

young tree in God's garden," says some bright, hopeful child.

Well, it is a good wish; only remember, no hurry! The best fruit takes longest to ripen; and remember you are happier than the fruit tree, in that you can help on your own growth by meekly bending your head under the showers of God's corrections, and thanking Him for the sun of His love.

EYES OR NO EYES.

When I first began to teach school in the country, I said to a bright boy, one pleasant spring morning, who had a long mile to come to school every day "Well, my young man, what did you see this morning on your way to school?"

"Nothing much, sir."

"I said, 'To-morrow morning, I shall ask you the same question.'"

The morning came; and, when I called him to my desk, you would have been surprised to hear how much he had seen along the road—cattle of all sizes and colors; fowls of almost every variety; sheep and lambs, horses and oxen; new barns and houses, and old ones; here a tree blown down, and yonder a fine orchard just coming out into full bloom; there a field covered over with corn or wheat; here a broken rail in the fence, there a washout in the road; over yonder a pond alive with garrulous geese and ducks; here he met a carriage, and there a farm-wagon. And not only had he seen all these and many more things in the fields and by the wayside, but looking up he had noticed flocks of blackbirds going north to their summer home. He saw the barn and the chimney-swallows flying about in every direction; there he had noticed a kingbird making war on the crow, and here a little wren pursuing a hawk; yonder he had seen robins flying from tree to tree, and over there the bobolink mingling his morning song with that of the meadow-lark. In a word, he had seen so much to tell me, that I had not time before school to hear it all. A new world had sprung up all around him—earth, water, and air were now full of interesting objects to him. Up to this time he had never learned to look and think. Things around him had not changed in number or character, but he had begun to take note of them.—*[Golden Days.]*

TOM'S GOLD DUST.

"That boy knows how to take care of his gold dust," said Tom's uncle, often to himself and sometimes aloud.

Tom went to college, and every account they heard of him he was going ahead, laying a solid foundation for the future.

"Certainly," said his uncle, "certainly; that boy, I tell you, knows how to take care of his gold dust."

Gold dust! Where did Tom get gold dust? He was a poor boy. He had not been to California. He never was a miner. Where did he get gold dust? Ah! he has seconds and minutes, and these are the gold dust of time—specks and particles of time which boys and girls and grown-up people are apt to waste and throw away. Tom knew their value. His father, our minister, had taught him that every speck and particle of time was worth its weight in gold, and his son took care of them as if they were. Take care of your gold dust!

FIRST LESSON IN FINANCE.

Think before you spend. Buy only what you need. These are cardinal rules for every farmer to observe, the neglect of which has time and again brought trouble to the farmer's door. Before you decide to buy an article stop and ask yourself the question, "Do I really need it?" If you will do this, and can answer in the affirmative, then it is safe to buy, otherwise it may not be. You may think you need a great many things that you do not, really, and if you do actually need some of them, is it not better to begin to practice a little self-denial instead of squandering all your money, and thus get in a condition financially to "lay up something for a rainy day." Begin to think of

your old age. It may be your lot to drag through a long period of almost helpless imbecility, when even some things you now regard as actual necessities would be considered luxuries. Try to lay by something every year for such a time. The first lesson to learn is to deny yourself any expensive luxuries, and the first step in this lesson is to think before you spend. Above all, do not buy anything, a necessity even, upon your credit. "Your name is good for whatever you want" is a tempting lure, but reflect that pay day must come some time, and don't do it. The coveted article, whatever it may be, may look very useful or stylish, but if you do not absolutely need it don't buy it. It may be but a trifle and you have got just the right change, but remember that an aggregate of trifles make a fortune, and keep the change in your pocket. If you have not done it before learn this first lesson in finance now, and begin to save something for your old age.

UNTIDY GIRLS.

Many girls who are in the evening genuine ornaments to the parlor, tastefully dressed and "neat as a new pin," are little better than slatterns when performing domestic duties.

I have no patience with this untidiness. It has always seemed to me as if Cinderella herself might have kept out of the ashes even if she was obliged to stay in the kitchen and work.

To look well while about housework is worth while. A neat calico dress, short enough to clear the floor, smoothly brushed hair, a clean collar, and a plentiful supply of aprons, are all within the reach of any woman, and I maintain that she will do her work better, and feel more like doing it if so prepared for it. The moral influence of dress is undoubted.

GOD WILL KNOW YOU.

One evening last Christmas a gentleman was strolling along a street in Toronto, with apparently no object in view but to pass the time. His attention was attracted by the remark of a little girl to a companion in front of a fruit stand:

"I wish I had an orange for ma."

The gentleman saw that the children, though poorly dressed, were clean and neat, and calling them into the store he loaded them with fruit and candies.

"What's your name?" asked one of the girls.

"Why do you want to know?" queried the gentleman.

"I want to pray for you," was the reply.

