

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.

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 archeology, and find appropriate resting-places in historical museums.

Sarah then went by herself, took it out, held it up, and put her kerchief in it, hung it on her arm, and examined it with her heart's content; it was such a beauty!

When night came, Sarah was at a loss to know how to dispose of the bag; her mother might go to her pocket, so she was not safe there; neither could she be sure of keeping it hidden in any drawer or closet.

Oh dear, she sighed, dropping her eyes when Josephine entered the school-room, and feeling in her bosom for the bag hid there.

Oh dear, she sighed again, afraid to play at recess, lest it should drop out; and putting her arm about her neck in her own loving way, told her how the house had been hunted to find the bag, and how her mother had reproved her for her carelessness.

At the close of the day Sarah could not smile; there was a burden on her heart that grew heavier and heavier, and she hardly knew what to do. Her mother saw something was the matter, but when she asked what it was, the little girl turned her back and said nothing.

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.

"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 BLUE BAG.

Among Josephine Day's beautiful plays, things there was nothing to equal the blue bag which Mrs. Gawry gave her,—at least to Sarah's eye. Oh, that little blue velvet bag! such a beauty! and just such one as she wanted.

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.

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."

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 missionary 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."

THE NEW YORK OBSERVER states that Bishop Potter, of Pennsylvania, recently refused to lecture before the Young Men's Association of Pittsburgh; and gives as "a very good reason"—"in which all right-minded men will agree—that Miss Lucy Stone had preceded, and Miss A. L. Brown was to follow him, as lecturers."

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Oh, little children, if you would not have pale, sad faces and reproachful voices gathered about you in the years to come, be dutiful and affectionate to your parents,

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Reference kindly permitted to the Hon. and Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Toronto, the Rev. John McCaul, L.L.D., President of the University of Toronto, the Rev. H. G. B. G. Rector of Toronto, Rev. Edmund Baldwin, M.A., Assistant Minister of St. James's, St. C. D. McKenzic, M.A., Incumbent of St. Paul's, Toronto, Rev. B. J. McGeorge, Streetville, and the Rev. T. S. Kennedy, Secretary of the Church Society.

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