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THE MOCKING-BIRD.

EARLY on a pleasant day
In the poet's month of May,
Field and forest looked so fair,
So refreshing was the air,
That, in spite of morning dew,
Forth I walked where tangling grew
Many a thorn and breezy bush;
When the redbreast and the thrush
Gayly raised their early lay,
Thankful for returning day.

Every thicket, bush, and tree
Swelled the grateful harmony;
As it mildly swept along,
Echo seemed to catch the song;
But the plain was wide and clear
Echo never whispered near.
From a neighboring mocking-bird
Came the answering notes I heard.

Soft and low the song began:
I scarcely caught it as it ran
Through the melancholy trill
Of the plaintive whippoorwill,
Through the ringdove's gentle wail—
Chattering jay and whistling quail,
Sparrow's twitter, catbird's cry,
Redbird's whistle, robin's sigh;
Blackbird, bluebird, swallow, lark,
Each his native note might mark.

Oft he tried the lesson o'er,
Each time louder than before.
Burst at length the finished song;
Loud and clear it poured along;
All the choir in silence heard.
Hushed before this wondrous bird,
All transported and amazed,
Scarcely breathing, long I gazed.

Now it reached the loudest swell;
Lower, lower, now it fell,
Lower, lower, lower still;
Scarcely it sounded o'er the rill.
Now the warbler ceased to sing;
Then he spread his russet wing,
And I saw him take his flight
Other regions to delight.

—J. R. Drake.

In the picture can be seen a pair of these wonderful birds, and their peculiar shaped nest, much resembling that of the swallow. Their power of imitation is something astonishing, and many amusing stories are related of their mischievous pranks. Mr. Wilson, in describing the habits of this most wonderful of all the feathered tribe, says: "He whistles for the dog; Caesar starts up, wags his tail, and runs to meet his master. He squeaks out like a hurt chicken, and the hen hurries about with hanging wings and bristled feathers, clucking, to protect her injured brood. The barking of the dog, the mewing of the cat, the creaking of the passing wheelbarrow, follow with great truth and rapidity. He even repeats the tune taught him by his master, though of considerable length, fully and faithfully."

Besides having the power of imitation, the mocking-bird has a song of his own, which rivals

that of the nightingale in mellowness, modulations and gradations, extent of compass, and brilliancy of execution. Indeed, some who have heard both, regard the song of the mocking-bird as far sweeter and more enjoyable than that of the far-famed songster of the moonlight night.



HOW ROBERT ELMER SPENT THE FOURTH.

"I SAY, Rob—Robert Elmer!"

But the curly head, shaded by a torn straw hat, did not move. The speaker gave a shrill whistle, and then a round, rosy face appeared above the onion-tops. Soon the body of a boy followed, and with two bounds Robert Elmer was at the fence where Richard Lester was standing.

"Ain't it awful hot work weeding onions? What do you get?"

"Hot enough! I get my board and clothes."

"Pooh! your father'd have to give you them, anyway. He'd ought to pay you, so you'd have some money for the Fourth. See here!" Dick drew a handful of pennies from his pocket. "Don't your mother ever send you to the store?"

"Yes, very often."

"Does she always ask for the change when you get back? You ought to have some pay for working so hard, and if your father don't think so,

why, pay yourself. I know a trick or two." This was said with a sly wink.

"What do you think I am, Dick Lester? You don't catch me lying or stealing. No, siree!"

"Who said anything about lying or stealing? If there was some change, and your mother didn't

ask for it, 'twould belong to you. I've got money in that way lots of times. What are you goin' to do on the Fourth?"

"Nothing. We always have lamb and peas and strawberries for dinner, though."

"Why not come with us? Two or three of us fellers are goin' to buy some gunpowder and have a jolly time. If you *should* happen to find a little money before then"—another wink—"why, bring it along."

Robbie slowly shook his head.

"Oh, of course it don't make any difference to me. Tho't you'd like to. Well, you think about it, and meet us down by the big rock to-night and talk it over. Keep mum, anyway."

"Robbie! Robbie Elmer!"

This time it was his

mother's voice, and Robert ran to the house, while Dick walked down the road. "I want you to go to the store and get me half a dollar's worth of white sugar and a pound of raisins. Here are five dozen eggs in this pail; they're twelve cents a dozen, and that'll be just enough. Don't fall and break 'em.

Rob soon reached the store. As the storekeeper counted out the eggs he remarked, "Eggs have gone up six cents within a week, so I owe you thirty cents, young man;" and he handed the boy a bright quarter of a dollar and a five-cent piece.

