







# Provincial Wesleyan

## The Family

### Chasing Shadows.

BY KITT CAROL.

A baby-boy, some two years old,

Was playing 'round his mother's knee,

And cried aloud in childish glee,

"Oh, mamma, look!" and down he stooped

To grasp the curious new-found toy.

But when he'd seized the prize was gone.

Then sorrow took the place of joy.

"What was it, mamma?" sobbed the child;

"See there it lies upon the ground,

But when I go to take it up

Then it is nowhere to be found!"

The mother came, she looked and smiled—

"Only your shadow, dear," she said,

Then sight to think how far he'd child

From her by shadows could be led.

Yet, was it strange? How often we,

Poor, thoughtless children of the earth,

Are vainly seeking joy to find

Amid the barren scenes of earth;

We turn to wealth, we turn to fame,

Yet no true pleasure there we find;

For all that gives us peace below

Is a pure, trusting, prayerful mind.

All else are shadows—bubbles bright,

Decays of Satan to ensnare

The human mind with dreams of bliss.

And leave but disappointment there;

If we've from Jesus' arms been led

By fleeing shadows, far away,

Let's hasten back, confess our sins,

And, for the future, "watch and pray."

Family Guardian.

### "Buy Your Own Cherries"

BY JOHN WILLIAM KINGTON.

It was about 3 o'clock on a scorching hot

Saturday afternoon in July, when John Lewis

the carpenter laid down his hammer, and putting

his hand in his pocket drew out a few coppers.

"Just the price of a pint," he said to himself,

and resolved thereupon to step across to the

"Golden Eagle," and have some ale to allay his

thirst. Just as he opened the door which led to the

"Bar," what should he see on the polished

counter, but a plate of beautiful ripe cherries, the

sign of which John's mouth water so freely

as he had never known what he was doing—

his hand was stretched out to take a few, when

the shrill voice of the landlady from behind

called out:

"You touch them if you dare, sir?"

John was startled, but before he could reply,

the landlady added,

"The idea of your taking such a liberty, I

should like to know what you are thinking

about?"

"Well, missus, I was only going to take one

or two to my 'tiddy," he must be wot you

"You had better not try it on," she said with

warmth.

"Why, you won't mind my having a few, will

you? I am so thirsty and they look quite tempt-

ing," John, thinking she was joking.

"No, sir, not one, I have just bought them as

a treat for my children; they are a peculiar sort

and very expensive.

"What just let me try 'em?"

"No," she answered, with determination

in every look, "not one, if you want any, buy

your own cherries!"

"Well," replied John, and taking out a few

pennies, he said, "I think I'll take your

advice, and go and buy some instead," and turn-

ing round, he walked out of the shop.

The landlady saw in a moment that she had

committed a mistake, and that she must not say

much on Saturday night, so taking up the money

she went into the back-room to get her basket

and shawl, and looking to see how her husband

was, she was surprised to find some three or

four children more than she usually received.

"I wonder whether he knows how much he

has given me," said Mary; but fearing if she

returned to ask, he might want it back, she quick-

ly passed down stairs and out into the street,

and every moment he would be after her for

the other shillings. She had not gone far before

she heard some one running fast behind her, in

a moment she looked round, thinking it was him

but it was only a little boy playing; so on she

went and quickly visited the different shops, and

being a thrifty body spent her money as wisely

as possible while the extra amount enabled her to

add to the family during the

next week. When she returned laden from the

workshop, all this had taken place in a few

minutes, and the events had crowded so quickly

upon the other, that when he had his bag of

cherries on the bench and put one in his mouth,

his sweetness aroused vividly within him the

treatment of the landlady even with additional

force, and her words seemed so to "stick in his

throat," that as he swallowed the juicy fruit, each

seemed to give birth to the landlady's words,

"Buy your own cherries."

"Yes," said John, "and this is the way you

serve a fellow is, after spending money a penny

with you and now to begrudge even a penny

cherry?" and striking his hammer on the nail as

he muttered the words—his echo seemed to an-

swer him back again, "Buy your own cherries."

All the rest of that afternoon the words haun-

ted him, and do what he would even saw and

the plane echoed the same advice, and at times

he appeared to grow desperate, and from his

lips would rush words, "Buy your own cherries."

"Ah, yes," said he, with wounded conscience

galling him, "I have bought them too long for John

and her children; I will take care of number

one for the future, and soon have not only cher-

ries, but many other sweet things beside."

At length the bell rang for leaving work, and

John walked to the counting-house and received

his wages, which amounted generally to about

thirty-shillings; for although he was in the habit

of paying frequent visits to the public-house,

yet he was not by any means what the people

would call a drunkard; indeed, he would have

been insulted if any one had dared to apply such

terms to him, and no doubt would have been

prepared in his way to prove that he only took

what he considered did him good, and if he

did on Saturday night sometimes get over the

score, while the friendly glass went round

more freely than usual, and the cheerful song

caused the time to fly so that he was home

longer later than on other nights, it was simply

because he was a good fellow, who must be

as others do; and if, at such times, the wife

complained that the money left was barely suffi-

cient to purchase the necessaries for the

coming week, he was apt to tell her to "mind

her own business," and a few sharp words be-

tween them would be the result. But all such

scenes are too well known to need description,

and Mary, like many others, had grown weary

with complaining, but nevertheless she deter-

mined to do her best to keep the house as com-

fortable as her limited means would allow, and by

kind words and looks to make the home as at-

tractive as possible, feeling assured that by such

means she was more likely to draw him from the

public-house; the opposite course would most

likely drive and keep him there.

However, our friend John is standing at you-

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White-flowered Pansies, and a new and

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