

Children's Corner.

THANKFUL.

Out of doors the sun was shining,
Though December days had come,
While the maple leaves were falling,
And the singing birds were dumb.
But within, the heart was heavy,
And the spirit ill at ease,
When a voice spoke in the doorway,
"I am Thankful, if you please."

Bright, black eyes and shining forehead,
Rosy cheeks and clustering hair,
Thin, and patched, and faded garments,
Little brown feet, cold and bare.
And the red lips smiled a greeting,
Opening over teeth of pearl—
"I am little Thankful Hollis,
I'm the washerwoman's girl."

"Ah! my child," I said in answer,
Thinking how the sunny room
Gave no hint to outward presence
Of my bitterness and gloom—
"You are poor, and cold, and needy;
It is true, as you have said,
That you're always thankful, darling?"
And I stroked the curly head.

"Yes, ma'am," was the ready answer,
As the black eyes opened wide;
"Mamma says God knows about it,"
Cupping closer to my side.
"He remembers us, and some time
We'll be rich and warm like you;
Mamma reads so in the Bible,
So, of course, it must be true."

O my little Thankful Hollis,
Your sweet faith and simple word
Touched a heart whose hard defiance
Nothing else had ever stirred!
Henceforth in the gloom or gladness
I will thankful be, like you;
For the Father loves His children,
And His promises are true.—*S. S. Times.*

A BOY'S LEISURE HOURS.

What a boy does with his leisure is most important; what he gets in school is mainly drill or exercises; it is a gymnasium to him; he must eat elsewhere. What he does with his spare hours determines his destiny. Suppose he reads history every day, or scientific books; in the course of a few years he becomes learned. It matters little what he undertakes, Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Sanscrit, all disappear if he uses his spare time on them.

A boy was employed in a lawyer's office, and had the daily paper to amuse himself with. He commenced to study French, and at that little desk became a fluent reader and writer of the French language. He accomplished this by laying aside the newspaper and taking up something not so arousing but far more profitable.

A coachman was often obliged to wait long hours while his mistress made calls. He determined to improve the time; he found a small volume containing the Eclogues of Virgil but could not read it, and so purchased a Latin Grammar. Day by day, he studied this, and, finally, mastered all its intricacies. His mistress came behind him one day as he stood by the horses waiting for her, and asked what he was so intently reading. "Only a bit of Virgil, my lady." "What, do you read Latin?" "A little, my lady." She mentioned this to her husband, who insisted that David should have a teacher to instruct him. In a few years, he became a learned man, and was a useful and loved minister in Scotland.

A boy was hired to open and shut the gates to let the teams out of an iron mine. He sat on a log all day by the side of the gate. Sometimes an hour would pass before the teams came, and this he employed so well that there was scarcely any fact in history that escaped his attention. He began with a little book on English history that he found in the road; having learned that thoroughly, he borrowed of a minister, Goldsmith's History of Greece. This good man became greatly interested in him and loaned him books, and was often seen sitting by him on the log conversing with him about the people of ancient times.

All of these show that in this country any one can learn that wants to. If he is at work he still has three hours he can call his own. Let him use those wisely and he can fill his mind with stores of knowledge.—*Scholar's Companion.*

THE MONKEY AND WHISKEY.

Dr. Guthrie tells the following anecdote of a monkey:

"'Jack,' as he was called, seeing his master and some of his friends drinking, with the imitative faculty for which all monkeys are remarkable, got hold of a glass half-full of whiskey and drank it off. Of course it flew to his head, and very soon 'Jack' was drunk. Next day, when they wished for a repetition of the performance, he was nowhere to be seen. At last he was found, curled up in a corner of his box. At his master's call he reluctantly came out, but one hand applied to his head signified very plainly that he was ill—that 'Jack' had got a headache. So they left him for a few days to recover. Then, supposing him to be well again, they called him to join them in another jovial party, expecting to have 'rare fun' with him. But he eyed the glasses with evident dread, and when his master tried to induce him to drink he was upon the house-top in a moment. They called him to come down; but he refused. His master shook a whip at him; but it had no effect. A gun was then pointed at him; he got behind a stack of chimneys. At length, in fear of being dragged from his refuge, he actually descended the chimney, risking a scorching rather than be made to drink. 'Jack' lived twelve years after; but his repugnance to whiskey remained as strong as ever, while his master became its victim!"

PARLOR MAGIC.

This series of experiments is designed for the use of young people who are interested in the wonders and the beautiful realities of nature, and who delight to observe for themselves how curious are the phenomena revealed by scientific knowledge. Simple instructions are given for the performance of a number of pretty experiments, all of which are perfectly safe and cost very little money. For "evenings at home," it is hoped that these ex-

periments will be found indefinitely amusing and recreative, at the same time that they will lead the minds of boys and girls to inquiries into the entire fabric of the grand science which explains the principles on which they are founded. All the materials spoken of, and all the needful apparatus, which is of the simplest and most inexpensive kind, can be obtained at a good chemist's. It is of the highest importance that all the materials be pure and good.

PARLOR SUNSHINE.

Obtain a yard of "magnesium tape" or "magnesium wire," sold very cheap by most druggists. Cut a length of six or eight inches, bend one extremity so as to get a good hold of it with a pair of forceps, or even a pair of ordinary scissors, or attach it to the end of a stick or wire. Then hold the piece of magnesium vertically in a strong flame, such as that of a candle, and in a few seconds it will ignite, burning with the splendour of sunshine, and making night seem noon-day. As the burning proceeds, a quantity of white powder is formed. This is pure magnesia. While performing this splendid experiment, the room should be darkened.

CADAVEROUS FACES.

This is an amusing contrast to the lighting up by means of magnesium. Again, let the room be nearly darkened. Put about a tea-cupful of spirits of wine in a strong common dish or saucer, and place the dish in the middle of the table. Let every one approach to the distance of about a yard. Then ignite the spirit with a match. It will burn with a peculiar yellowish-blue flame, and in the light of this the human countenances and all objects of similar color lose their natural tint and look spectral. The contrast of the wan and ghastly hue with the smiling lips and white teeth of those who look on is most amusing. The effect of this experiment is heightened by dissolving some common table salt in the spirit, and still further by putting into it a small quantity of saffron. Let the spirit burn itself away.

GREEN FIRE.

Obtain some boracic acid, mix it well with a small quantity of spirits of wine, or alcohol; place the alcohol in a saucer upon a dish, and then ignite it with a match. The flame will be a beautiful green. To see the color to perfection, of course, the room should be somewhat darkened.

A green flame may also be produced by using chloride of copper instead of mixing it with alcohol; a small quantity may be imbedded in the wick of a candle.—*St. Nicholas.*

THE connection between Faith and Works is happily illustrated in the case of the little Philadelphia girl. "Mamma," she said, when looking for a lost treasure, "I think God will help us find it if we ask Him: so I'll pray while you hunt."