

asked him to do an errand; by the fun which boiled over in every movement, the loving glances of his clear eyes, the bear-like hugs he could give, and the general happy topsy-turviness of his whole body.

When last seen at home, he came rushing up-stairs, tracking mud on every step, calling, "Mother, mother!" at the top of his voice. Passing the cradle, he stooped down to give his sleeping baby-brother a kiss which sounded like the report of a small pistol, and kicked the rocker with that unfortunate foot which always seemed too large for the place it had to occupy.

Into his older sister's lap he flung a handful of early chestnuts out of a pocket in which he had some peanut candy. Close to mother's chair he came, putting his muddy shoes on her dress, his stained and sticky hand around her neck, encircled by the dainty lace and knot of ribbon, and, with a kiss from his ruddy but somewhat begrimed lips, asked if he might go to play with Harry Brown for a while.

Now that her boy is gone, "mother" wishes she had not impatiently said, "Yes, yes, go on, and don't let us see you again till supper time." She would like to take those loving hands very tenderly in her own and tell her darling, her pride, first how dear he was to her, and then counsel him to neatness and gentleness.

His sister would gladly take back the cross "Oh you horrid boy!" and would like, ah so much, to thank him for giving her his store of hardly-gathered nuts. She remembers how he went hither and yon, to carry this note to her schoolmate, and to match her worsted away down town. Even nurse forgets about the rude awakening of baby, and remembers how, when the little one could be amused no other way, the brown, curly head was patiently laid on her lap to be pulled and scratched by the tiny fingers. No one sacrificed more faithfully and willingly at baby's shrine than did this same heedless, impetuous boy who is lost.

A tall young man occupies his room. In place of the rude pictures cut from

the newspaper and the magazine, are portraits of theatrical novelties and famous races. There is no disorder to prove, but there is a strong odour of tobacco. There are elegant meerschauams, quaint cigar-cases, and all the paraphernalia of a luxurious smoker. It is not surprising that a flask or two, and a handsome liquor case, are there too. He comes to the table in faultless attire. From his carefully brushed hair to the polished boots there is nothing awry or amiss. He finds the seasoning of the soup not quite to his taste, and wonders that the meals can't be good as he gets at the Everetts'. He criticises the style of his sister's coiffure and her dress, and hopes she won't go out of an evening again with Will Evans, who is a "spoony, pious chap," and is off with glossy beaver and snug-fitting gloves, vouchsafing to his mother's question, "Where are you going?" no more definite reply than "Out for a while." Quietly enough he comes in, but there are anxiety-quickenened ears, which catch the sound of the latch-key, carefully though it is turned.

Though her heart cries out for him, she has no hope of seeing her lost boy again, but she bids the town crier to ring loud, and shout lustily, that his "Boy lost! boy lost!" may startle every other mother to hold the childish arms in close embrace, till they grow sturdy and strong, and to keep the pure lips pressed to hers, till the eyes, grown still clearer and brighter with years, look no longer up to hers, but down.—*Christian Weekly.*

#### INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS.

##### FIRST QUARTER, 1876.

1. Jan. 2. Saul rejected.....1 Sam. 15, 10-23.
2. Jan. 9. David Anointed King..1 Sam. 16, 1-13.
3. Jan. 16—David and Goliath... 1 Sam. 17, 38-51.
4. Jan. 23—David in the Palace.... Sam. 18, 1-16.
5. Jan. 30 —David and Jonathan..1 Sam. 20, 35-42.
6. Feb. 6—David sparingSaul....1 Sam. 24, 1-16.
7. Feb. 13—Saul and his Sons slain..1 Sam. 31, 1-6.
8. Feb. 20—David established King..2 Sam. 5, 17-25.
9. Feb. 27—The Ark brought to Zion..2 Sam. 6, 1-15.
10. March 5. —God's Covenant with David..2 Sam. 7, 18-29.
11. March 12—Absalom's Rebellion..2 Sam. 15, 1-14.
12. March 19—Absalom's death....2 Sam. 18, 24-33.
13. March 26—Review; or, a lesson selected by the school.