

ONLY A TALE OF LIFE.

WIGHTMAN FLETCHER MELTON.

Only an infant, Gently caressed, Tenderly held to its mother's breast. Only a child, Learning to walk, Bright'ning home with its baby talk. Only a girl, Hurrying to school, Always trying to "keep the rule." Only a maiden, Pretty and fair, Admired by everyone everywhere. Only a wife, Wond'ring if she Is not happy as happy can be. Only a mother, With multiplied care, Soon gray threads 'll weave in her dark brown hair. Only a grandmother, Life hurrying along, Singing to babies the same old song. Only a grave, Covered with grass, Some one is resting—"peace at last."

A LITTLE SUNBEAM.

WHY TEARS CAME TO THE EYES OF A LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEER.

Even in the life of the grimy railroad engineer, whose existence is of almost constant danger, there sometimes falls a spark of light and a ray of human sunshine illuminates his smoky cab, penetrates his greasy blouse and finds its way deep down into his breast.

A little incident happened down at the mole the other evening after the arrival of the overland train, which, though of a simple nature will long be remembered by a certain C. P. engineer. The great iron monster attached to the train was throbbing and puffing after the long and sinuous trip over mountain sides and rocky defiles, trembling trestles and marshy stretches. The din in the depot was deafening, but out of the chaos of sounds a sweet, girlish voice was heard welcoming home her parents, who had arrived on the train. She was a little golden-haired beauty, scarcely six years of age, with a quick, intelligent eye and a loving nature, to which she gave full vent in the radiant and impulsive way she welcomed her fond parents back. At last they took her by the hand and proceeded toward the waiting ferry boat. As they passed by the engine belonging to the train the little one broke away, ran up to the big black machine and patted the driving wheels affectionately with her little white hands. Looking up at the smokestack, she said: "You good, big old iron horse, you have brought back my papa and mamma safe over the fearful mountains to their little girl, and I want to thank you, even if you don't care for me because I am so little, and you, too," she continued, turning her face wistfully toward the grimy engineer, who was leaning out of the cab window, "I love you both." Then she kissed her hand to him and was gone like a ray of sunshine.

Just then a fleeting sunbeam from the great orb sinking down in the Golden Gate came stealing through a chink in the depot and stole by the engineer into his cab. There was a strange look on his face for an instant, and all at once the depot was dark and lonesome. When he turned his head into his cab there were two light spots on the cheeks of his dustbe-grimed face.—Oakland (Cal.) Enquirer.

WHEN AND WHAT TO READ.

- If you are impatient sit down quietly and have a talk with Job. If you are just a little strongheaded go to see Moses. If you are getting weak-kneed take a look at Elijah. If there is no song in your heart listen to David. If you are a policy man read Daniel. If you are getting sordid spend awhile with Isaiah. If you feel chilly get the beloved disciple to put his arms around you. If your faith is below par read Paul. If you are getting lazy watch James.

If you are losing sight of the future climb up to Revelation and get a glimpse of the promised land.—Bible Record.

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