Walking slowly homeward, Robert looked at the shining silver, and as he looked he thought of what Dick had said. "It's a fact, I do work hard," he thought to himself, "and I don't have much money. How I would like to go with those big boys! They do n't ask little fellows very often. Gunpowder, too! I could ask father to let me go to Uncle Fred's, and he'd never know. What's

the use of saying anything about the money?" He put it in his pocket, half resolved to follow Dick's suggestion. "Mother would think 'twas wrong, I s'pose, but there are lots of things worse than that. I do n't play truant nor take birds' nests nor swear nor—" He wanted to say "lie nor steal," but conscience whispered those were just the words by which he had called the act he now meditated. "It's mine; I earned it," he said aloud, and then looked around frightened lest he had been overheard. His mind was far from easy, and once more the money was taken out and looked at. How it shone in the sunlight! How nicely the figures were stamped upon it! "I will keep it," he said. Just then some letters on the five-cent piece he had not noticed before caught his eye. Looking more closely, he read, "In God we trust."

"Wonder if that's in the Bible? I'll learn it for Sabbath-school, it's so easy." Then he thought of the verse he had recited the day before: "My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not." He started: "Why, I never thought what that meant before. It means me, and that I mustn't have anything to do with boys that want me to do wrong." He stopped a moment right there in the road as if to gain the strength he needed. "And I won't!" he added resolutely. "They won't see me by the big rock to-night."

The struggle was over, the victory won. Mrs. Elmer noticed his bright eyes and rosy cheeks, but attributed them to his walk.

"You've been a good boy, Robbie, and I'm going to let you invite half a dozen boys to spend the afternoon here Tuesday. You may keep the change; you'll want a little money to spend."

Fourth of July was ushered in with tin horns and fire-crackers. The morning was spent in rowing on the lake and gathering water-lilies; then in the afternoon came the party, and what a good time those seven boys had running and shouting and playing games! and how they enjoyed the supper of cold chicken, bread and butter, strawberries, tarts, turnovers, frosted cake, and lemonade that had been spread for them under the shade-trees! After supper they all joined in singing "America" and the "Star Spangled Banner," and, having given three rousing cheers for Independence Day, separated.

In the evening old Charlie was harnessed, and the family rode to the village to see the fireworks.

As Robbie sat on Uncle Fred's piazza and watched the Roman candles and sky-rockets and other fiery things sputter and flash and blaze, he thought he had never before seen anything half so fine.

"Quite an accident up your way this afternoon," said Uncle Fred as they were leaving.

"Ah! what was that?"

"Dick Lester and a couple other young scapegraces got hold of some gunpowder, and they thought 'twould be a grand thing to blow up Widow Munroe's pig-pen; but they were too sneaky to do it themselves, and got little Jimmy Lawton for cat's-paw. He didn't understand how, and when he went to touch the match the powder flashed in his face and burned him badly. The doctor thinks he'll be blind for life."

The ride home was a very quiet one, and Rob's parents thought he was asleep, but his eyes were open very wide. He was thinking of his narrow escape. Before going to bed he told his mother all about the temptation, and how near he had come to going with Dick Lester: "But I didn't, and this has been the best Fourth of my life."

Tears were in Mrs. Elmer's eyes as she kissed him: "Your eyesight *might* not have been destroyed even had you yielded, but your conscience *must* have suffered. Mother is more than glad that you resisted temptation."—*S. S. Advocate.*

LITTLE THINGS.

"GEORGE is dreadfully fussy about little things," cried Ben. "He is very particular to tell the exact truth, and he thinks over a thing a long while, to be sure that it is quite right, or that his mother and father will like it."

"Glad to hear this," said Mr. Trueman. "Look out, Ben! What you call little things have spoiled many a life. Do you remember the old story about the farmer and his horseshoe?"

"Never heard it, sir," said Ben.

"You can find it in a book of German tales, my boy. One day a farmer went to market, made good sales, filled his purse, and then left for home, intending to reach there in the evening.

"For a while his horse trotted on all right, carrying him and his bags. After a rest at noon, when the farmer was ready to resume his journey, the boy at the inn said, 'Your horse has lost a nail out of one of his shoes.'

"'Never mind,' said the man; 'we shall get home all right.'

"Late in the afternoon he stopped again to rest and to feed his horse. Just as he was leaving, another boy spoke to him about the nail.

