

## A GLAD SURPRISE.

GRANDPA came up from the barn, one day,  
His kind eyes with pleasure o'er-run-  
ning;  
He carried his hat in a careful way,  
For in it, all knew to the light of day,  
Were some little chicks, downy and  
cunning

He opened the door, and for Bess looked  
about—  
His two-year-old granddaughter, sturdy.  
"What is it?" he asked, as he held a  
chick out.  
She looked for a moment, then gave a  
glad shout:  
"Oh! a dear little doll-baby birdie."

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## Sunbeam.

TORONTO, APRIL 24, 1897.

## LEND TO THE LORD.

No stories are so good as those of the Good Book, and the stories of the Bible, children, are the best of all.

Up among the mountains of Palestine lived a pious man, Elkanah, with his wife, Hannah, whom he dearly loved. One thing made Hannah very sorrowful; she had no son. She never prayed without asking God to give her a boy baby. Her face was sad and her red eyes showed how much she cried.

At last her earnest prayer was answered, and the baby came to make her happy. She named him Samuel, which means, "God heard;" and while he was yet very young she took the child to Eli, the high priest at Shiloh, and left him there.

This seems like a strange thing to do, but she said, "The Lord has given me this boy, and I am so grateful that now I am going to lend him back to the Lord; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the Lord." God had been so good in sending her a son that she could think of no better

way of showing her gratitude than by having the child spend his life helping the priests about the burnt offerings.

It must have been a pretty sight to see the rosy-checked lad in his linen tunic running in and out of the tabernacle grounds, and standing by with a sober face, while the gray-bearded Eli prayed and offered up the sheep and goats. Very serious thoughts must have come into his curly head in those days and nights.

The gentle mother in her mountain home did not forget her precious boy. She saw him only once a year, when the family came up to the tabernacle to sacrifice, but every time she brought with her a little new cloak which she had spun and woven and made for Samuel.

The lad who was thus lent became a great and useful man, and the story of his noble life is written in the Bible. Many a mother nowadays, as she clasps her little child in her loving arms, really lends the little one to the Lord. Many of us who read this paper to-day have been so lent. Let us be faithful in the Lord's service as Samuel was, and be as useful to those around us.

## DO IT WELL.

AN adage has it. "Whatsoever is worth doing at all is worth doing well." This motto is the keynote of success. The boy who plays with a right good will, when it is the proper time for play, and who studies just as hard as he plays, is the boy who will get on in life.

Michael Angelo was one day explaining to a visitor at his studio what he had been doing at a statue since his previous visit. "But these," remarked his friend, "are trifles."

"It may be so," replied Michael Angelo, "but trifles make perfection, and perfection is no trifle."

Samuel Smiles declares that "close observation of little things is the secret of success in business, in art, in science, and in every pursuit in life."

When Charles James Fox was appointed Secretary of State, being piqued at some remarks made about his penmanship, he actually took lessons from a writing master, that he might do better. Though very stout, he was especially expert at the game of court tennis; and when asked how he managed it so well, he replied, "Because I am a very painstaking man."

Earnest application and attention to all the details will accomplish more than slothful genius.

The great Sir Isaac Newton once said to a friend: "If I have done the public any service, it is due to nothing but industry and patient thought."

Buffon said of genius: "It is patience." An Eastern proverb declares that "time and patience turn the mulberry leaf to satin."

He who does humble labour faithfully and well will sooner or later be called up higher. The man or boy who is worth no more than he gets is not likely to get any

more; for, if he does, he will be receiving more than he is worth.

The rule of doing everything well should be applied to the Christian life.

God wants whole-hearted service. We are to be "fervent in spirit," as well as "not slothful in business." Be brave, active, and earnest as Christians, and you will find a joy and sweetness in the service of God that the lukewarm and indolent know nothing of.

## WHAT TO GIVE AWAY.

THE time had come to open the big chests and get out the spring and summer clothes. Amy was so glad! It would be so nice to put away the heavy browns and grays and put on dainty muslins and lawns again, and look like a peach tree in bloom.

It was also a time for giving away outgrown and outworn garments to people who were needy. Amy's mother was making a pile of such things while the little girl stood by objecting: "Not that, mother, don't give away that gingham, it makes a good gardening dress; and that broad hat is useful when I play croquet. And, dear me, please give me back that shirt waist; I can wear it under my reefer." So Amy laid claim to each article.

Mother stopped in the midst of her work and looked at her daughter with surprise.

"What is your idea about giving away, Amy?" she said.

"Why, we are to give away the things we don't need."

"Suppose our dear Lord came into this room and asked us for gifts to supply his need, would you give him only what you could not possibly use yourself?"

Amy was silent.

"Because," continued the mother, "he distinctly says that the exact measure of our liberality to his poor marks our gifts to him: 'Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.'"

"What is *your* idea, then, mother, about what to give away?"

"All that we can possibly spare that will help our neighbours."

"O! Then let the brown gingham go. I can garden in a better dress and take care of it. Put in the hat too; my 'sailor' will keep the sun out of my eyes. Yes, here is the shirt waist; I have enough without it. I see that I was only going to *shed my cast-offs*, like the locust, and that would not be giving at all."

"I am sure," said mother, as she heaped up the pile, "that you will find how much contentment comes from giving away what we would like to keep."

SOME little folks are apt to say,

When asked their task to touch,

"I'll put it off—at least to-day;

It cannot matter much."

But little duties still put off

Will end in "Never done;"

And "By-and-bye is time enough"

Has ruined many a one.