture His limbs, but to be sure that He was dead a soldier thrust a spear into His side. From the wound there flowed blood and water, an evidence of death. The centurion told Pilate that Jesus was dead, who, at the request of Joseph of Arimathea, a disciple of Christ, gave up the body for burial. Joseph placed it in his own new tomb which had never been used. Spices were placed along with the body to prevent its decomposition while it remained there over the Jewish Sabbath.

I. The Empty Tomb.—The fact that even the last tributes of respect to the dead were delayed till the dawn of the first day of the week shows how strict the Jewish people were in their Sabbath keeping. The pious women and the disciples, during that trying day, rested, in obedience to the divine command. At the first streak of dawn on the following morning, the first Christian Sabbath, Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary, the mother of James, and other women went early to the rock-hewn tomb where the body had been placed on the Friday afternoon. They were the first visitors to the sepulchre. They anticipated the disciples. It was their purpose to anoint and embalm the body for burial. They came prepared with the aromatic spices generally used for such occasions. Deep as was their devotion to the Saviour and strong as was their faith in Him, it is evident from their purpose that they did not expect His immediate resurrection. They and the disciples at the time may have expected His return in some spiritual manner not plain to their minds. At all events they did not anticipate the resurrection that had taken place before their arrival at the tomb. The Jewish rulers, who had heard no doubt something about Christ's rising from the dead, though they did not believe it, thought it possible that the disciples would resort to fraudulent means. They imagined it possible that these disciples would steal the body from the tomb and then spread the report that Jesus had come to life again. To prevent this the large stone, rolled up against the entrance, had a seal set upon it. They also got Pilate to place a guard of soldiers, so that no one could come near. Of these precautions the women were no doubt ignorant, and as they approached they wondered who would roll away the stone that they might enter the tomb. When they approached the grave they found the entrance unobstructed and the stone rolled away. This was not done by human hands. An angel had been sent to remove the stone. A greater marvel still awaits them. The way into the sepulchre is open, but the grave is empty. When " they entered in they found not the body of the Lord Jesus." This title with which we are now so familiar is here employed for the first time in the New Testament. The absence of the body caused them perplexity. They could not understand it. The thought that Jesus had come to life again did not occur to them. They thought that the gardener who had charge of the place had removed the body, and they wished to know to what place it had been conveyed. While they stood wondering two shining ones appear to them. Here Luke describes them as two men who " stood by them in shining garments." The other evangelists state that these messengers were angels. This Luke conveys when he describes their raiment. It was shining, emblematic of the purity of their character and of the splendour of the place whence they had come.

II. The Angels' Testimony.—When the women saw these angelic beings they were at first afraid. The circumstances were peculiar. They had come to anoint the body of Jesus, and they find it gone, and here are these mysterious beings standing beside them. The first words spoken by the angels were words of comfort and hope. " Why seek ye the living among the dead ? " Here was an intimation that Jesus was alive. The grave was not the place to seek for Him. This was also a faint remonstrance. They who loved Him so devotedly and believed in Him should have had confidence in the promises of His rising again, so clearly expressed on several occasions. Then comes the direct announcement of His resurrection : " He is not here, but is risen." Again there is an appeal to their memory. They are told to remember His own words foretelling His resurrection which He had spoken to them where they dwelt in Galilee. These words are repeated by the angel : " The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified and the third day rise again." These words brought to their recollection that Jesus had foretold His death and resurrection. They remembered His words. Now that the women were convinced of the resurrection they hastened to convey the glad tidings to the eleven, that is, to the circle of the disciples. Now they are called apostles, that is, messengers and personal witnesses of the truth to which they testify. When first the news was brought to them that Christ had risen they were incredulous. The words of the women " seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not." They were not prepared for an announcement which to them seemed so unexpected and so unlikely. Peter and John, however, at once set out with the purpose of finding out for themselves the truth of what they had just heard. John reached the grave first, but Peter was the first to enter it. There he beheld the clothes in which the lifeless body had been wrapped. They had been cast aside and were left lying. The fact was now made plain to Peter. He could no longer doubt, but the mystery to him is only the greater. It is said that he departed, wondering in himself at that which was come to pass. The resurrection of Christ is one of the best-attested facts of history. His enemies unwittingly contributed to the confirmation of the fact. The utmost precautions were taken to guard the tomb, and after the resurrection they became unwilling witnesses of the fact. They could not deny it, but they constructed a clumsy falsehood to account for the deserted tomb, to the effect that the Roman sentinels fell asleep at their posts, and that the disciples had taken the opportunity to steal the body. The disciples did not look for Christ's rising again, but they were convinced by actual personal contact with the risen Saviour, and even the one whose unbelief was strongest was at length constrained to cry : " My Lord, and my God." They maintained an unbroken testimony to the fact, and suffered martyrdom rather than deny Christ.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

No fact connected with the life and work of Christ is more clearly established than that of His resurrection. No fact is more perfectly or completely attested.

The resurrection of Christ is the completion and crowning of His atoning work. His sacrifice was accepted and approved by the Father, by whose mighty power He was raised from the dead.

Christ's resurrection is the pledge and the proof of the rising again from the dead of all who believe in Him.

Those who would share in the blessed resurrection must first, through Christ, rise from the state of death in trespasses and sins. They must lay hold on eternal life.