

# OUR YOUNG FOLKS

## LEARNING TO PRAY.

BY MARY M. DODGE.

Kneeling, full in the twilight gray,  
A beautiful child was trying to pray;  
His cheek was on his mother's knee,  
His little bare feet half hidden,  
His smile still coming unbidden,  
And his heart brimful of glee.

"I want to laugh. Is it naughty? Say?  
Oh, mamma! I've had such fun to-day,  
I hardly can say my prayers.  
I don't feel just like praying;

I want to be outdoors, playing,  
And run, all undressed, down-stairs.

"I can see the flowers in the garden  
bed,  
Shining so pretty, and sweet, and red,  
And Sammy is swinging, I guess—  
Oh! everything is so fine out there,  
I want to put it all in my prayer;  
Do you mean I can do it by 'Yes'?"

"When I say 'Now I lay me,' word  
for word,  
It seems to me as if nobody heard—  
Would 'Thank you, dear God,' be  
right?"

He gave me my mamma,  
And papa and Sammy—  
Oh, mamma, you nodded I might."

Clasping his hands and hiding his face,  
Unconsciously yearning for help and  
for grace,

The little one now began,  
His mother's nod and sanction sweet  
Had led him close to the Lord's dear  
feet,  
And his words like music ran:

"Thank you for making this home so  
nice,  
The flowers and folks, and my two  
white mice  
(I wish I could keep right on);  
I thank you, too, for every day,  
Only I'm most too glad to pray.  
Dear God, I think I'm done.

"Now, mamma, rock me—just a min-  
ute—  
And sing the hymn with 'darling'  
in it—  
I wish I could say my prayers!  
When I get big I know I can;  
Oh! won't it be nice to be a man,  
And stay all night down-stairs!"

The mother, singing, clasping him tight,  
Kissing and cooing a fond 'Good night,'  
Treasured his every word.  
And well she knew the artless joy  
And love of her precious, innocent  
boy,  
Were a prayer that the Lord has heard.

## SHINING IN AT EVERY WINDOW.

We went, one cold, wintry day  
last spring, to see a poor young  
girl kept at home by a lame hip.  
The room was on the north side  
of a bleak house. It was not a  
pleasant prospect without, nor  
was there much that was pleasant  
or cheerful within.

"Poor girl? what a cheerless  
life she has of it," I thought, as  
we went to see how she was situ-  
ated; and I immediately thought  
what a pity it was that her room  
was on the north side of the  
house.

"You never have any sun," I  
said; "not a ray comes in at these  
windows. I love the sun."

"O," she answered, with the  
sweetest smile I ever saw, "my  
sun pours in at every window,  
and even through the cracks."

I am sure I looked surprised.  
"The sun of righteousness,"  
she said softly—"Jesus, He shines  
in here, and makes everything  
bright to me."

I could not doubt her. She  
looked happier than any one I  
had seen for many a day.

Yes, Jesus shining in at the  
window, can make any spot beau-  
tiful, and every home happy.—  
Selected.

THE LITTLE BOY THAT EVERY-  
BODY WANTED TO KISS.—On be-  
ing asked what he thought fire-  
flies were made for, a little Amer-  
ican boy answered, "I think God  
made them for candles to light  
the little frogs to bed."

## WHOSE POCKET-BOOK?

The Christian Giver says:  
"Whose pocket-book is that  
which you carry?" said a friend  
to a business-man, as he drew a  
well-filled wallet from his pocket.  
"Why, my own, of course.  
Whose else could it be?" was the  
prompt reply.

"To whom the pocket-book  
belongs depends on another ques-  
tion. If you belong to the Lord I  
guess the purse is his also."

"Well," said the man, thought-  
fully, "I hope I do belong to the  
Lord, but your remark throws a  
new light on this subject. It never  
impressed me before, as it does  
just now, that I am to carry and  
use this pocket-book, 'My pock-  
et-book,' as my Lord directs. I  
must think this matter out, for I  
confess honestly I never have  
looked at it in the light in which  
you place it."

## GOOD HINTS.

I knew a little boy who was  
very fond of rising early in the  
morning. He was also very fond  
of music. He only had a little  
tin fife, and yet he could produce  
the most delightful notes. He  
thought that the pretty birds liked  
to hear his tunes. The little boy  
has grown up to be a man. He  
is very wise now. Many men are  
amongst his friends. God has  
blessed and prospered him in  
many ways. He is fond of giv-  
ing good advice to children; and  
this is one of his short addresses:

1. Rise early.
2. Fear God.
3. Obey your parents.
4. Be kind to animals.
5. Love music and singing.
6. Never be idle.
7. Give your hearts to Jesus.
8. Be Bible readers and Bible  
heeders.

