

HOME & SCHOOL.

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THE MOTHER OF THE LORD.*

The Mother of the Lord.*

MAIDEN dream of mother love,
Broods thy gentle eyes above;
Maiden hands with mother grasp
Hold thy Child in tender clasp.
Awe and glory in thy face,
Blend with woman's shrinking grace.
Yet through thine heart must pass the sword,
Thee, beloved of thine adored,
Mary, Mother of the Lord!

Deep and dark the Cross's shade
On thy loving heart is laid;
On thy sweet and pensive lips
Rapture glows through grief's eclipse;
Stilled with mystery's silent spell,
Thrilled with thoughts no speech can tell;
Past the sense of human sadness,
Past the dreams of human gladness;

On thy breast the Living Word,
In thine arms the Babe adored—
Mary, Mother of the Lord!

The Blood of Christ.

AN old herdsman in England was taken to a London hospital to die. His grandchild would go and read to him. One day she was reading in the first chapter of the First Epistle of John, and came to the words, "And the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son,

* This picture is a copy of Raphael's "Madonna of the Chair," one of the most famous paintings in the world.

cleanseth us from all sin;" the old man raised himself up and stopped the little girl, saying, with great earnestness:

"Is that there, my dear?"
"Yes, grandpa."
"Then read it to me again—I never heard it before."
She read it again: "The blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanseth us from all sin."
"You are quite sure that is there?"
"Yes, quite sure, grandpa."
"Then take my hand and lay my finger on the passage, for I want to feel it."

She took the old, blind man's hand and placed his bony finger on the verse, when he said:

"Now, read it to me again."
With a soft, sweet voice she read: "And the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanseth us from all sin."
"You are quite sure that is there?"
"Yes, quite sure, grandpa."
"Then, if any one should ask how I died, tell them I died in the faith of these words: 'The blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanseth us from all sin.'"

With that the old man withdrew his hand, his head fell softly back upon