



# SUNDAY SCHOOL GUARDIAN.

"ALL THY CHILDREN SHALL BE TAUGHT OF THE LORD."

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## THE ALMOND BLOSSOM.

"Dear mamma," said a little girl to her mother, as they were walking together in the garden, "why do you have so few of those double almonds in the garden? You have hardly a bed where there is not a tuft of violets, and they are so much plainer! What can be the reason?"

"My dear child," said the mother, "gather me a bunch of each. Then I will tell you why I prefer the humble violet."

The little girl ran off and soon returned with a fine bunch of the beautiful almond and a few violets.

"Smell them, my love," said her mother, "and try which is the sweetest."

The child smelled again and again, and could scarcely believe herself that the lovely almond had no scent, while the plain violet had a delightful odor.

"Well, my child, which is the sweetest?"

"Oh, dear mother, it is the little violet!"

"Well, you know now, my child, why I prefer the plain violet to the beautiful almond. Beauty without fragrance, in flowers, is, in my opinion, something like beauty with-

out gentleness and good temper in little girls. When any of those people who speak without reflection may say to you, 'What charming blue eyes! What beautiful curls! What a fine complexion!'—without knowing whether you have any good qualities, and without thinking of your defects and feelings, which everybody is born with, remember then, my little girl, the almond blossom; and remember also, when your affectionate mother may not be there to tell you, that *beauty without gentleness and good temper is worthless.*"

## "I DID NOT OBEY MY PARENTS."

The jail was a large, gloomy-looking stone building. The windows were made strong by great iron bars fastened across them. But the inside was the most gloomy. It was divided into very small rooms, only five feet wide, and eight long. Each room had a cross-barred iron door, the hinges grated frightfully on the ear.

In one of the rooms of the jail was a young man about twenty-eight years old. He had been found guilty of making and passing bad money, and the judge said he must