"'Ah,' cried the farmer, 'I'll venture to go a few more miles without it.'

"Soon, however, the horse began to limp, and then to stumble; presently he fell and broke his leg. There was no help for the man then. He was obliged to leave his horse lying in the road, while he himself walked home, carrying the bags on his back.

"'Alas!' he thought, 'all this trouble has come upon me for want of one nail in my horse's shoe.'

"He was a foolish man," declared Ben.

"Don't forget him, Ben, when you feel tempted to laugh at a careful, conscientious boy like George. Remember what is said about the 'little foxes' in the Song of Solomon, second chapter and fifteenth verse."

Ben ran to find the chapter and verse. What did he read, and what did it mean? *S. S. Visitor.*

THE BEST REFERENCE.

"HAVE you a recommendation?"

"Yes, sir."

Robert had been seeking a situation for almost a week, and now that he had at last met with something that promised success, he was nervous as a boy can be. His hand went down into his jacket pocket—a handkerchief, a strap, but no recommendation. He emptied another pocket, and another, and another without success. "Ah, there it is, I suppose; you have dropped it on the floor," said the gentleman who was standing by, waiting, as a bit of paper fluttered to the floor.

"No, sir; that's only my pledge," Robert answered, stooping to pick up the paper.

"Your pledge?"

"Yes, sir. My temperance pledge."

"May I see it?"

Robert handed it to him, and continued his search for the missing paper, growing more nervous as the search proceeded.

"Never mind, my boy. I don't need any further reference," said the gentleman, after reading the pledge. "I am willing to trust a boy who puts his name to a promise like this. That boy is his own reference."—*Royal Road.*

MISTAKEN GENEROSITY OF A CANARY.

A LADY in this city has a bird hanging in its cage by the window, the door of which is occasionally opened, and his canaryship permitted to indulge in the freedom of the room. A day or two since, he happened to fly on the mantel-shelf, whereon was a mirror. Here was a new discovery of the most

profound interest. He gazed long and curiously at himself and came to the conclusion he had found a mate. Going back to his cage, he selected a seed from its box, and brought it in his bill as an offering to the stranger. In vain he exerted himself to make his new friend partake, and becoming weary of that tried another tack. Stepping back a few inches from the glass, he poured forth his sweetest notes, pausing now and then for a reply. None came, and moody and disgusted he flew back to his perch, hanging his head in shame and silence for the rest of the day, and although the door was repeatedly left open, refused to come out again.—*Dubuque Times.*

"IF YOU PLEASE."

"If you please," makes people willing to help you and serve you.

"If you please," makes people sweeter and happier.

"If you please," is the key which unlocks more doors of kindness in family life than all the cross and ordering words in the whole dictionary. See if it does not.

HELPING THE MINISTER.

"ONE thing helped me very much while I was preaching to-day," said a clergyman.

"What was that?" inquired a friend.

"It was the attention of a little girl who kept her eyes fixed on me, and seemed to try to understand every word I said. She was a great help to me."

Think of that, little ones, and when you go to church fix your eyes on the minister, and try to understand what he says, for he is speaking to you as well as to the grown-up people. He is telling about the Lord Jesus, who loves the little ones.

BE gentle. Strength of character and sweetness of disposition are in nowise incompatible. Doubtless the most winsome nature on earth is that which combines the naturalness and dependence of a child with the strength of a true woman. There are people whose touch is balm to us; restful persons, whose companionship is a benediction, who draw out the best of our natures, whose presence we may scarcely note, but whose absence creates a void which the heart hungers to have filled.

The Sabbath-School.

FOURTH Sabbath in July.

SCENES IN THE LIFE OF CHRIST.

LESSON 77.—THE RAISING OF LAZARUS.

WHEN Martha had said to Jesus, "I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, who should come into the world," she went back to her home and secretly called her sister Mary, saying, "the Master is come, and calleth for thee." As soon as Mary heard this, she arose quickly and came to Jesus; for he was still in the place where Martha met him and had not yet come into the town.

Now the Jews who had come to comfort the bereaved sisters, were in the house with Mary, and when they saw her rise up hastily and go out, thought she was going to the grave of her brother to weep there; so they followed her.

When Mary came where Jesus was, she fell down at his feet, saying, "If thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled, and said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto him, Lord, come and see. Jesus wept. Then said the Jews, Behold how he loved him! And some of them said, Could not this man which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died? Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay

upon it. Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh; for he hath been dead four days. Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldst see the glory of God? Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always; but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me. And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with grave clothes; and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go. Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him. But some of them went their ways to the Pharisees, and told them what things Jesus had done."

