Family Reading.

A LITTLE CHILD MAY BE USEFUL. I may, if I have but a mind, Do good in many ways; Plenty to do the young may find, In these our busy days: Sad would it be, though young and small, If I were of no use at all.

One gentle word that I may speak, Or one kind, loving deed, May, though a trifle poor and weak, Prove like a tiny seed; And who can tell what good may spring From such a little thing?

Then let me try each day and hour, To act upon this plan,-What little good is in my power, To do it while I can; If to be useful thus I try, I may do better by and by.

POMPEII-ITS RUINS AND ITS PEOPLE.

In digging out the ruins of Pompeii, every turn of the spade brings up some relic of the ancient life, some witness of Imperial luxury. For far the greater part, these relics have a merely curious interest; they belong to archæology, and find appropriate resting-places in historical museums. But there are some exceptions. Here, for instance, the excavator drops an uninvited guest upon a banquet,-there he unexpectedly obtrudes into a tomb. In one place. he finds a miser cowering on his heaps, -another shows him bones of dancing girls and broken instruments of music lying on the marble floor. In the midst of painted chambers, baths, halls, columns, fountains-among the splendid evidence of material wealth-he sometimes stumbles on a simple incident, a touching human story, such as strikes the imagination and suggests the mournful interest of the great disaster,—as the sudden sight of a wounded soldier conjures up the horrors of a melancholy field. It is a group of skeletons in the act of flight, accompanied by a dog. There are three human beings, one a young girl, with gold rings and jewels still on her fingers. The fugitives her mother's room. had bags of gold and silver with them. santched up, no doubt, in haste and dark. track,-and vain their wealth, their flight, there. the age of one, the youth of the other. to share the fortune sof its mistress-dying loving way, told her how the house had at her side. Seen by the light of such an been hunted to find the bag, and how her incident, how vividly that night of horrors mother had reproved her for her carelesslooms upon the scene! Does not imagina. ness. 'If I could only, only find it!' said tion picture that little group, in their own Josephine, pitifully. house, by the side of their evening fountain, languidly chatting over the day's events shrieks,-the air grows thick with dust the blue bag; and if she shut them there and hot with flames, -and at the moun- was the blue bag. tain's foot is heard the deadly roll of liquid lava. Jewels, household gods, gold and silver coins are snatched up on the instant. No time to say farewell; darkness in front and fire behind, they rush into the streets -streets choked with falling houses and flying citizens. How find the way through passages which have on longer outlets?confusion, danger, darkness, uproar everywhere ;-the shouts of parted friends, the agony of men struck down by falling columns; -fear, madness, and despair unchained ;-here, Penury clutching gold it the call. 'My child,' she said, 'my child, cannot keep,—there, Gluttony feeding on what ails you?' coming to her bedside and its final meal, and Phrenzy striking in the dark to forestal death. Through all, fancy hears the young girl's screams,-the fire is on her jewelled hand. No time for thought,-no pause:-the flood rolls on, and wisdom, beauty, age, and youth, with all the stories of their love, their hopes, their rank, wealth, greatness,-all the once affluent life-are gone for ever. When unearthed after many ages, the nameless group has no other importance to mankind than as it may serve" to point a moral or adorn a tale."-Athenaum.

THE ROOKS.

"A large colony of rooks," says Dr. Percival, "subsisted many years in a grove on the banks of the river Irwell, near Manchester. One serene evening I placed myself within the view of it, and marked with attention the various labours, evolutions and pastimes, of this crowded society. The idle members amused themselves with chasing each other through endless mazes; and, in their flight, they made the air sound with a variety of discordant noises. In the midst of these playful exertions, it unforden turn, struck his beak against the wing of another. The sufferer instantly fell into the river. A general cry of distress ensued. The birds hovered with every expression of anxiety over their distressed air, and by one strong effort, reached the name.' point of the rock which projected into the water. The joy became universal; but alas! it was soon changed into notes of lamentation; for the poor wounded bird, sits the father and the dear, dear mother, in attempting to fly towards his nest, drop-

