CHRISTIAN MESSENGER.

Reading. family

6

Imperfect.

The purest sacrifice we bring Is stained with selfish thought, There's blemish in each offering, By whomsover brought.

We speak with Christ in earnest prayer, [force Unfolding all we feel, Yet prayerless thoughts with mighty Rush on us as we kneel.

The happy songs of gratitude That from our spirits rise, Unheard by us, may bear aloft Some discord to the skies.

With burning zeal we stand and preach In our Redeemer's name, And as we plead sometimes there comes A sinful dream of fame.

When most we need with vigilance A prayerful watch to keep. The Master through the garden walks, And finds us fast asleep.

Not always doth the right hand seek To do its good by stealth, Sometimes it leadeth poverty To glorify our wealth.

With the white flowers of our love We crown the Lord as King, Yet 'neath their beauties they may hide A thorn to tear and sting.

Do what we will we cannot reach Angelic worship here ; Love falters in its noblest work, And faith gives place to fear.

of course.' said Sidney. I dare say they are all city girls but ourselves.' 'Yes, and ready to turn up then aristocratic noses, I'll venture, at the country sisters, in urbis. By the way Italia, are you going to study Latin?'

said John. 'Not yet, I hope,' said Italia, laughing, 'I shall be thankful if I can keep up with the others in English studies." 'I mean to take what the rest do, said Sidney determinedly. "I don't want to be peculiar.' Seld M

'Remember the fable about the ass in the lion's skin, Sidney ; you may betray yourself when you little expect it,' say.'

whether he expressed his own senti- could not be forgotten. ments in the words he borrowed.

The girls soon reached the corner where John was to leave them. He

One face immediately attracted

Italia's attention. She recognized it at

a glance. She was sure she saw be-

fore her Mary Jane, her old acquaint-

ance of Orphan Asylum memory.

Italia stepped towards her with her

checked at once all further advances.

door of the school-room.

with a general stare.

ed away.

Sidney was surprised to see how much of her new teacher.

The pupils were now requested to stand up as their names were called. that Mrs. Lightfoot might be sure that they were all present, and that they might in this way be introduced to each other. This introduction, she said, would be all they required, and hence- she did not wish me to mention. forward they would be to each other

duty. Several of the scholars had already self and you will be with your new been called, when it became Sidneys friends. I think you must have been turn to rise. She did so with difficulty speaking about me, or you would tell said John. 'When you once know and her face was flushed to crimson as me what that great secret was.' what your studies are to be, I'll help all eyes turned upon her. She thought you at home, to keep up the honor of herself the object of peculiar attention, which I should not like you to hear,' the family. United we stand, divided but there she was mistaken; each scho- said Italia affectionately. Come, let we fall-E pluribus unum, ought to be lar who rose was favored with the same us talk about Mrs. Lightfoot and her the motto among brothers and sisters, I amount of curious interest. Italia was school. How charming it all was !'

This sentiment was rather a singular ledge her name immediately after Sidone to come from the lips of Master ney, and she stood up beside her when at home, in teasing the younger girl were a kind of protection for her. children and making a disturbance Italia did not see the scornful curl of among them. John, however, never the lip that disfigured the pretty face lost an opportunity for introducing a of her opposite neighbor, though that quotation, whether suggested by sound neighbor was by no means entirely out or sense, not troubling himself to think of her thoughts. Such a resemblance your translation. I am sure that it was

said Sidney eagerly. and at length said, with some embarrassment: 'She was speaking to me about some of her own affairs, which

as friends and assistants in the path of Sidney with an injured air. 'I suppose I shall soon be left quite to my-

I have nothing to say about you 'I like Mrs. Lightfoot,' said Sidney warmly. 'But the girls-I could not help thinking they were laughing at us; John Carr, who particularly delighted, friend as if being near the bashful they are all so different from us- and then I did not recite as I could. never was so mortified in my life.'