Then the chief priests and Pharisees gathered a council, and began to inquire among themselves what they should do; for said they, "This man doeth many miracles, and if we let him thus alone all men will believe on him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and nation." But Caiaphas, one of the council, being high priest that year, said unto them, "Ye know nothing at all, nor consider that it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people and that the whole nation perish not.

"And this spake he not of himself; but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation; and not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad. Then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put him to death. Jesus therefore walked no more openly among the Jews; but went thence unto a country near to the wilderness, into a city called Ephraim, and there continued with his disciples."

QUESTIONS.

1. What did Martha do when she had said, "I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, who should come into the world"? John 11 : 28.
2. What did she say to Mary?
3. What did Mary do as soon as she heard this?
4. Where did she find Jesus?
5. Who were in the house with Mary when Martha called her?
6. When they saw her rise up hastily and go out, what did they do?
7. Where did they think she was going?
8. When Mary came where Jesus was, what did she do and say?
9. How was Jesus affected by the sight of Mary weeping, and of the Jews also weeping who came with her?
10. What question did he ask?
11. How did he show his tender feelings?
12. What did the Jews say when they saw him weep? Verse 36.
13. What question did some of them ask?
14. Describe the approach to the place where Lazarus was buried. Verse 38.
15. What did Martha say when Jesus said, "Take ye away the stone."?
16. How did Jesus reply to her?
17. When they had taken away the stone, what did Jesus do? Verse 41.
18. Repeat verse 42.
19. When Jesus had thus spoken, what did he do?
20. How were his words obeyed?
21. As Lazarus came forth, what did Jesus say to those who stood by?
22. What effect did this miracle have upon the Jews who witnessed it?
23. What course did some of them take? Verse 46.
24. What did this cause the chief priests and Pharisees to do? Verse 47.
25. What were they obliged to acknowledge?
26. What did they think would be the consequence if they let him alone?
27. What did Caiaphas, the high priest, say to them?
28. What did he prophesy concerning Jesus?
29. From that day forward what did these wicked men try to do?
30. How did Jesus keep out of their reach?

NEW-TESTAMENT HISTORY.

LESSON 90.—JESUS FORETELLS THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH.

On Tuesday, the third day of the week, as Jesus entered the temple in the morning, and began to teach, the chief priests and scribes questioned him saying, "By what authority doest thou these things? Jesus, after confounding them by a single question, went on to give them a series of parables in which he set forth in the strongest light the hypocrisy and depravity of the Jewish leaders. After this he answered the questions of the Pharisees, the Sadducees, and the lawyer, in such a way that no one dared ask him any more. He also warned the people against the wicked practices of the scribes and Pharisees, and gave an instructive lesson based on what he observed in watching the people as they cast their offerings into the treasury. Before night some of the Greeks desired to see him; he spoke of his approaching death; and a voice from Heaven gave unmistakable evidence that he was the Son of God.

At the close of the day, as he was leaving the temple, the disciples called his attention to the buildings of the temple; the costly stones which composed them, and the exquisite workmanship displayed in their construction and ornamentation. But Jesus told them that the time would come when there would not be left there one stone upon another that would not be thrown down. Then they left the city and made their way over the Mount of Olives to Bethany. As they drew near the brow of the hill, they sat down and looked back upon the city and the temple. From this point they could look down upon Mount Moriah, and have a full view of the temple and all its courts. Then some of the disciples, remembering what Jesus had lately said about the destruction of the temple, came to him privately, and said, "Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?"

Then Jesus said, "Take heed that no man deceive you; for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that ye be not troubled; for all these things must come to pass; but the end is not yet.

"For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there shall be famines and pestilences and earthquakes in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you; and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another. And many false prophets shall rise and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end the same shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."

Thus Jesus gave his disciples a brief outline of the history of the church from that time down to his second coming. Then, going back, he speaks of the destruction of Jerusalem; saying, "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel, the prophet, stand in the holy place (whose readeth, let him understand), then let them that are in Judea flee unto the mountains; let him that is on the housetop not go down to take out the things that are in his house; and let him that is in the field not return back to take his cloak." He also exhorted them to pray that their flight might be under favorable circumstances.

Then, referring to the 1260 years of papal persecution, he says, "Then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved; but, for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. Then, if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; inasmuch, that if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore, if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth; behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of

man be. For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together.

