



NOW I LAY ME DOWN TO SLEEP.

BY A. D. WALKER.

Now I lay me down to sleep,
As the bird softly creep,
As the lily with folded wing,
On some tiny bough doth swing;
As the flowers, all wet with dew,
Bow themselves in slumber too,
In the stillness awful, deep,
Now I lay me down to sleep.

Now I lay me down to sleep,
Still, my Lord, in safety keep;
Keep my soul till dawning day
Bids the darkness flee away;
Till the flowers with glistening cup,
Toward the lofty sun look up;
Till his beams upon me peep,
May I lay me down to sleep.

Now I lay me down to sleep,
Friends and kindred 'round me weep.
But I know not want or fear,
For no darkness, Lord, is here;
All my way is lit by thee,
Through the shades thou leadest me,
Knowing that the Lord will keep,
May I lay me down to sleep.

—Advocate and Guardian

MISSIONARY KATY.

Katy Gray had been to a missionary meeting, and heard a lady speak who had been for fifteen years a missionary in Africa. She had spoken only of the bright side, and not of the dark, and Katy was delighted and interested.

"Yes, I have concluded to be a missionary when I get about forty."

"Why wait until you are forty?" asked Katy's mamma, looking up from the sewing, that occupied both hand and foot.

"Well, you see I must teach first, you know, and perhaps write books, too, and make lots of money; and then when my hair gets grey, and my teeth tumble out, and all—why then I'll look well enough to be a missionary; the heathen won't mind."

"Sure enough," said Mrs. Gray, "that is a very good plan of life if you can follow it out. But you know there was Mrs. Stephens, who died last week, and she was just forty. Don't you think you had better place it a little earlier?"

"Well, perhaps thirty-five would do."

"Yes, that would only be keeping seven-eighths of life for yourself, and giving one to Christ. That might do, only Aunt Katy, you know, died at thirty-five. Would that be safe?"

"Well, thirty, then," and Katy moved to the window and looked out.

"Thirty—that's better; that is just the age of Cousin Mary when she was thrown from the carriage on her way to the party. You know she has never walked a step since."

Katy drummed restlessly on the window. Never in her life, it seemed, had so few old persons passed on the street.

"Perhaps I could go at twenty-five," she said at last, with a sigh.

"That is young enough to go to Africa," replied Mrs. Gray. "You know that pretty Miss Robbins, who was buried last week at that age, thought of going out to India."

"I don't see, mamma," said Katy, turning from the window, and laughing, with tears in her eyes, "but I shall be obliged to go right away, so as to be safe."

"So you would, darling, if you could not be one of Christ's workers every day, right here. If you should live for yourself twenty five years, wouldn't it be

rather hard work all at once, to begin to live for others?"

"I think so. Why, of course," said Katy.

"Don't dream then, dear, of great things by-and-by; but be such a helpful worker every day in little things, that at last the Master shall see that you have grown strong enough to bear great things."

"I will, mamma. Now, shall I begin by watching baby and letting you go out for fresh air?"

And Katy did begin right then and there, and she began, too, in the true way. Home missionaries are as important and useful as those in foreign fields, and for them there is always an open door.

Katy followed up her missionary work in various ways, which proved a blessing to herself as well as those about her. There were many little things which she could do to help her kind mamma. There were many little errands upon which she could go as an angel of mercy. She could carry a basket of provisions to some poor widow and orphan children, even through the rain and snow; she could speak kindly to those in trouble and distress; she could gather up and lead to the Sunday School the little ones that lived near, who without her services would perhaps never have found their way thither, or the door into the fold where Jesus, the Good Shepherd, is.

In this way Katy is preparing herself for greater missionary duties, by-and-by, should it please the good Lord to spare her. And should it be his will early to remove her from labor to reward, she will be among those to whom the blessed Master will say, "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."—Little Sower.

A GOOD KING.

While we are cherishing the stories of heroes and warriors, and keeping bright the record of those old marauders whose only law was that of might, we can certainly afford to keep a corner in our memories for those of the rulers of men who have been distinguished for their goodness. Such an one was Alfonso V. of Aragon, who reigned during the first part of the fifteenth century.

On the day of his coronation, a paper was brought to him containing the names of certain nobles who had conspired to prevent his ascending the throne. He tore the paper in pieces without opening it.

One day Alfonso's treasurer was paying him ten thousand ducats; an officer who stood near said, in a voice not meant for the king's ear:

"Ah, that sum would pay my debts and make me happy."

He had been a brave and loyal soldier. The king turned to him and said:

"If thou had'st that sum would'st thou pay thy debts and be happy?"

