

## "I'VE NO PLACE."

"I've no place to pray," said a little girl, in a pitiful voice, one day, as her teacher was talking to her about prayer. She lived in a lodging house, in three little rooms, with her father and mother, and six brothers and sisters. There was little chance for her to get away alone.

But her teacher told her she could sometimes slip away into one of the little dark bedrooms and shut the door. There she could be alone with God, and the rest of the family wouldn't miss her for a few minutes. Minnie promised to try it.

Almost everybody can find a lone corner for prayer if they want to. I once heard of a man who worked in a large machine shop, who, after eating his lunch at noon, used to go inside an old boiler to pray. One of his companions found it out, and asked if he might come too. Then others came, and after a while they had quite a little prayer meeting in the old boiler, and souls were saved there.

I knew a man who lived in a small house, and always went out in the barn to pray. I also knew a young girl who could not get a chance for secret prayer till all the day's work of a large family was done, and then she had to go down into the cellar to be alone. But what sweet seasons of prayer she had down there in the dark!

We read in Acts x. 9, that Peter, when in Joppa, "went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour."

God is everywhere. If we cannot be alone, we can pray to Him in our hearts. He can hear even a thought prayer.

## BUILDING TO OVERTHROW.

Little Jamie was on the floor building palaces of blocks. Very carefully he arranged them in their places, balancing them that they might not fall. Yet before any one had time to admire the finished work, he overthrew it all with one blow of his tiny hand. In an instant the ruin was wrought, and Jamie's shout of joy was more triumphant over the swift destruction than over the slow and patient building.

Jamie's father was building, too, slowly and surely building for himself a home that should be a place of refuge and of rest. No danger that he would attempt to overthrow his work! Jamie told the reason: "Mine is only play-building, you know, but papa's is real, earnest building, and he must not make it fall."

Fellow teachers, we are building, and ours is real earnest work. It is the work of leaving noble impressions, and setting God's seal upon living souls. We are laboring not for days alone, not for years alone, but for eternity. And yet too often we build carelessly, and

overthrow our work hastily, as though it were play-work of our own, instead of real work for the Master Architect.

Remember that your life is a constant sermon. God has given you very precious, blessed work to do for Him; win the young hearts wisely and well. Young souls are in your keeping. Live as you would teach them to live. While building these temples for your God, be very patient, very watchful, that by no deed of wrong you overthrow your work.—

## "THE BEST SHE CAN."

"This," said a proud father, addressing a gentleman visitor, and directing his glance towards his ten year old son just entering the room, "is the boy whose pictures you admire so much. The little fellow really has a wonderful talent for drawing."

"And what has this little lady a talent for?" asked the gentleman, turning kindly towards a modest looking little girl, who had entered the room in the rear of her brother, and now stood quietly by her mother's side.

The father hesitated, as his eye rested upon his least gifted child; but her mother, drawing her fondly towards her, replied, "This little girl has a talent for doing the best that she can."

Dear children, are there any of you who possess this talent for doing the best that you can—not in great things only, but in small ones too? The most slenderly endowed among us may do this much; the most gifted cannot do more. Our blessed Lord is not a hard master, "reaping where He has not sown, and gathering where He has not sowed," but He does require that the service which we render shall be in proportion to the capacity with which He has endowed us; the servant in the parable who received five talents gained beside them five talents more. Higher praise was never given to man or angel than that which our Saviour bestowed upon the woman who anointed his head with ointment,—“She hath done what she could.”—

## RULES FOR FRETTERS.

A little girl who was a fretter had been visiting me. She fretted when it rained, and fretted when the sun shone. She fretted when little girls came to see her, and she fretted when they did not. It is dreadful to be a fretter. A fretter is troublesome to herself, and troublesome to her friends. We all have our trials, but fretting does not help us to bear or get rid of them.

I have lately come across a short rule for fretters, which they shall have:—Never fret about what you cannot help, because it will not do you any good. Never fret about what you can help; because, if you can help it, do so. Say this when

you get up in the morning, say it at noon, say it at night; and not only say, but do; and that will be, fret not at all—a fine doing.

The only correct way of getting along, is not to wish ourselves because we are not, but contentedly bear our lot and be satisfied with what God has given us.

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