"I did not know you were a Latin scholar,' said Italia encouragingly. 'I saw Mrs. Lightfoot looked pleased at much better than she expected.'

' Father taught me Latin,' said Sid-

books, and darted away without ano- gave herself no trouble as to the future. at ease she already telt in the presence ther word, leaving Italia to digest her John's efforts to teach her utterly failed me from the danger,' said Italia laughsurprise, as she more slowly followed. and at length he gave them up in des- ing. 'You must remember that among "What was it? What was it?' pair. There was no sport in making a the girls it is the workers that are person own inferiority who did it sim- rewarded, we don't expect to be bril-Italia was puzzled how to answer, ply, and as a matter of fact without iant.' shame. There was no fun in laughing at one who had joined in the laugh as

> pense. Mrs Clinton found a wide field for influence open before her. Socially,she was beginning to be beloved and respecied, and she was using her influence for the best good of all who admired her pleasing manners or sought her society for the charms of her conversa-Among the doctor's patients tion. there was, always something to be done and it was delightful to him to have a friend near him who entered into his plans of benevolence with more than a reluctant, duty-constrained sympathy. Notwithstanding these various interests, Mrs. Clinton's favorite sphere was the family circle. While she never lost sight of the progress the girls were making, both mentally and morally, she looked to Italia's influence as the best way of reaching Sidney, who was too bashful and self-conscious to open her

heart freely to an older person. John Carr was at first inclined to regard Mrs. Clinton as 'like all women, and Italia's expectations were on tip- ney, smiling ; but I was always so far inferior to the smallest boy.' When toe, when Mrs. Lightfoot read from her behind John and he laughed so at my however, he found her able to give him list the name 'Mary Jane Whitman.' mistakes, that I did not get on as well information on almost every subject he AUGUST 16, 1882.

AI

It l

timber

ago is

for the

A piec

in cot

1874,

two ye

owner

forty-

much

who

raised

topmo

famili

breed

thoug

neatly

· A

Amer

tembe

feet o

silo.

stock

corn

and

crib.

silage

unde

ter to

to re

the a

ous,

effect

do b

and

with

appl

mak

Т

accu

hunt

mor

Wh

very

plan

thro

slow

of

larg

up o

the

acid

be a

for

mill

bre

axe

wit

hea

wil

bon

wil

dri

spr sho

int

am

loa

of

on

sai

cej

sui

VO

bi

ra

th

A

She

'The nullus will be likely to save

'Workers! Then Sidney ought to stand first, I say. How many hours did you dig at your translation yester. day, eh ! sis ?' said the brother, giving Sidney a fraternal nudge in the side that would have made anybody less good-natured cry out with pain and vexation.

Sidney winced slightly, but she only answered pleasantly. . I do believe I spent three hours over it, and then I did not feel sure of knowing it well, till I was fairly through the recitation."

'I can't understand that at all,' said John. 'When I have been over with a lesson and mastered it, I am sure of it as if I had daguerreotyped it in my memory.

'Yes, I dare say; you are so quick, and then you never get frightened as I do, and forget everything. Sometimes in the midst of a recitation I grow confused, and then you might ask me my name, and I don't believe I could tell it," said Sidney dolorously.

'All the preparation in the world would not help you out of such difficulties,' said Dr. Aulick kindly. 'Actors, who have thoroughly committed their parts, sometimes have what they call a stage fright,' when they can not even finish the sentence they have begun : indeed for a time, they do not know anything, and but for the prompter they would have to give up in despair. Entire forgetfulness of self is some security against these attacks. Another

glad that it was her turn to acknow-

Nearly all the scholars had risen,

merrily as if it were not her own ex-'Secrets from me so soon,' said

Yet shall we from the Temple turn ? Shall we our God forsake? Yes, when He turns from frailty, Or bruised reed doth break.

But He is perfect, He is kind, He ever doeth right, So let us gladly bring our best, And trust the Infinite.

