

paused and looked in at the windows, and at last, boldly entering the shop, accosted Mr. Fitzwarden, and told his story.

The good mercer was pleased with Richard's frank and respectful manner, and his bright, pleasant face. So he said to him, "I will take you on trial, my lad. If you are diligent, honest, and attentive, be sure you will prosper, and we shall agree very well." So Richard became the mercer's apprentice.

Richard's first care was to be strictly honest; his next, to look closely after the interests of his master, and to grudge no labour spent in his service. So well did he succeed in these determinations that Mr. Fitzwarden grew very fond of him, and encouraged an attachment which he saw springing up between his only daughter, Alice, and the youth.

So Richard at last became the good mercer's son-in-law. A few years afterwards he was made partner in the business. So much skill and faithfulness did he show in all his dealings, that he gained a high character among the merchants; and before he was forty years old, when the citizens were looking round for a candidate for their highest civic office, one tradesman said to another, "If we could have Richard Whittington for our mayor, we should be sure of having an honest man."

"Ain't you surprised to see me?" said a five-year old girl, as she tripped into my house in the midst of a rain storm. "The rain fell all over me like it ran down through a strainer, and I shook it off, but it wouldn't stay shooked. I asked God to stop, but there was a big thunder in the way, and he couldn't hear, I underspeck; and I most knowed He couldn't see me, 'cause a black cloud got over my head as black as—anything! Nobody couldn't see little girls through black

clouds. I'm going to stay till the sun shines, and then when I go home, God will look down and say, 'Why, there's Nettie! She went down to see her auntie right in the middle of the rain,' and I guess He will be just as much expressed as you was."

### THE OBJECT OF THE SABBATH SCHOOL.

Is it the purpose of the Sabbath School merely to gratify the curiosity or to sharpen the intellect of the scholars? Or is it designed mainly to teach them morals and behaviour, or to exercise and develop the power of their memory, or to enable them to read fluently or sing harmoniously? Or is it to amuse children by well told or skilfully written stories, or to purchase their punctuality, attendance, and aptitude at committing lessons by holding up before them the incitement of festivals, or of prizes and rewards of different kinds?

Certainly this is not all that we should expect from the Sabbath School; though each of these things is entirely right in its proper place, and all are important aids for the attainment of the real and ultimate object, which should never be lost sight of. The true aim and object of the Sabbath School should be to bring children to the Saviour; to fill their hearts with that love of God which passeth understanding; to stimulate their faith in His promises, and train them in the ways of His word and commandment; to make their hearts burn within them at the story of the Cross, and to teach them to rest wholly upon the merits of Christ's great sacrifice; to fill their souls with a sense of gratitude to Him for the inestimable salvation that He has wrought for us, which, overflowing in love to all men, shall manifest itself in efforts for the spiritual and physical benefit of all for whom Christ died.