but very little feeling and sympathy in re. are with you now, but they cannot tarry ference to others. If, in the midst of their games, one should be hurt, few perhaps, ther may be the first to lie low, with the if any, care for him; and if he succeeds, closed eye and the sealed lip of death. instead of rejoicing with him, he is often Or the mother, so patient and so mild, looked at with envy and dislike. Still may be borne away to the narrow grave. worse is it when they try to tease and annoy The baby's innocent heart may grow cold one another. Should a little boy or girl and its sweet voice be hushed for ever ere have something very nice or good, some another week goes by, and the brothers will do all they can to snatch or spoil it; and the sisters may be missing from their and so far from being sorry for any one places just as soon. who is weak and in pain, it is not uncommon for a child, unwell, to be laughed at pale, sad faces and reproachful voices gaor mocked, or pushed, without any concern. thered about you in the years to come, be

THE BLUE BAG.

Among Josephine Day's beuatiful playthings there was nothing to equal the blue bag which Mrs. Gawtry gave her,-at least to Sarah's eye. Oh, that little blue velvet bag! such a beauty! and just such one as she wanted. She wished Mrs. Gawtry would give her one; she would have cared a great deal more about it than Josephine. And Sarah eyed it, and held it up by the strings, and danced it on her ingers, and made believe it was hers. After all, it was Josephine's. Oh, dear,' sighed the little Sarah. Many days went on, and every time Sarah went into Josephine's house, she said, 'Oh dear,' wistfully, over the blue bag.

One afternoon, as she was going up the steps to call Josephine to walk what should she spy dangling on a bush under the window but the blue bag! Sarah darted her eye at every window, nobody was looking; she seized the little bag and put it in her pocket. Some one then crossed the entry and said Josephine was out, which Sarah was not sorry to hear. So she ran home with the prize in her pocket. 'I only picked it up, she kept saying to herself; there's no harm in that-only picked it

Sarah then went by herself, took it out, neld it up, and put her kerchief in it, hung t on her arm, and examined it to her heart's content; it was such a beauty! But when she heard steps on the stairs, she snatched it of her arm and hid it in her pocket. Her mother came into the chamer, but, dearly as she loved her mother. what had just delighted her she dare not ask her mother to delight in also. Oh, no; and after a few kind words from her mother, Sarah stole away into the garden.

When night came, Sarah was at a loss o know how to dispose of the bag; her mother might go to her pocket, so it was not safe there; neither could she be sure of keeping it hidden in any drawer or closet. Somehow or other, every spot field of battle. Such, to our mind, is the seemed naked and open to people's eyes; latest discovery of the excavators in this at last she put it under her pillow, and there it troubled her like a thorn, for Sarah kept waking up and feeling after it all night. 'Oh dear,' sighed the little girl in the morning, not as usual, hastening to

"O dear," she sighed, dropping her eyes when Josephine entered the school-room, ness. But the fiery flood was on their and feeling in her bosom for the bag hid

'Oh, dear,' she sighed again, afraid to The burning lava rolled above them and play at recess, lest it should drop out; and beyond; and the faithful dog turned back putting her arm about her neck in her own

At the close of the day Sarah could not smile; there was a burden on her heart and of the unusual heat? Does it not hear, that grew heavier and heavier, and she with them, the troubled swell of the waters hardly knew what to do. Her mother saw in the bay-see, as they do, how the night something was the matter, but when she comes down in sudden strangeness, how asked what it was, the little girl turned her the sky opens overhead and flames break back and said nothing. At the same time, out, while scoriæ, sand, and smolten rocks two scalding tears trickled down her come pouring down? What movement, cheeks. Every way she turned, and what emotion, what surprise! The scene grows darker every instant,—the hollow monotony of the bay is lifted into yells and all dark, if she opened her eyes, there was all dark, if she opened her eyes, there was all dark, if she opened her eyes, there was all dark, if she opened her eyes, there was all dark in the air; after she went to bed and it was all dark, if she opened her eyes, there was all dark if she opened her eyes, the eyes all the she opened her eyes, the eyes all the she opened he

> The worst of all was, Sarah had a grief she could not speak of. Heretofore, all her little sorrows and perplexities, as well as her joys, her mother shared; now the child was trying to bear the burden alone. 'Oh, will not Jesus help me!' she cried aloud on her bed, tossing about. She tried to pray, but there was no heart in her praver. Leaning on her arm, she lifted up her head, and listened to distant footsteps in the entry. Mother!' screamed the child, 'mother mother!' The mother heard and ran to taking both of Sarah's hot hands in hers. 'Oh mother, I more than took it ; I stole it,

