

could, "I want something but don't like to ask for it."

But in reply to his father's question he said:

"I want twenty-five cents, papa."

"Twenty-five cents," repeated Mr. M——, "and what will you do with it?"

"Why you see, papa, I borrowed a quarter of a dollar of Fred when I bought my dominoes, and I want to pay him back," said Brownie, in a voice that trembled with tears.

Fred is Brownie's older brother, who has lately begun keeping an account book, of which he is not a little proud. Looking up from the book he was reading, he exclaimed: "I'll tell you, papa, why Brown is so anxious all at once to pay me. I showed him his name in my book to-day, where I have him down for twenty-five cents, borrowed money."

"Ah!" said the father, "is that it?"

"Yes," answered Brownie, "he has me on his book. I don't want to be on anybody's book, so please give me the money."

"Well, my son, I hope you will always have such a hatred of debt, as to make you always unwilling to have your name in a creditor's book," was the reply of the father, as he put a shining silver quarter into the little boy's hand. Brownie, with a bright, happy face, passed the coin over to his brother, and then bounded lightly away to his play.

But that night, as he was preparing for his sleep, the mother who had overheard the whole, said, "So you do not like being in debt, do you?"

"No, mother, it made me feel dreadfully to think my name was in a book as a debtor, and I couldn't take pleasure in anything till it was paid, for something seemed to keep saying, 'You are in debt, in debt.' And papa said he hoped I would always feel so about it."

"I hope so, too, Brownie, but are you sure you are now out of debt?"

"Why yes, mother, I didn't owe anyone but Fred, and now that I have paid him I feel as light as a feather, in proof of which assertion Brownie capered up and down the room in a very lively manner. His mother waited until he became quiet and then said:

"Brownie, who gives you every day food to eat and clothes to wear? Who gives you health and strength, and cares for you day and night?"

"It is God, mother," answered the boy, reverently.

"And who gave his Son to die for us, and His Word to guide us in the way of Salvation? Do you not owe your Heavenly Father something for all these precious blessings and others too many to be counted?"

"But I thought these were gifts, mother, and that God asked nothing in return for all He does for us, and that we never could pay Him for all his benefits to us, never."

"True, my son, yet there is one thing which

He requires us to give in payment for His great sacrifice."

"What is that, mother?"

Mrs. M—— turned over the leaves of the Bible which lay beside her, and then placed her finger on a passage which Brownie read aloud, "My son, give me thy heart."

The boy was silent for a few moments, and then said: "But what does that mean, mother, and how can we do it?"

"It means, my son, that our best and warmest love must be given to God; and that we must play, work, and study, sing and pray, as He has told us to do, because we love Him so much, that it is our delight to please our kind Father in Heaven who does so much for us."

"But how can we ever feel so?" asked Brownie in a doubtful tone.

"Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and love to God are His gifts, which all may have for the asking. He, only, can give us hearts that love to do His will. When we give to Him the love of our hearts, the work of our lives, all we have, and are to be used in His service, then and not till then are we out of debt."

"Well, then, all persons who are not Christians, are in debt, are they not, mother?"

"Yes, my dear boy, all who have not given God what He requires in the verse you read. Many persons who, like you, cannot rest under a debt to a fellow creature, and who think themselves honest, and honourable, because they are unwilling to remain for a moment under obligations to others, are yet content to take and use God's gifts without giving what He asks for them. More than that, they claim heaven as a reward for their honesty toward their fellow-men. But God's Spirit causes the conscience to whisper, 'In debt, in debt.' No rest is given till the debt is paid, by surrendering the heart and life to Him, giving up our wicked feelings and desires, and having the mind that was in Christ Jesus."

Official Notices.

MISSIONARY MEETINGS, 1879-80.

MIDDLE DISTRICT.

The Committee of the Middle District has made a few changes. Will the pastors and churches please take notice. The appointments for December are as follows:—Newmarket, Monday, 8th. Deputation: Revs. J. B. Silcox, J. F. Malcolm.—Pinegrove, Tuesday, 9th; Bolton, Wednesday, 10th; North Erin, Thursday 11th. Deputation: Revs. H. D. Hunter, Malcolm and R. Hay.—Georgetown, Monday, 8th; Acton, Tuesday, 9th; South Caledon, Wednesday, 10th; Church Hill, Thursday, 11th. Deputation: Revs. Warriner, McKinnon and Unsworth.—Owen Sound, North Derby and South Keppel, Sunday, Dec. 14th. Preaching by Rev. F. Wrigley. Warton, Sunday, 14th. Preaching by E. D. Silcox. North Derby, Monday, 15th; South Keppel, Tuesday, 16th; Maxwell, Wednesday, 17th. The appointments for Oro, Rugby and Vespra, by request of the pastor have been cancelled. January appointments. Unionville, Wednesday, 16th; Stouffville, Tuesday, 15th; Manilla, Monday, 14th. Toronto left with city pastors to arrange. As no further notice of these meetings will be given, and the churches have them well announced. E. D. SILCOX, Sec'y. M. D. Stouffville, Dec. 1st, 1879.

Births, Marriages and Deaths.

BIRTH.

On Wednesday, 26th ult., the wife of Rev. W. H. Warriner, Yorkville, of a daughter.

The GREATEST LIVING AUTHORS, such as Prof. Max Muller, Rt. Hon. W. E. Gladstone, Jas. A. Froude, Prof. Huxley, R. A. Proctor, Edw. A. Freeman, Prof. Tyndall, Dr. W. B. Carpenter, Frances Power Cobbe, the Duke of Argyll, Wm. Black, Miss Thackeray, Mrs. Maloch Craik, Geo. MacDonald, Mrs. Oliphant, Jean Ingelow, Mrs. Alexander, Thos. Hardy, Matthew Arnold, Henry Kingsley, W. W. Story, Turgueneff, Carlyle, Ruskin, Tennyson, Browning and many others, are represented in the pages of

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