O, Father, like a father be In pitying tenderness, And cover all Thy children's faults. With Thine own righteousness. Walter J. Mathams.

COMING TO THE LIGHT.

Select Serial.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "THE BABES IN THE BASKET."

CHAPTER. XIII .- SCHOOL. Sidney Carr and Italia Clinton were preparing for their first day at school. What preparation had they to make? Had they school-books to be collected took you for an old acquaintance." or lessons to be reviewed? No! yet each of the young girls was busily a cold bow, and then the stranger turnoccupied in her own room.

Sidney had made herself scrupulously was dissatisfied. The single stroke gave herself no uneasiness at the warned her that it wanted a half hour only of the time for the opening to the school-room. Italia took a seat of the school.

Sidney hurried to Italia's room, and ' Do let us move up higher ; they'll be entered without ceremony. Sidney sure to think we deserve to be put thought it a useless formality to knock ; down, if we try to keep back." Italia moved to please Sidney an idea in which she was mistaken. though puzzled to understand her mo-Every one needs some place of retiretive. The change brought them opment where no intruder will enter withposite to the stranger to whom Italia out giving warning. had spoken, and her countenance indi-When Sidney threw wide the door, cated no pleasure at having them in she saw Italia's bonnet and shawl laid upon the bed, but Italia was nowhere to her neighborhood. After the introductory prayer was be seen. A Bible lay open on the over, Mrs. Lightfoot made a short adtable, and beside it was a chair, as if dress to her pupils, as to the object some one had just risen from reading. and aim of a school life. Italia listen-Sidney paused, and looked about her. ed with eager interest, and even Sid-In another moment Italia lifted her head ney forgot her misgivings as the teachfrom the bed beside which she had been kneeling, rose and came cheerfully forer went on. It was laid down as a settled princiward to greet her young friend. Italia ple that lady-like, Christian deportment had been preparing for the new scene was to be cultivated as much as upon which she was to enter, by earnest scholarship, and the pupils were earnprayer, and she was now ready to apestly requested to remember that in pear before strangers, without an anxiety as to the impression she should the development of their minds they were improving talents intrusted to make upon them. them by their Creator, and for which John was waiting in the hall for the they would be held responsible. For girls, and he saluted them in his usual the power and character of their indistyle as they came down stairs. 'Well, vidual minds, they were told that they damsels, I suppose you will not object were not to be judged, but diligence in to my escorting you this morning. self-improvement would surely win the know Sydney is all in a twitter.' approbation of their teacher, and the ' Indeed I am,' said Sidney nervously. better reward of approving Heaven. "I do so dread it." Italia felt at once, that Mrs. Light-' Dread what ?' asked Italia uneasily. 'Why, meeting so many strangers, foot would be to her a true friend, and

waved his cap at parting, and exclaimed : 'Don't despair, poor frightened things. Perseverantia vincit omnia ! Faint heart ne'er won a fair lady !' puzzled, but this was no time to seek 'You go in first, Italia,' said Sidney, an explanation. shrinking back as they reached the

Sidney had already begun to reap ' Certainly, if you would like me to,' the fruits of her evident bashfulness. There is a wicked tendency in many Italia simply. said Italia, entering without hesitation. The small dressing-room was already minds to tease and mortify those who full, and the new-comers were favored

> rose, 'Sidney !'a boy's name !' and feel neither pride nor shame. She had quence. this unpleasant thought lingered in her not learned the secret of true humility. mind until the examination for the arrangement of classes commenced. Italia said at once that she should

hand extended, and a smile of recognibelong to the lowest division, as she tion on her face. The stranger did not move a muscle, but returned Italia's smile with a cold, blank look, that but she promptly and nnhesitatingly girls, who made up this department of convinced she had made a mistake the school. Sidney was not usually a which needed an apology ; so she said poor scholar, but her anxiety to appear politely : " Excuse me, Miss, I miswell confused her, and to her great The apology was acknowledged by mortification, she was ranked far below the place she felt that she deserved, and she was thoroughly discouraged.