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken; and then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven; and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

QUESTIONS.

1. How did the priests and scribes question Jesus when he began to teach in the temple on Tuesday morning?
2. How did he silence them?
3. What parables did he then give?
4. What was the nature of these parables?
5. What questions did he afterward answer?
6. What warning did he give the people?
7. What instructive lesson did he teach?
8. Who sought an interview with him?
9. Of what did he speak?
10. What evidence was given to show that he was the Son of God?
11. To what did his disciples call his attention, as he was leaving the temple at the close of the day? Matt. 24 : 1; Mark 13 : 1; Luke 21 : 5.
12. What did he say about these magnificent buildings?
13. Where did they go as they left the city?
14. What did they do when they drew near the top of Mount Olivet?
15. What then lay in full view at their feet?
16. Of what were the disciples reminded?
17. What did some of them privately ask him? Matt. 24 : 3.
18. What warning did he first give them? Verses 4, 5.
19. What did he say about the wars that were to take place and how they were to be regarded? Verses 6-8.
20. What did he say of the persecutions that his followers would have to suffer? Verse 9.
21. What dissensions were to arise? Verse 10.
22. How would many be deceived?
23. What would cause the love of many to wax cold?
24. What precious promise did he give? Verse 13.
25. When did he say the end should come? Verse 14.
26. What is meant by this gospel of the kingdom?—*The gospel of the coming kingdom of Christ, to be set up on the earth.*
27. Of what did Jesus thus give a brief outline?
28. What subject did he then take up?
29. When did he say they must flee into the mountains? Verse 15.
30. What is meant by the abomination of desolation? Luke 21 : 20, 21.
31. What caution did he give them in regard to any delay? Matt. 24 : 17, 18.
32. For what were they to pray?
33. To what subject did he then pass over?
34. What did he say about the tribulation of those days? Verse 21.
35. What did he say about the shortening of these days? Verse 22.
36. What is meant by the shortening of the days?—*The persecutions were very much abated just before the close of the 1260 years.*
37. When did this long period of persecution terminate?—*In A. D. 1798.*
38. What cautions did Jesus give to prevent any from being deceived with regard to the manner of his second coming?
39. What did he say his coming would be like?
40. What wonderful phenomena did he say should begin to appear just before the close of the 1260 years? Matt. 24 : 29.
41. When did these signs take place?—*The sun and moon were darkened in 1780; the stars fell in 1833; the shaking of the heavens is yet to come.*
42. What is to take place immediately after these signs are fulfilled? Verse 30.
43. What will Jesus do at his coming? Verse 31.

SATAN'S CHAIN.

Do you ever think, boys and girls, that each sin indulged in is one of Satan's links which he is sure to slip into the chain by which he will hold you? Satan delights to see those chains lengthen day by day, for they are thus binding you the more surely for him. You must watch every day and hour if you do not want him to hold you. We must beware of the little hidden sins, for Satan's small links are often the most dangerous because we do not notice them.

There is another thing to do, and that is, *pray*. God is stronger than Satan. If we get the Lord's help every day, we shall be able to keep Satan from adding to the chain, and to loosen those links that are already around us. We must not think the least evil too small to pray about or to watch against.

Then, if you are to keep free from this chain which brings so much trouble and sorrow, you must remember to *watch* and *pray*.

HOW A SPIDER GETS OUT OF PRISON.

MUCH amusement and information in regard to the habits and structure of spiders can be given to one or more children by securing a stick upright in a dish of water, placing on it a spider. Allow the dish to stand in a draught of air, with some article of furniture near, upon which he can throw his web when he finds that is the only way he can escape from the prison. His antics in trying to get away from the pole—which to him is not a liberty-pole—are very funny to watch. He will stretch out one foot, and when it touches the water, he will shake it as pussy does when she walks in the wet grass. After several unsuccessful attempts to effect an escape, he will scamper to the top, and begin to whirl around like a spinning wheel—as he is, inside—then throw out a line, and as soon as the air has carried it to a resting place, he will begin to try its strength—as an elephant does a bridge that crosses a stream and he fears will not bear his weight—first with one leg and then the other; if not strong enough, he goes back—not as the elephant, through the water—but to send from his body a little more material to make it secure; and when the bridge is completed he will scamper across, delighted with the liberty he has earned.—*Sel.*

HOW TO BE A MISSIONARY.

"MOTHER," said May, one morning, "I wish I could be a missionary, and teach the poor heathen to read the Bible."

