

## OUR YOUNG FOLKS.

### WONDERFUL WORDS.

Keep a guard on your words, my darlings,  
For words are wonderful things;  
They are sweet like the bees' fresh honey,  
Like the bees they have terrible stings.  
They can bless like the cheering sunshine,  
And brighten a lonely life;  
They can cut in the strife of anger,  
Like an open, two-edged knife.

Let them pass through your lips unchallenged  
If their errand is true and kind;  
If they come to support the weary,  
To comfort and help the blind.  
If a bitter, revengeful spirit,  
Prompts the words, let them be unaid;  
They may flash through the brain like lightning,  
Or fall on the heart like lead.

Keep them back if they're cold and cruel,  
Under bar, and lock, and seal;  
The wounds they make, my darlings,  
Are always slow to heal.  
May peace guard our lives, and ever,  
From this time of your early youth,  
May the words that you daily utter,  
Be the beautiful words of truth.

### A CHILD'S COVENANT.

Do you know what a covenant means? It is an agreement made between two persons. Now the agreement we are going to speak about was made by a very little boy, named Zinzendorf, who was born nearly two hundred years ago.

Zinzendorf was the son of rich and noble parents, and would have had many temptations, but when he was only four years old he began to love to talk with God.

He was only a little fellow when he made this covenant with Jesus: "Be Thou mine, dear Saviour, and I will be Thine."

What a sweet agreement that is, children! Will you not make such a one with Jesus?

But Zinzendorf was not content to make agreement only, he lived daily as a child of God should live. Thinking much of his heavenly Father, and praying very often to Him.

The window is still shown in an old castle, where Zinzendorf dropped out letters addressed to Jesus. In those little notes he told his Saviour how dearly he loved Him, and he never doubted that Jesus saw them.

When we remember that Christ has said "They that seek Me early shall find Me," we cannot doubt either that God saw and answered those letters. Do you ask how God could answer them? By sending His Holy Spirit to the boy, and pouring more love and grace into his young heart.

One day, when Zinzendorf was only six years old, he was praying aloud in his room.

A party of soldiers belonging to an invading army, forced their way into the castle, and entered the little count's room. When they heard how earnestly he was praying, they stood quietly aside, and watched him, and then went away without touching him.

What text does that remind you of? "He shall give His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways."

As Zinzendorf grew older, he worked more for God, and was noted at school for his earnest piety. He was not content to know that his own soul was saved, but he worked hard among his school-fellows to make them, too, feel the need of a Saviour; and when he

left he had founded seven different societies for prayer.

You must not imagine that, because Zinzendorf loved and prayed to God, he was backward in his lessons. He was a hard-working boy, and at sixteen was far ahead of those of his own age in Latin and Greek. When he became a man he was a poet, a preacher, and a missionary.

### TURNING-POINTS IN LIFE.

"Once to every man and nation comes  
The moment to decide  
In the strife of truth and falsehood, for  
The good or evil side."

No one who has read biography with carefulness has failed to see certain little things, especially in the lives of great men, which have turned them away from ignorance, or idleness, or error, to a life distinguished for its intelligence and earnestness. Sometimes the turning-point is early in life. It is said of Voltaire that at the age of five years he committed to memory an infidel poem, and was never after that able to free himself from its pernicious influence.

William Wilberforce, when a child was placed under the training of a pious aunt; and although much was done in his early manhood to erase the impressions received from his aunt, his whole life was moulded and coloured by that training.

Hume was quite young when he took the wrong side in a debate, and he embraced and defended through life the position taken at that time.

Scott, the commentator, in a despairing mood read a hymn of Dr. Watts' on the all seeing God, and was turned from his sin and idleness to a life of usefulness.

The rebuke of a teacher and the taunt of a schoolmate aroused Clarke, the distinguished divine, who, up to that time, was very slow in attaining knowledge.

The turning point in Doddridge's life was when Clarke took him under his care. The first year he made great progress in study, and soon developed into a man of learning and influence.

Aaron Burr sought spiritual advice in a revival at college, but his counsellor told him that the work was not genuine. His anxieties were dissipated, and from that time his downward career has been dated.

Robert Moffat, the distinguished missionary, as he read a placard announcing a missionary meeting, was led to devote his life to the benefit of the heathen.

Thus it is that the character, and years of usefulness often depend on one little event or circumstance.

### THE DUDE AND THE INDIAN.

It is easy to decide which of the two young men was the gentlemen, in the following story from an exchange:

"On a Fort Wayne train approaching Chicago there was a short-statured, straight-haired, copper-coloured Indian, going back to the reservation after a trip to the Indian school at Carlisle, Pa. He wore a nice suit of clothes which fitted him badly, and a paper

collar without any necktie. He attended strictly to his own business, and was unmolested until a young sprig came into the smoking car from the sleeper. 'An Indian, I guess,' said the young chap, as he lighted a cigarette. And then, approaching the son of the plains, he attracted general attention by shouting with strange gestures: 'Ugh, heap big Injun! Omaha? Sioux? Pawnee? See great father? Have drink firewater? Warm Injun's blood!'

"The copper-coloured savage gazed at the young man a moment, with an ill-concealed expression of contempt on his face, and then he said, with good pronunciation: You must have been reading some dime novels, sir. I am going back to my people in Montana, after spending three years in the East at school. I advise you to do the same thing. No. I do not drink whisky. Where I live gentlemen do not carry whisky flasks in their pockets.'

"The cigarette was not smoked out, and, amid a general laugh, a much crestfallen young man retired to the sleeping coach."

### THE FIRST FRUIT.

A little girl was once made the owner of some grapes upon a large vine in her father's yard. Very anxious was she that the fruit should ripen and be fit to eat. The time came.

"Now for a feast," said her brother to her one morning, as he pulled some of the beautiful ones for her to eat.

"Yes," said she, "but they are the first ripe fruit."

"Well, what of that?"

"Dear father told me that he used to give God the first fruit of all the money he made, and then always felt the happier in spending the rest; and I wish to give the first of my grapes to God, too."

"Ah, but," said her brother, "how can you give grapes to God? And if you were able to do such a thing He would not care for them."

"Oh, I have found out the way," she said. "Jesus said; 'Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me;' and I mean to go with them to Mrs. Martin's sick child, who never sees grapes, because her mother is too poor to buy them."

And away ran this little girl with a large basket of the "first fruit" of the vine, and other good things all beautifully arranged, to the couch of the sick child.

"I have brought Mary some ripe fruit," she said to Mrs. Martin.

"Dearest child, may God bless you a thousand fold for your loving gift! Here, Mary, see what a basket of nice things has been brought you!"

The sick one was almost overcome with emotion as she clasped the hand of her young benefactress and expressed her sincere thanks.

"By me princes rule, and nobles, even all the judges of the earth. I love them that love Me; and those that seek Me early shall find Me."—Prov. viii. 16, 17.