













Sunday Reading.

LITTLE THINGS.

It was only a little seed  
That she dropped into the ground,  
But a beautiful flower with fragrant bells  
When next she passed, she found.

It was only a little thing—  
An acorn smooth and round;  
But in time it grew to a stately tree,  
Whose branches swept the ground.

It was only a little word—  
A word of love and cheer;  
But it soothed the heart it was spoken to,  
And rendered the speaker dear.

It was only a little favor—  
Laid on the sick one's bed;  
But it brought to mind a tender face,  
And some loving words that were said.

Yes, these are little things;  
But the lesson that I would teach  
Is that little things are in all our paths,  
While the great ones but few we reach.

Let us do the little we can,  
Nor talk of the great that we would;  
So the blessed Master shall say to us,  
"She hath done what she could."

"I am Tired."

How often we use these words, and how very often do we hear them used! The prattling child, just learning to exercise its delicate limbs, in its many romps upon the grass plat, or the nursery floor, learns among its earliest words, "I am tired."

The little farmer boy, who, in early morn, makes the neighboring wood resound with his echoing voice, ere mid-day has ceased his vocal efforts, and returns from the fields with weary, lagging steps, and enters the kitchen with the words, "I am tired."

The sprightly lass, with careless mirth, rising with the larks, ere night-fall feels the weight of her many duties, and, at the declining of the sun, repeats, "I am tired."

The student, bending over the lore of ages past, seats his weary head upon his palm, and says, "I am tired."

The statesman, with the many knotty problems of state and his ambitious schemes of renown, at the close of the day retires to his faithful spouse, remarks, "I am tired."

The man of hoary head, as he rests his limbs upon his supporting staff, and bends with the weight of years, says, "I am tired." I have passed the springtime of youth; my autumn has gone, the winter of life is come, and I am tired. My companion is not, my former friends are gone; this is a generation of another time. Would that I could rest!

Be of good cheer, old man. The life journey is near at end. Rest thou upon Him who has said, "I am the resurrection and the life; whosoever liveth and believeth on me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."—*Florence Crewell.*

The Seeds of Crime.

"He that sows to the flesh, shall of the flesh reap corruption." This is the enunciation of a law fixed and uniform; and numerous are the examples in daily life which serve as illustrations of its inexorable truthfulness. Some facts lately brought to light in one particular sphere of investigation serve to illustrate this law more forcibly. Mr. Kingsville, chaplain of Pentonville Prison, England, put the question, "What was the first cause of all your troubles?" to several hundreds of convicts who were about to be transported to Australia, with the assurance that their answers should not be read until they had left the country. The prime causes of crime, as found in the *Independent*, which these answers give stand as follows:

1. "Bad company, drink and idleness."
  2. "Disobedience to parents, and from that to Sunday-breaking and gambling."
  3. "Staying out late at night and bad company; not taking good advice and disobedience to parents; gaming and such like practices."
  4. "Disobedience towards both my heavenly and earthly father."
  5. "Bad company, card-playing, the ale-house, drunkenness, and night-work brought on a house-breaking job."
- These answers contain a solemn lesson for parents and guardians; the young, also, may take warning, and heed the ancient maxim *abstergere principia*, resist beginnings.
- J. M. L.

A Happy Man.

The happiest man I have ever known is one far from being rich in money, and who will never be much nearer to it. His calling fits him, and he likes it, rejoices in its process as much as in its results. He has an active mind, well fitted. He reads and he thinks. He tends his garden before sun-rise every morning, then rides sundry miles by rail, does his ten hours' work in town, whence he returns happy and cheerful. With his own smile he catches the earliest smile of the morning, plucks the first rose of his garden and goes to work with the little flower in his hand and a great one blossoming out of his heart. He runs over with charity as a cloud with rain; and it is with him as with the cloud—what, coming from the cloud is rain to the meadow is a rainbow of glories to the cloud that pours it out. The happiness of affection fills up the good man, and he runs over with friendship and love—conjugal, parental, filial, friendly, too, and philanthropic besides. His life is a perpetual trap to catch a sunbeam, and it always springs and takes it in. I know no man who gets more out of life, and the secret of it is he does his duty to himself, to his brother, and to his God. I know rich men—men of great social position; and if there is genius in America, I know that, but a happier man I never knew.—*Theodore Parker.*

The Secret Judge.

Every man is a little world within himself, and in this little world there is a court of judicature erected, within, next under God, the conscience sits as the supreme judge, from whom there is no appeal; that passeth sentence upon all our actions—upon all our intentions; for our persons, solving one, condemning another; our actions, allowing one, forbidding another. If that condemns us, we shall all the world beside condemn us. If that clears us, the doom of all the world is ours.—*Hall.*

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