

The Primary Quarterly

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THE LITTLE PEOPLE

A dreary place would be this earth,
Were there no little people in it ;
The song of life would lose its mirth,
Were there no children to begin it.

No little forms, like buds to grow,
And make the admiring heart surrender ;
No little hands on breast and brow,
To keep the thrilling love-chords tender.

The sterner souls would grow more stern,
Unfeeling nature more inhuman,
And man to stoic coldness turn,
And woman would be less than woman.

Life's song indeed would lose its charm,
Were there no babies to begin it ;
A doleful place this world would be
Were there no little people in it.

—Whittier

GOOD-BY, LITTLE SWEETHEARTS!

And so another year is slipping away. Many of the little ones whose mothers have been teaching them these two or three years from THE PRIMARY QUARTERLY can now read—actually read from a book—and so are to be taken out of the Primary class and put into a little class all by themselves. Good-by, little sweethearts! How much we have enjoyed our lessons with you. There are little ones waiting to take your places, and we shall be delighted to make their acquaintance. For you, we shall see you again in our HOME STUDY QUARTERLY. It is a harder Quarterly than the Primary ; but then, you are bigger, and you wouldn't like it if it were not harder. We put ladders up in THE HOME STUDY QUARTERLY in the shape of questions. You

will begin with the questions for juniors. Possibly soon you will want to try some of the questions for seniors. But it is the same great and wise God we are to study about, and the same loving Saviour, and the same gracious Holy Spirit who comes into our hearts, "soft as the breath of even," to make us pure and strong. May the new year and the promotion bring you much happiness!

THE CHURCH-GOING HABIT

By Miss Jessie M. Ross

"My little child cannot bear going to church," said an estimable parent a few weeks ago. "What should I do? Ought I to insist on his going, despite his coaxings and pleadings to the contrary, or should I leave him to the trend of his own inclinations, with the prayerful hope that, when he gets more sense, I can foster a love for church?"

How many boys, if left to their own free will and inclination regarding their regular attendance at the public school, would choose to plod away? It will be readily granted that the percentage would be a small one, and also that to fall short in school-going would be detrimental to a boy's future career. Our school laws therefore demand, and wisely, too, that a child shall attend school so many days each year until the age of fourteen. It is not only the duty of the parents, but their high privilege, to decide for the children until they have reached years to choose for themselves ; and happy, thrice happy, are those parents who still retain the confidence of their children, as the years have rolled on and brought them to manhood and womanhood.