Sunday Reading.

From the Sunday School Visiter.

THE LITTLE CIRCUS BOY.

I was once placed in a situation where it became necessary to entertain a Circus company, attached to which was a little boy, who I suppose was about seven years old.

After a night's performance, I was making preparations for the company to retire, and on going into the room, I was struck with seeing this little boy kneeling in his bed, and with uplifted hands, earnestly engaged in prayer. I caught but a few words, which were, "O, Lord, be pleased to bless my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all in the house." This I heard above the conversation carried on by two or three men, who seemed to pay no attention to him, nor did their presence, or my entrance, appear in the least to divert his mind from his prayer.

From a leading man of the company, I endeavored to learn something of his history, but all I learned about him, was, that he was a very good boy, and never failed under any circumstances, to offer his daily devotions to his Maker. For a long time after retiring that night, did that little boy occupy my thoughts, and I could not but contrast the purity of his mind with the creation which had been selected for life. Could it have been by his parents? Could those who had taught him so early in life to look to a Saviour with such fixedness of soul, give their consent to have him removed from their home (late care and watchfulness, and be cast, like a tender plant, amidst those who never attempt to nourish and retain its purity and freshness? How came he here? I felt that I would willingly have given a great deal to have one hour's talk with him, but he was to leave before day, and I should have no opportunity.—Could it be that he was stolen from his parents? These, and a great many other questions came into my mind relative to the beautiful, meek, blue-eyed stranger, and I finally came to the conclusion that his religious training must have been in a Sabbath School—that he was probably of poor, destitute, and profligate parents, who gave consent for him to attend—at the solicitation of some kind teacher—more to have him out of their way, than for any benefit that he might receive, and that being active and sprightly, he was far, ahead in the classwork for a small private. How cold, thought I, how unfeeling the hearts of such parents, and how unworthy of such a child! He was unconscious of the path he was treading, of the sin that he was daily and hourly breathing perfidious about him. I could but regard him as a boundary in darkness. But what shall be his future?—Will not bad examples (for his sight and eventually enclosed him? He was early removed from the Sabbath School, from the kind friends who had taught him to commune with heaven, and surrounded by companions, who, although they might not wish to restrain him in his mischievous, would take no pains to encourage and uphold him in them. As yet he was unscripted the bud was fresh and sparkling was the dew of heaven, and he never failed to ask them for fresh supplies.

Here was a lesson taught me which I never could forget. Because I could not do any thing for the little stranger, and pray that the heart might ever [illegible] Maker, and be enabled to [illegible] evil influences around him. I [illegible] hope, as the thought [illegible] "God moves in a mysterious way his wonders to perform," and may, in His providence, have placed him there for some purpose. He yet may become a [illegible] for Christ's Kingdom, and some of the little girls and boys who read this sketch, may yet hear of him during his hours of happiness, and faith in a Redeemer, from a Sabbath School.

Who of the little Sabbath School scholars who may read this, would not like to take this poor, friendless boy by the hand and lead him to your Sabbath School?—What delight would he not take in being there with you, and how pleased would you feel in his happiness! This pleasure you may never learn with him, but I will tell you how you may be happy. In our large towns and cities—and perhaps in many small ones—may be found poor, destitute children growing up in wickedness and ignorance, who may never have heard of a Sabbath School. Seek out some such child—take him or her by the hand, as it may be, and lead them to your School, cheer you them by your love, and you may have the gratification of being repaid a thousand fold, by seeing them become as dear to you as this little Circus boy, in whose character you may learn several important lessons viz: Honor to parents, love to brothers and sisters, piety, and regularity of devotion, under all circumstances. W.

The Sabbath.

There is no soul where—all religious [illegible] Sabbath is so generally as in this country. We should become barbarians without it. Among the [illegible] money and distinction, acting upon natures [illegible] by our peculiar institutions into the most [illegible] combinations, withdraw this at every hour, and assert society a moment [illegible] presence and power, at which strangers gaze and wonder. Our very pleasures have a dash of [illegible] about them—and our days and hours hurried on in the [illegible] excitement, [illegible] and mingle in a hasty mass, in which the better reasoning faculty can distinguish little that appears to fill the natural purposes of life. Were the hurried way of life, the eager hunt of gold-seeking unencouraged, it would soon sweep away before it all the [illegible] and purifies human nature, or give the grace and goodness of life.

The Sabbath stays the onward pulse of a city, opens the low and darkened mind to gather round the heart, and lets in the light of better thoughts and other business. To lose this renewing dispensation, from the curse of the impetuous life-struggle, would be to number our passing time of the dungeon slave. While, therefore, we regard the desecration of the Sabbath as primarily offensive as a violation of Divine law, we condemn it as a [illegible] to the [illegible] habit—as a sin against [illegible]

We see, with great regret, a [illegible] decay in the Sabbath [illegible] the greatest in these communities also. The pulse of society is most rapid and most intent, and where the worship of business or of pleasure, is as perpetual as it is absorbing. This hostility to the Sabbath is manifested in the erection of the Sunday papers, devoted to business and pleasure, and the desecration of the day to idle entertainments.

They who invade the day of rest, do [illegible] wrong to the race at large, and aid in weakening a divine institution given in mercy, and inseparable from the interest of civilization.—*North American.*

FORGIVENESS.

There is something peculiarly sweet in the enjoyment of that blessed [illegible] when we feel in our heart that we can, and do truly forgive an erring brother. When a brother has erred by injuring us, and afterwards comes to us with a sheet fear in his eye, and with [illegible] heart full of contrite emotions, and acknowledges his fault and seeks our pardon for the errors of the past, it is a sweet thing to grasp his hand with a friendly fervor and say—"brother I feel all my heart thou art forgiven."

It is a lamentable feeling with some [illegible] destitute of this good principle [illegible] met with some who never could [illegible] whom injured by an erring brother [illegible] to enjoy a wicked pride in ever [illegible] holding the erring one at an [illegible] distance by their malicious frowns. [illegible] do not enjoy the sweets of life they [illegible] grow shrivelled and sour hearted—[illegible] on the world as their enemy already. The unforgiving spirit is a dangerous principle to foster; it renders the possessor [illegible] happy wretch [illegible] by all [illegible] know him and a burthen to himself. [illegible] be who feels ever ready and willing to [illegible] give to meet with an attribute that "makes us man an angel."

An Author, whose name we [illegible] has put together the subjoined sweet little nosegay touching our subject. There is a touch of the sweet and beautiful throughout, and the readers, we are sure, will read it again and again, and [illegible] it [illegible] at each perusal. We have [illegible] familiar as the face of an old friend, and we hope the [illegible] to [illegible]

[illegible]

MINISTERING SPIRITS.

The re-union of parents and [illegible] beyond, as if their [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]