

## Our Young Folks.

### A LITTLE SCHOLAR.

While their lessons for the morrow  
All the other children learn,  
Oft I see a tiny toddler  
With a look of grave concern.  
On her lap she spreads a volume,  
And a clothes-pin is her pen;  
By herself she softly chatters,  
"Four and six and two and ten."

In her quiet little corner,  
On her brow a studious frown.  
How she pores above those pages—  
They are just now upside down—  
Till the bee like droning ceases!  
If I beg my little wren  
For a kiss, I get this answer:  
"Four and six and two and ten."

At his very busy playmate  
Pussy looks with blinking eyes;  
Then she stands him in the corner,  
Very much to his surprise;  
And she holds the book before him,  
Though he mews a protest then.  
She is teaching puss his lesson—  
"Four and six and two and ten."

In the tranquil hush of bed-time,  
When the good-night kisses fall,  
From her lonely little corner  
My wee scholar then I call;  
And I ask how much she loves me—  
Press her rose lips once again;  
While she hugs me, and she whispers,  
"Four and six and two and ten."

### GOLDEN GRAIN BIBLE READINGS.

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#### "GOD'S THOUGHTS ARE NOT OUR THOUGHTS."

The thoughts being the person, in them we see  
God's grace and greatness, and man's meanness and  
miserableness. They are put strikingly before us in  
these parallels.

The Prodigal would be a servant,	Luke xv. 21.
But God would make him His Son,	Luke xv. 24.
The rich man would take his ease,	Luke xii. 19.
But God calls him to his account,	Luke xii. 20.
The disciples would drive away the mothers,	Matt. xix. 13.
But Christ encourages them to come,	Luke xix. 14-15.
Men seek to perpetuate their names,	Psa. xlix. 11.
But being selfishness, they perish,	Psa. xlix. 12-13.
We call the proud happy,	Mal. iii. 15.
But only they who fear God are so,	Mal. iii. 16-17.
The supply is small in the hands of the disciples,	John vi. 9.
But it multiplies in Christ's hands,	John vi. 11.
Solomon the king asked an understand- ing heart,	1 Kings iii. 9.
But God gave him also riches and honour,	1 Kings iii. 11-13.
The sinner asks forgiveness,	Psa. xxxii. 5.
But God makes him His heir,	Rom. viii. 17.

### A CELEBBATED BIBLE.

In the Congressional Library, at Washington,  
there is one book which, amid the myriad tomes of  
bibliothecal lore that adorn the walls of the celebrated  
gathering, commands and receives the attention and  
admiration of those who pass through its spacious  
aisles. It is a Bible. To describe it literally, it is of  
size about 15 x 12 inches; its leaves are of parch-  
ment, and on every page is written two columns of  
sacred truth. At the head of every page, as well as  
the beginning of every chapter, the initial letter is  
beautifully expressed by a large letter in coloured  
inks, and within its compass is portrayed some figure  
or character illustrative of the chapter which follows.  
Not a stain or erasure is seen upon a single page;  
amid the long record of Bible truth the words of  
Jehovah and the teachings of Jesus seem most strik-  
ingly grand and beautiful from the purity of the page,  
and the beauty of their transcription.

Five years were exhausted in this toilsome work,  
and the result was a production unequalled in the  
handicraft of art, and unexcelled in all the works of  
literature. The Book has its own keeping; within a  
glass receptacle its pages lie open for inspection,  
and when one more curious than another ventures to  
lift the lid of the case, it is only to find that every  
page is spotless and every letter perfect.

A beautiful legend is connected with this Book;

that long years ago, in the fifteenth century, one who  
had immured himself in monastic life for certain  
great sins which he thought himself to have com-  
mitted, sought by prayers and this system of penance  
to propitiate the divine favour.

Five years of patient, unremitting toil were given  
to the task. Day-dawn and night darkness found  
him ever and devotedly at his work, until at last the  
final page was written, the last word inscribed. He  
lifted the page and kissed it, and closing the leaves,  
turned from his labours for rest. The day was pass-  
ing into darkness when he lay down to sleep. It was  
the peaceful repose of the weary and heavy laden;  
his spirit was exhaled and the morning brought no  
awakening. The silver cord was loosed, the golden  
bowl broken, and in the golden streets of that new and  
better life, "wherein dwelleth righteousness," he was  
forever at peace. Beautiful, grandly beautiful, as  
was this magnificent transcription, it was not all that  
was needed to secure the divine acceptance.

An easier path is open to us, the whisperings of in-  
finite love come falling upon our hearts, "I am  
the Way, the Truth, and the Life." The narrow way is  
open, the pearly gates of heaven are ajar, and we who  
will may enter in, assured of the joys and rewards  
which are promised hereafter to the chosen people of  
God.

### A YOUNG GIRL'S APPEAL.

Dear Girls: May I hold your attention for a few  
moments? Many of us, no doubt, have felt the same  
impulses on seeing wretched, miserable men strug-  
gling within the grasp of liquor. Some of you must  
have felt as though you would give all that you possess  
to free such miserable beings from the chains of  
slavery. Have you ever thought *seriously*, my young  
friends, of the heart-broken dwellers in homes ruled  
over by such tyrants? We who have fathers that  
abhor intoxicating drinks in every guise, have *we* ever  
tried to quell this tide of destruction?

