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Obscurity.
A thought of lasting joy, if thou hast
Hoy desire by some inspiring word,
If with some glorious vision thou hast
The first, the way worn is when some rarest
I'm sure yours forth its soul, the song in
By the transient leaves and flowers, a tremble
It came to seem, to seem—if this thy lot,
Care not how lonely thou mayst seem
To rest away as unobscured forgot;
For to this nightest comes his work to
The humblest task to light some little spot,
Though star-like, yet with rays the heavens
may see.

HOW HILDA MANAGED.

By Helen Forrest Graves.
'De Mrs. Murray live here?'
Mr. Webb knew I apologized on
the day counter of the bakery with the
Laufer of his whip. It seemed almost
a liberty that unconsciously to address
the gaily attired young woman who was
addressing accounts behind the tall
desk.

rowed a potful of freshly made coffee;
from another, a few slices of cold boiled
beef; from a third, a pan of new baked
biscuits, with a little butter and a comb
of honey, and then she flew back to
spread the frugal meal.
'Are they all well, cousin Webb?'
she asked, timidly, as, holding up her
riding habit with one hand, she ar-
ranged the table, and ministered to the
appetite of her guest with the other.
Mr. Webb nodded his head, keenly
surveying her the while.
'All well,' he responded between the
swallows of coffee. 'Ella, she sent
her love. And Reed—no, Reed didn't
send no love. But he wanted to be
specially remembered, Reed did. He's
had dreadful good luck with the sweet-
potato patches and tobacco crop this
year.'

'We are too poor,' she said; 'as
cannot afford the expense of moving
again. And there is no house to be had
here now.'

CHILDREN'S COLUMN.
The Song in the Night.
A little bird sang in the dead of the night,
When the moon peeped out through a cloud,
He sang for his heart was so full of delight
It seemed almost throbbing aloud.

NESTS OF BIRDS.
Great Mechanical Skill Exhibited in Building Them.
A Chapter On One of the Most Attractive Branches of Natural Science.
The study of birds' nests forms one of the most attractive branches of natural science. Not only does it show the manner in which our feathered friends build their nests, but to a great extent the character of the birds themselves. It would hardly be supposed that by examining a bird's nest in the hand much could be told concerning the builder; yet let any one acquainted with bird life be given a nest, and although he may never have seen it before, he can tell with considerable accuracy the general habits, numerous and customs of the owner and many other little points that one would not suppose possible from so ordinary an object.

Passports.
The State Department derives a revenue of about \$2,000 annually from the sale of passports to American citizens to go abroad. The gentleman in charge of this work is known as the passport clerk. He requires you to state your age, height, weight, color of your hair and eyes and other personal characteristics, when the list is completed, you find he has drawn an excellent pen portrait of your self. You then swear to the correctness of the statement, pay him \$5 to bind the passport, and are given a formidable looking document, which remains in force two years, but without which it is impossible to travel in any part of Continental Europe or Asia. The demand for passports is especially heavy about this time of the year and continues uninterrupted until the middle of the summer. Then the clerks labor diligently until the next spring rolls around. By daylight of all the passports issued are given a single stamping to visit Germany. About one-eighth of the entire number are used in Cuba, and the remainder in Russia, Italy and Austria.

Only a Song.
I was only a simple old song,
I sang to you in a simple old way,
I sang to you in a simple old way,
I sang to you in a simple old way.