"Yes, sire."

"Then it is thine." And the generous monarch directed that the sum should be paid over to him.

He was in the habit of walking in the streets of his capital on foot and unattended, and upon being remonstrated with by his courtiers, who told him how dangerous it was, he replied: "A true father has nothing to fear while walking in the midst of his children."

On another occasion, when asked whom of his subjects he

loved most, he replied: "Those who fear for me more than they fear me."

Seeing, one day, a galley filled with soldiers on the point of sinking, he ordered that immediate succor should be given. Seeing those around him, intimidated by the fury of the storm, hesitate, he leaped into a boat, crying, as he did so:

"I would rather be the companion than the idle spectator of a brave man's death."

The soldiers were saved.

It was Alfonso who said that for perfect peace in a household it sometimes became necessary that the husband should be deaf and the wife blind.

WHY CHILDREN SHOULD BE TAUGHT TO SING.

An exchange says, "Because it is the surest way to make them happy. The happiest families are those who sing most around their own hearthstones. Then music is easy to learn, and is the most refined of all arts. It purifies the heart, refines our feelings and exalts the mind. It offers greater advantages to the child for social enjoyment than any other branch of its education. Then our children are natural-born musicians; at least you seldom meet with a child that cannot be taught to sing of home and heaven. But of course the means of education must be employed. No school should be without its music lessons and one competent to teach the children how to sing. Children have a better appreciation of the good and beautiful than older persons, because their natures have never been sullied by being in contact with the sinfulness and wickedness of the world. Music is in perfect keeping with their pure natures. If children are taught but one thing, let that thing be music. Sacrifice other branches to it. It makes the home-stead happier. It will make life's journey pleasant, and it will cheer the soul in heaven."

THE ART OF GETTING RICH.

Look well to your spending. No matter what comes in, if more goes out you will be always poor. The art is not in making money, but in keeping it. Little expenses, like mice in a barn, when they are many, make great waste. Hair by hair heads get bald; straw by straw the thatch goes off the cottage, and drop by drop the rain comes into the chamber. A barrel is soon empty if the tap leaks but a drop a minute. When you mean to save begin with your mouth; many thieves pass down the road lane. The ale jug is a great waste. In all other things keep within compass. Never stretch your legs further than your blankets will reach or you will soon be cold. In clothes choose suitable and lasting stuff, and not tawdry fineries. To be warm is the main thing, never mind the looks. A fool may make money, but it needs a wise man to spend it. Remember, it is easier to build two chimneys than to keep one going. If you give all to back and board there is nothing left for the savings bank. Fare hard and work hard when you are young, and you will have a chance to rest when you are old.—Philadelphia Ledger.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR A BOY.

My residence is in
..... County, and my occupation is
My family consists of
..... I wish to employ a boy years of age, and (Here give description and qualities desired.)
He will be required to and allowed to I will furnish and pay him a month.
A. B.
Recommended by

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR THE ADMISSION OF HALF ORPHANS.

..... N. C., }
....., 1877. }

This is to certify that
..... is a half orphan,
sound in body and mind, and without any estate. II. father died in 18.... I being h.... mother, hereby make application for h.... admission to the Orphan Asylum at Oxford, and I also relinquish and convey to the officers thereof the entire management and control of said orphan till the day of
..... (that being the day on which will be fourteen years of age,) in order that may be trained and educated according to the regulations prescribed by the Grand Lodge of North Carolina. I also promise not to annoy the Orphan Asylum, and not to encourage the said orphan to leave without the approval of the Superintendent.

Approved by
W. M. of

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR THE ADMISSION OF ORPHANS.

..... N. C., }
....., 1877. }

This is to certify that
..... is an orphan, sound in body and mind, and without estate. II. father died 18...., h.... mother died in 18.... I, being h...., hereby make application for h.... admission into the Orphan Asylum at Oxford, and I also relinquish and convey to the officers thereof, the entire management and control of said orphan till the day of
18...., (that being the day on which will be fourteen years of age,) in order that may be trained and educated according to the regulations prescribed by the Grand Lodge of North Carolina.

Approved by
W. M. of Lodge.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR A GIRL.

Our residence is in
..... County, and our occupation
Our family consists of We wish to employ a girl years of age, and (Here give description and qualities desired.) She will be required to and allowed to She will spend her evenings in and will sleep in We will furnish and will pay a month.
A. B.,
Mrs. A. B.
Recommended by

THE Orphans' Friend.

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March 3rd, 1875. 9-11