O, my young friends? wake up from this sleep,  
shun as you would a venomous reptile the young man  
with the tainted breath. Perhaps this has fallen un-  
der the eye of a young girl about to sell herself to  
such a one. In God's name pause, consider the step.  
The future will bring you a broken heart, a wretched,  
destitute life on this earth. Consider the misery of a  
drunkard's home. Then, can you take the step?

If we young girls of this present age would only  
arouse ourselves and make a stand, firm and unflinch-  
ing, determining not to allow dabblers in the wine-  
cup to associate with us, what a glorious result we  
might accomplish. But the great trouble is that  
the majority of the girls of to-day are too lenient in  
that respect; they do not consider it wrong to take a  
glass now and then. Perhaps some of you have  
offered a young man his first glass. O, girls! how  
can you persist in this practice when you see hun-  
dreds, yes, thousands of wretched beings around you  
who began with a small quantity? Make it a point to  
save some young man. Have you a brother? Then  
ask God's help in teaching him to abhor the cursed  
stuff. What a grand work is open to the young girls  
of the age. May God grant that each one may enter  
into it with her whole soul, and we shall find the har-  
vest to be abundant and our reward hereafter sure.

### LEND A HAND.

When? Where?

To-day, to-morrow, every day, just where you are.  
You have heard of the girl who sat down and  
sighed the morning hours away, longing to be a mis-  
sionary and help somebody, while her mother was  
toiling in the kitchen, and looking after three little  
children at the same time. Perhaps your mother has  
servants in the kitchen, but you can lend her a hand  
all the same. You can find a place to help brother  
or sister or friend, and you can help everybody in the  
house by your patient, kind, obliging spirit, "in  
honour preferring one another," self-forgetful and  
mindful of others.

It seems a very little thing to "lend a hand" in  
these quiet home ways, but if you could see the record  
the angels make of such a day you would see that it  
was a very great thing.

Boys, girls, watch eagerly your chance. Do not be  
cheated out of your happy privilege. It is a great,  
noble, blessed thing to be able to "help a little," no  
matter how little it may be.

### A SMALL PRAYER MEETING.

They held it every night, she and her mother or  
sister, who put her to bed. I heard them singing,  
and asked the little girl about it. This is what she  
said: "We have some verses first, Bible verses—  
'Whiter than snow,' and 'Beloved sleep,' and the  
one we like best is, 'Even Christ pleased not Him-  
self.' Then after the verses we just sing a prayer:

Jesus, tender Shepherd, hear me,  
Keep me safe till morning light.

And then we pray, we both pray. We pray for the  
things we ought to pray for—for my brothers, and to  
keep us safe all night, and make me a good girl, and  
everybody else in the world. We might sing another  
song, 'Little drops of water,' or say two more  
verses. Last night, what do you suppose we did?  
We read in the Bible, and we didn't say any verses.  
And then after that I suppose I go to sleep."

### THE SEVEN-DOLLAR THIEF.

A traveller on his journey meets a robber in the  
woods. "Give me your money," cries the highway-  
man. "or I'll shoot you."

"It may be," thinks the traveller, "the man is in  
want;" and he generously gives him six dollars.  
"Take this. God bless you! Farewell."

"Stop! stop?" cried the robber. "I see another  
dollar, and I must have that."

"Oh sir," cries the traveller, "be content. Of my  
all—seven dollars—you have got six, and I have only  
one to help me on my journey."

"Give me that seventh dollar," cries the robber,  
drawing his pistol.

What do you think of the robber? Is not he the  
meanest thief you could conceive of? What do you  
suppose is his name? Sabbath-breaker.

### PLAY.

Play is a good thing in its place. We love to see  
children play and enjoy themselves, and grown-up  
people, too, by way of change and recreation from  
more serious duties. The way people play also shows  
character. If any one is fair, truthful, honest and  
good tempered in play, he is likely to be the same in  
other things, and so the reverse.

Good, earnest play has its temptations and dangers  
as well as other things, and our young friends have  
need to be cautioned against yielding to them. To be  
cheating, mean and full of ill-temper when beaten, or  
ugly when things do not go as desired, is very improper.  
Disputes and quarrels may easily arise, and of these  
every one should beware. Play, but always play fair;  
keep in good temper, avoid wrangling and disputes,  
and play will be a good and healthful thing.

### THE WAY TO CONQUER.

"I'll master it," said the axe; and his blows fell  
heavily on the iron.

But every blow made his edge more blunt till he  
ceased to strike.

"Leave it to me," said the saw; and, with his re-  
lentless teeth, he worked backward and forward on its  
surface till they were all worn down and broken, and  
he fell aside.

"Ha, ha!" said the hammer. "I knew you  
wouldn't succeed. I'll show you the way."

But at the first fierce stroke off flew his head, and  
the iron remained as before.

"Shall I try?" asked the soft, small flame.

They all despised the flame; but he curled gently  
round the iron and embraced it, and never left it till  
it melted under its irresistible influence.

### A PURE HEART MAKES PURE SPEECH.

The true way to make pure and wholesome our  
own share in the ceaseless tide of words which is for-  
ever flowing around us is to strive to make pure and  
wholesome the heart within. "Keep thy heart," says  
the wise man, "keep thy heart with all diligence, for  
out of it are the issues of life." If once our hearts  
have been trained to care very deeply for what is best  
and purest in life, for what is beautiful and true in  
thought, our heartiest mirth, our freest jest, or hasty  
words, will not be those of men and women who are  
indifferent, who care nothing for noble living, nothing  
for a Christian life, nothing for a Christian spirit.