



THE CHILDREN'S FRIEND.

THE SWEETEST LIVES.

The sweetest lives are those to duty wed,
Whose deeds both great and small
Are close knit strands of an unbroken thread
Where love ennobles all.
The world may sound no trumpets, ring no
bells,
The Book of Life the shining record tells.

Thy love shall chant its own beatitudes
After its own life working. A child's kiss
Set on thy sighing lips shall make thee glad;
A poor man served by thee shall make
thee rich;
A sick man helped by thee shall make thee
strong;
Thou shalt be served thyself by every sense
Of service which thou renderest.
—Mrs. Browning.

THE INCARNATION.

The Incarnation opened the spiritual,
the supernatural, the eternal. It was
as if the clouds were broken above this

human valley that we live in, and men
saw the Alps above them, and took
courage. For, remember, it was a true
incarnation. It was a real bringing of
God in the flesh. It was a real assertion
of the possible union of humanity
and divinity; and by all its tender and
familiar incidents, by the babyhood and
home life, the hungerings and thirstings
of the incarnate Christ, it brought
the divinity that it intended to reveal
close into the hearts and houses of man-
kind. It made the supernatural possible
as a motive in the smallest acts of men.
It brought God so near that no
slightest action could hide away from
Him; that men should not only lead
their armies and make their laws, but
rise up and go to sleep, play with
their children, work in their shops, talk
with their neighbors, all in the fear and
love of the Lord.—Phillips Brooks.

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE.

Perhaps the most glaring fault of the
Christian Church to-day, is the negli-
gence of systematic Bible study. Mr.
Moody, in a recent address, gives some
excellent suggestions as follows:—
We have many prayer meetings, but
how few Bible readings. Would it not
be well to gather our friends in our
homes and have Bible study? A great
many look on the Bible like they look
on the great American desert. They
have never explored it. In the 119th
Psalm, David prays God nine times to
quicken him according unto his word.
If you want a healthy soul, just let it
feed on the word of God. The more it
feeds, the healthier it gets.

How are we to study the Bible? Two
things are helpful—Alexander Cruden's
'Concordance,' and the text-book pub-

lished by the Tract Society. Not put-
ting the Bible in the hands of the chil-
dren is a great mistake. When the
question book was kicked out the back
door, the lesson leaf and review went in
the front door. It is very important
that the children have the word of God,
not only the New Testament, but the
whole Bible.

Take up the Bible and study it topi-
cally. What we want is to get God's
word down deep in the heart. Take up
the atonement, and with the aid of con-
cordance and text-book read all about
it. Afterward, take up justification,
faith, assurance, backsliding, heaven,
and the divinity of Jesus Christ.
Another good way? Take a book and
run right through it. We are in the
habit of reading by chapters. Lock
yourselves up and take an hour or two
and read a whole book.