## STOP AND SHAKE HANDS.

Why is it men dart out of  
prayer meeting as soon as the  
benediction is given? The true  
idea of the Church is, that it is a  
family—God's family. Its mem-  
bers are children of one Father  
and brothers and sisters one of  
another. A prayer meeting there-  
fore, is a family meeting. It is a  
reunion of brothers and sisters.  
The service is of the character of  
a feast; and we all know that af-  
ter feasting comes talking and ex-  
hibition of good nature. After the  
formal portion of service is over  
brethren, why not stay and have  
an informal service of your own?  
Talk of whatever the Spirit sug-  
gest, tell your joys and your sor-  
rows, your hopes and your fears,  
one to another. "Laugh with  
those who laugh, and weep with  
those who weep." Don't file out  
of the room solemn as crows fly  
to the groves at night, passing  
through gloom into deeper gloom;  
but go forth happy as children  
pour out of the door when father  
and mother start out with them  
for a ramble in the bright sun-  
shine across the green fields. At  
least, stay long enough, after the  
formal services, to shake hands  
with the pastor and with each  
other, and greet any stranger that  
may chance to have dropped in  
among you of an evening. Lub-  
ricate the wheel of your Church  
machinery with the "oil of glad-  
ness," and you will be astonished  
at the ease with which all its  
parts will soon be working to-  
gether. "Salute every saint in  
Christ Jesus.—Our Monthly.

ABOUT fifty Sunday-schools  
have recently been organized in  
South America and Mexico. They  
are the seed-sowing for the future.

## DEEP SEA LIFE.

The mystery of deep sea life  
lies in the fact that there are mul-  
titudes of representatives of the  
animal world which, in virtue of  
their animality, are incapable of  
nourishing themselves upon inor-  
ganic matter, yet which are living  
miles below the limit at which  
vegetable life ceases. Some of  
the organisms found in deep sea  
soundings are undoubtedly of a  
vegetable nature; but these are  
surface-living diatoms, or other  
forms, which sink when they die.  
This animal life at the sea bottom  
is capable of appropriating as  
food the organic matter held dis-  
solved in the ocean water, as well  
as the inorganic substances neces-  
sary for the formation of its skel-  
eton and the gases required for  
respiration, for life at the bottom  
of the sea is essentially like all  
other animal life; it requires food  
to eat, air to breathe, and miner-  
als from which to elaborate its  
framework. Careful experiment  
has solved the difficulty; the sur-  
face living nutriment descends  
after death; slowly and labori-  
ously the life-sustaining oxygen  
makes its way from the surface to  
the depths where cold and dark-  
ness reign, and as slowly the  
poisonous carbonic acid—the re-  
sult alike of life and death—  
makes its way to the surface.  
Thus, just such life as can exist  
under the difficult conditions there  
present, does exist to an enormous  
extent.—Barnes' Ed. Monthly.

## DEBT.

You may think it a mere trifle,  
as you have not the money in  
your pocket to pay cash for  
what you purchase to order it  
charged. The obliging shop-keep-  
er, who is your townsman and  
has faith in your honesty, is noth-  
ing loth, and as you are postpon-  
ing settlement to the future, it  
seems to you of very small mo-  
ment whether or not you take  
two or three more things than  
you really need.

There is a bottle of Eau-de-  
Cologne, and yours is nearly  
empty; there are soaps, and box-  
es of note paper, and various lit-  
tle things, each of which costs  
only a small sum by itself, and  
as you take them home you think,  
"I'll run in in a few days and  
pay for them." If you defer your  
payment for a few weeks or a  
month you will probably be as-  
tonished to see to what a large  
sum these items have amounted.  
There may be conveniences in  
this mode of purchasing to a few  
people whose incomes are easy,  
and they may arrange their af-  
fairs upon this system, but to the  
great majority it is far better to  
pay for everything as it is want-  
ed.—Our Monthly.

## 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 .....

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a large number of gentlemen in and around  
Durham, whose certificates have been fur-  
nished the Manufacturers.

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## 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 with-  
out any estate. H.... 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 en-  
tire 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 regu-  
lations 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 es-  
tate. H.... 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 man-  
agement 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 regu-  
lations 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 re-  
quired 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 .....