> thrusting her hand between the beds, and drawing forth the little blue bag. 'Mother will God ever forgive me? Can I ever be happy again?' and the child sobbed bitterly on her mother's shoulder. What a sad and solemn hour was this ! 'Yes, mother, I knew better. I kept saying, It's only picking it up; but, mother, it was more. I knew it was more when I was afraid to show it to you, and I knew it was more when I could not tell you how I felt. Mother, I am a thief, neither more nor less, and Josephine may take me to jail. I had just as soon go, now I've told. I had rather tell; and mother, will God forgive

The mother looked very pale; she did not try to comfort her little one; she only took her by her side, and they knelt down together, to ask forgiveness of God. And early the next morning, the mother and her child went to Josephine's house, Sarah carrying the bag. 'Mother,' whispered the little girl, 'it's no matter what Josephine, or any one thinks of me; if I only confess my tunately happened that one rook, by a sud- sin and be forgiven, is it not a great dea better?' As the child spoke, the mother thanked God in her heart for this sweet token of an humble and repentant spirit.

'Oh,' said Sarah, many, many times afterwards,' and always with a tear in her eye, companion. Animated by their sympathy, 'I am sure that is sin which you are trying and perhaps, by the language of counsel to hide from your mother and from God; known to themselves, he sprang into the and you can't smooth it over by any other

CHILDREN SHOULD REFLECT.

Look round, little reader. See, there ped into the river, and was drowned, sisters. Here, in its little cradle, lies the amidst the moans of his whole fraternity." APPLICATION.—Children sometimes show rosy cheek. All the dear ones, perhaps

Oh, little children, if you would not have Might not the rooks teach them better? | dutiful and affectionate to your parents,

and kind, always kind and loving, to your brothers and sisters.

Then, when you sit silently, years hence, in the eventide, the phantoms from the remembered past, which will be ever thronging your thresholds, and creeping to your firesides, which will fill the vacant seats beside yours, and flit along the walls, will all smile upon you, and you will rejoice greatly in their company. The father sand the mother's face will look kindly upon you, with earnest and pleasant eyes.

The brothers and the sisters will float often by you, and you will love to see their graceful shadowy forms, and waving hair. When you awake, in the calm morning,

they will be near you, and even in the orightness of noon, they will not all be gone. They will be your chosen companions until you, too, lie down to sleep and rise up

United States.

The horrible condition of New York is described in the following powerful language by the N. Y. Times. Speaking of the mortality it says:—"But, out of the number that have perished, it would be instructive if we could get at the number that have died unnecessarily. speak thoughtfully. We know that we must all succumb at last to the strokes of the Destroyer. But in New York we do not wait for him to strike us. We chase him as he is passing by.-We pull Death by the elbow and bare our breasts o arrows that he is just ready to let fly at others Not a word now of the man-traps that are placed along our walks, which keep the Street Com-missioner busy with winking at them,—not a word of the heaps of filth that breed contagion and death in every quarter. Off from the oracle sides of the men who are responsible for these pestiferous nuisances, all the curses of orphans, the maledictions of mourners, and the rebukes Education can be given.

Address A. B., Post-Office, Yorkville. and death in every quarter. Off from the brazen We are not disposed to waste words upon them.

GIVING AND PRAYING .- Unfortunately these two do not always go together. We commend the following to those who would put asunder what God hath joined together. At a mission-ary meeting in the State of Maine, one of the fathers of the congregation, who happened to be rather hard of hearing, was asked "to lead in prayer." Some one observed the old gentleman putting his hand into his pocket, and shouted into his ear, "Not give, father Sewell, not give, but pray." "Ay, ay," he responded, "but I must give first, then pray."—Banner of the

The New York Observer states that Bishop Potter, of Pennsylvania, recently refused to lecture before the Young Men's Association of Pitts-burgh; and gives as "a very good reason"—in which all right-minded persons will agree—that Miss Lucy Stone had preceded, and Miss A. L. Brown was to follow him, as lecturers.—Banner

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October 26, 1853

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oonfirmed

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