

## OUR YOUNG FOLKS

### IN THE SUMMER.

Be happy in the summer !  
Ye little ones at play ;  
Be happy in the summer !  
It winna bide for aye.

And One has made them sacred—  
Those tiny lives ye live ;  
He knows the joys of children,  
The pain wee woes can give.

For in the by-gone ages  
Which none but God can see,  
He lived on earth with children,  
Yet from all sin was free.

The little lads and lasses  
In city, street, and glen,  
Are like the lads and lasses  
He loved and played with then.

And as He watcheth over,  
And loves you still the same ;  
"The Friend of little children,"  
This is His dearest name.

O dear wee hearts, be happy !  
He would not have you sad ;  
Sing, sing the songs of summer,  
And make the old world glad.

### NELLIE'S RING.

Nellie had lost her ring—a pretty gold ring that Aunt Lou had given her for a keepsake. Aunt Lou had told her not to wear it until her finger had grown large enough for it. But Nellie had disobeyed, and had worn the ring when she went over to see Fanny Roy ; and when she came back, to her great grief there was no ring on her finger.

"That comes from not obeying Auntie," she thought. "I will never disobey her again."

Some weeks after, Aunt Lou said : "Nellie, I am going over to see Mrs. Brown's sick baby. I think catnip tea would do it good. Run down into the field and get some nice catnip. You will find it growing along close to the fence, on this side."

Nellie was busy making a doll's bedquilt, and she was not pleased to leave her work.

"I can get catnip at the bottom of the garden, Aunt Lou," she said.

"That in the field is best," replied her Aunt.

Nellie was very anxious to get back to her pleasant work. As she passed through the garden she thought to herself, "I can carry some of this catnip to Auntie. She won't know that it did not come from the field ; and I can get back all the sooner."

But then she felt that she was doing wrong.

"No ; I promised to obey Auntie always, and I will."

So she walked stoutly on, across the orchard to the field. She found the catnip, and pulled a good bunch of it. But one of the plants came up by the roots, and Nellie saw something bright tangled among them. She gave a little cry of joy. It was her long lost ring !

She flew home, and held up the ring before Aunt Lou.

"I know how I lost it," she said. "It was in getting over the fence the day I went to see Fanny Roy, and the catnip roots grew right up through it."

Aunt Lou rubbed the ring as bright as ever.

Nellie put her arms around her neck and told her how she had been tempted to disobey.

"Is it not strange, Auntie, that I lost the ring by disobeying you and found it again by obeying—just as if it were meant to teach me that it is always best to do right ?"

### WHAT TOM DID.

It was the first clear, cold day after Christmas. The boys and girls were on the hill, coasting. They were shouting and laughing as loud as they could, even those who had no sleds.

"Happy New Year to you !" shouted Tom Ross, as away he went on his pretty sled. A brand new sled it was, too ; his uncle had given it to him on Christmas eve.

When Tom had been up and down the hill ever so many times, he suddenly thought—

"What a great, big, selfish boy I am ! Why don't I ask some other boy to get on my sled and have fun too ?"

There was little Joe King, who had no sled.

"Come, Joe ! jump on !" cried Tom. "Hurrah ! here we go !" After that Tom did not stop with just wishing people a "Happy New Year ;" he tried to think of kind ways to make it a happy time to every one. And he was happier too.

### EDUCATE A RIGHT.

In his evening prayer a little boy asked God to bless the poor children. Afterward his mother said to him :

"How will you help God to bless the poor children ?"

He replied :

"If I had a thousand cakes I would give them some after I had eaten all I wanted."

"But you have not got a thousand cakes ; what will you do ?" said his mother.

"I will give them some bread," he replied.

"But the bread is mine," said she.

"I will earn some money and buy some bread," he said.

"You cannot do that ; so what will you do with what you have now to help the poor ?" asked his mother.

After thinking a moment he replied :

"I have seven cents ; I will give four. Will that do ?"

This was educating the child to give in the right way.

### THE BABY PREACHER.

Little Alice is three years old, and can say some of the Ten Commandments. One of these begins : "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy ;" and Alice, because she could not speak plainly, used to say it in this way : "Member Sabba day to keep it holy." Somehow she came to think this was her name, and when any one asked her what her name was, she would say, "Member Sabba day to keep it holy."

One day a man who always stayed away from meeting, Sabbaths, called at her father's home. As he went through the gate to the door of the house Alice and Georgie, a brother five years old, were playing in the front yard.

"What is your name ?" said the man to the oldest child.

"Georgie," said he.

"And what is your name ?" said he, speaking to Alice.

"Member Sabba day to keep it holy," said the little girl.

The man was surprised. Perhaps he thought that God had spoken to him through the lips of Alice. He went home and told his wife what the child had said ; and we may hope that he will be a better man because she answered him as she did.

### WHAT THE CLOCK SAYS.

"Tick," the clock says, "tick, tick, tick !  
What you have to do, do quick !  
Time is gliding fast away ;  
Let us act, and act to-day.

"When your mother speaks, obey ;  
Do not loiter, do not stay ;  
Wait not for another tick—  
What you have to do, do quick !"

### HOW JAMIE WORKED.

I'm going to have the nicest kind of a garden," said Jamie one morning. "I'm going to make it in that pretty little spot just over the bank. Papa said I might have that for my own. I mean to have some flowers in pots and some in beds, just like the gardener, and then you can have fresh ones every day, mamma. I'm going right over there now."

Jamie started off bravely with his spade on his shoulder. But when, after an hour, mamma went to see how he was getting on, she found him lying on the grass with the ground untouched.

"Why, Jamie, where is your garden ?"

"I was just lying here and thinking how nice it will look when it is all done," said Jamie. Mamma shook her head :

"But that will not dig the ground nor make the flowers grow, little boy. No good deed in all the world was ever done by only lying still and thinking about it."

### "IT IS MY MOTHER."

As the children belonging to a class in a Sabbath school were reading one afternoon, the teacher had occasion to speak to them of the badness of our hearts by nature, and afterwards asked them if they could remember the name of one person that lived on earth who was *always* good.

A little girl, about eight years of age, immediately said, in the full simplicity of her heart, "I know whom you mean—it is my mother."

The teacher told her that Jesus Christ was the Person meant, but she was happy to hear that the dear child had so good a mother, and that she thought so much of her.

DR. MARK HOPKINS tells us of a mother who sent four sons into the world to do for themselves, taking from each of them, as they went, a pledge not to use intoxicating drinks, profane language or tobacco, before he was twenty-one years of age. They are now from sixty-five to seventy-five years of age ; only one of them has had a sick day ; all are honoured men ; and not one of them is worth less than a million dollars.