The gentleman turned to leave, scarcely daring to speak, when the little ones added,

"Well, it don't matter, I suppose. God will know you, anyhow."

HAVE you ever thought of the life of a child? Why, the life of a child is a perfect life of faith. That little child—what can that little child do? Why, that little child could not find its way to the street end and back again! That little child could not find the next meal! That little child could not furnish a shelter for its own head to-night! and yet has that child any fear about it? Not at all. How comes it that the child's life is the happy life that it is! Because instinctively and beautifully it is a life of faith. The child could not buy the next loaf, but it has a firm belief that "father" can. It has an unbounded belief in "father's" and "mother's" power. Its life is a life of perfect faith in its parents.

BOOK NOTICES.

THE TEACHER'S PRAYER BOOK, being the Book of Common Prayer, with introductions, analysis and notes, by Alfred Barry, D.D., D.C.L. London and New York: E. and J. B. Young & Co., Cooper Union. Price \$1.00.

This work, which has just come before the public, we should wish to see in the hands of every Sunday-school teacher. It has been written, as the author in the preface says, "in the hope that it may conduce to the serious and intelligent use of the Prayer Book, which has been for centuries the

treasure of English devotion, and which, by its substance and tone, has largely determined the history of the Church of England and of English Christianity." In these days there is happily a wide spread feeling that those who take upon themselves the important and responsible office of training the lambs of Christ's fold should fit themselves by thoughtful and earnest preparation for the task they have assumed, and that the distinctive teaching of the Church, her doctrines and practices, should be the subject of careful and diligent study of every Sunday-school teacher. Without such study and preparation the instruction must be so vague and unsatisfactory as to tend rather to the breaking down than to the building up of sound Church principles. This book of Canon Barry's is one admirably adapted to its purpose, which is to supply "Churchmen, and especially those who have to give religious teaching some knowledge of the origin, the principles and the substance of the Prayer Book." The author has called to his aid the best authorities, ancient and modern, and has embodied in the book the results of the study and teaching of years.

THE HOMILETIC MONTHLY for January contains ten sermons. Among the preachers are Dr. Charles F. Deems, on "Christ's Cure for Trouble"; Dr. Talmage, on "As the Leaf"; Spurgeon, the younger, on "Wasting God's Gifts"; the late Dean Stanley, on "The Approaching Dawn"; and Dr. Joseph Parker, on "The Conversion of Saul." There are two valuable articles on the making of sermons; Henry Lansdell, D. D., describes "A Week's Preparation of a Sermon"; and Rev. A. McElroy Wylie has an essay on "Unity in Discourse"; Dr. T. W. Chambers, on "Misquoted Scriptures"; the Rev. L. O. Thompson's "Prayer Meeting Service"; Dr. Howard Crosby's "Light on Important Texts"; and the "Homiletic Studies in the Book of Hebrews," by the Rev. D. C. Hughes, will be of much service to readers of this Monthly. Under the head of "Living Issues" there are suggestions for discourses on "The Rights of Inferior Creatures"; "Political Corruption"; and "Cigarette Smoking." "The Sermonic Criticism" is fresh and instructive. "Preachers Exchanging Views" contains a number of well-selected letters on the practical side of ministerial work; and the additional departments are well filled with matter helpful to clergymen and other Christian Students. Price, \$2.50 per year; single number, 25 cts. FRANK & WAGNALLS, 10 and 12 Dey Streets, New York.

THE MOURNER'S MANUAL, by the Rev. W. Frank Shaw, Vicar of Eastry, Kent. London and New York: E. J. B. Young & Co., Cooper Union, Fourth Avenue. Price 35 cents.

This beautiful little manual will, we are sure, meet with wide appreciation. It is the very thing one would wish to put into the hands of a bereaved one. Full of tender comfort and heavenly teaching; touching and appropriate verses of Scripture blended with heartfelt and most beautiful prayers. "The Creed of the Afflicted" is in itself a very mine of strength and comfort. There is also an admirable selection of hymns. The book contains indeed in a very brief compass all that we could wish to express to a loved one in their affliction.

Messrs. McGregor & Knight, Granville St., Halifax, have kindly placed on our table the "Double Egyptian Number" of the London and New York *Christian Herald*. It is well illustrated, and this particular part has eighteen sermons by "Talmage" and "Spurgeon." Price 27 cents.

WHITTAKER'S CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL CHEAP LIBRARIES. 50 volumes; price \$20.00. 42 volumes; price \$18.50.

We have received a small book of these Libraries from MacGregor & Knight, who have been appointed agents for Thos. Whittaker, Publisher, New York. The books are of uniform binding and color and are highly recommended.

We have received from the same Establishment. Whittaker's American Church Almanac for 1883, containing most useful and interesting statistics of the American Church—its growth and present position. Price 30 cents.