"You need not go to heathen lands to do that, May. There are people in this town who cannot read. Suppose you were to be a home missionary, and teach little Tom Briar to read and spell?"

"Oh, do you really think I could?" cried May.

"Yes, indeed! If you would be patient and give up a little of your play-time, I am sure you could."

May was delighted with this plan, and went at once to tell Mrs. Briar, who was very glad to have Tom learn his lessons. Every day after that found the little teacher and scholar hard at work in the pleasant library until Tom learned to read. Then May gave him a Bible of his own.

May was a true missionary; and she told her mother, when the summer was over, that it was the happiest one she had ever spent.—*The Sunbeam.*

The Children's Corner.

CATCHING A SUNBEAM.

LOOK at the baby sitting so still,
Close to the nursery window-sill,
With dimpled smile on his rosy face,
And hands held up with a childish grace,
As he tries to catch, on his flannel red,
The light which gleams on his curly head.

For though the blind is closely drawn,
The sun has shone since early dawn,
And through a crack now takes a peep
On Harry, just roused from his peaceful sleep;
So the dear little fellow, with innocent glee,
"Catching a sunbeam" here we see.

Will he succeed? I hope he may;
And though now doing it only in play,
Yet when he is grown to be a man,
If he catches life's sunbeams when he can,
He will find that pathway easier trod
We all must tread on the way to God.

So happy and bright may he ever go,
With blessings to follow him here below,—
Loving and loved with a faithful heart
Manfully bearing on earth his part—
Catching the sunbeams on his way,
Till life is merged in the perfect day.

—Ellen Isabelle Tupper.



VACATION-TIME.

ALL the year Fred and Gracie Somers were promised that if they would be good children and learn their lessons well, they should go with their mamma to the sea-shore when the long summer vacation came. Well, they tried so hard to be good, that the promise was kept to them, and the next week after school closed, they went with their mother and little sister Ethel to spend a few weeks in a pleasant cottage by the sea.

And what fine times they did have! The children had never seen the ocean before, and never tired of playing on its shore, and of watching the ships and boats going to and fro over the waters. There was a great rock down by the sea where they would often sit when the tide was out, and there they would watch the ships, and wonder where they were going, and who were in them, and wish they too might go sailing away over the great deep. Then they would wander along the sandy beach, and gather the bright seaweeds and beautiful shells which the waves had washed ashore. These they carefully saved to take home with them. At other times they would amuse themselves for hours by building sand houses and forts, and drawing pictures in the sand with a stick; and then when the tide came in, watch the waves creep up slowly, little by little,

until all their work was washed away. But the children did not feel bad at this, for they knew when they built their houses that it would come; and so that was the part of the fun which they enjoyed most.

There was an old fisherman who lived in a little hut down by the sea, and with him they soon became good friends. He told them many things about the grand old ocean, which he loved so well; and sometimes when the sea was smooth, he would take them out a little way in his boat. He was a very kind old man, and their mother always felt safe about them when they were with him. So the summer passed, and the children grew strong and rosy; and when papa came for them, the first of September, you would not have known them for the pale little city children that came to the sea-side in July.

Well, vacation-time has come once more; and all over the land, in dusty cities, and in quiet country homes, the children are wondering how they shall spend it. Probably some of you will go to the sea-side, or to the mountains, as so many people do; but quite likely most of you will just stay at your own homes through all the hot summer. And maybe some of you will feel very sorry and unhappy be-

cause you cannot go away, as some of your school-mates do, and will think that because you do not go, you cannot have any good times this vacation.

But children, let me tell you that is not true. If you are happy and cheerful, and try to be helpful to those around you, you can have a good time almost anywhere. Your mother will get very tired these long hot days, and if you will see how much you can help her, I think it will make her happy and you too. Do cheerfully all the little chores she asks you to do, and save her all the steps you can. Take pains to amuse your younger brothers and sisters, and some bright day perhaps you can all take your dinners and go to the woods and have a nice time. If you use your vaca-

tion in this way, it will seem all too short, and who knows but you will have a "good time" too? Then when school commences again, your mother will miss you instead of being glad to have you gone to school.

E. B.

CRADLE SONG.

SLEEP, little baby of mine,
Night and the darkness are near,
But Jesus looks down
Through the shadows that frown,
And baby has nothing to fear.

Shut, little sleepy blue eyes;
Dear little head, be at rest;
Jesus, like you,
Was a baby once, too,
And slept on his own mother's breast.

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