The long morning was at length A smile has passed around the little neat in appearance, yet she was sure circle at Italia's expense, which Sid- over, and Sidney and Italia were prethere was about her, what she called ney had not been slow to perceive; her paring to leave the entrance-room the "a countrified look," and this she had face was crimsoned and tears were in last among the pupils. As they were been trying to banish. Arrange her her eyes; she looked to see in Italia closing the door, Mary Jane came runhair as she would, there was still the some reflection of her own feelings, ning back, apparently for some book same frank; honest countenance, the but Italia had not been conscious of do- she had forgotten to take with her. same air of simplicity with which she ing anything wrong, and therefore Italia politely held the door open for her to pass. To her surprise Mary of the clock on the stairs, at length amusement her mistake had afforded. Jane whispered: 'Stop, stop a moment, Fidgetty, I want to speak to you a-The scholars were soon summoned

> Italia was astonished, but she only near the door, but Sidney whispered : said: . Wait for me please Sidney, and returned to the entrance room with in Italia's society. Mary Jane. 'I did not mean to be rude to Fidgetty,' said Mary Jane, offering her hand, ' I knew you at once, though you are dressed so differently. You have not changed much in any other way. I have been adopted as well vourself.' Here Mary Jane drew herself up proudly. 'Mrs. Whitman is very, very rich, we have a carriage and live as the rich people always do. Of course I didn't want you to be talking about the Orphans' Asylum here among the girls. I don't want you to say anything about that, and that is why I managed to speak to you alone. You won't be mean enough to tell anything you know about me, will you Fidgetty, dear?" said Mary Jane car-

Italia involuntarily glanced at the as I might. I can't bear to be behind brought forward, he began to think it pretty stranger, who rose with unembar- others ; I don't see how you could help possible to feel some respect for one of rassed air. Italia was puzzled, sorely being mortified at taking your seat a- the weaker sex, even though she might mong those little girls to-day. You be a stranger to Greek, and but on didn't seem to mind it a bit."

'I was where I belonged ; I am sure I ought to be contented with that,' said

Sidney was silent ; she had not yet his conceit and willfulness had opposed are most easily made to suffer in this learned to consider appearance, her themselves. Now he was approached position, her mind and her acquire- by Mrs. Clinton as a felllow-immortal Sidney's confusion had tempted some ments, as gifts from her heavenly Fa- to whom the concerns of the eternal one behind her to whisper when she ther, for which she was called upon to world must be of the greatest conse-

CHAPSER XIV .--- PROGRESS.

Sidney Carr's country bloom began led to his respect, and to win her favor to fade away as week after week passed was very backward in her studies. by. She not only studied faithfully, he now ardently desired. For her he Some astonished looks were cast at her but in her dreams she anxiously went over her lessons, and in every spare which were indeed surprising for a boy Italia drew back, not mortified but took her place among the four smaller waking hour she was to be seen with of his age. He tried to awe her by her books in her hands.

> eager love of knowledge, or from a scholarship from his teacher, and prouddesire for self-improvement, or to grat- ly told her he held the first rank in the ify the kind parents who had spared school. Politely, kindly, Mrs. Clipton acknowledged all his claims for respect, her from the home where she was so but at the bottom of his heart there was useful. Sidney had one bugbear ever a conviction that she did not think before her, the fear of disgracing herself with her schoolmates by apparent highly of him, and at this he wondered stupidity. She had been so constantly and chafed. told that she was a poor scholar in comhappy. The children of his dear parison with her really talented bro-

ther, that she had formed a very low younger sister were sharing his comopinion of her own abilities. That ot- fortable home and enjoying the intelhers might entertain the same opinion lectual advantages it was in his power was her constant dread.

Her brother's continued teasing, and cising at home and abroad the influence she was well calculated to wield. his habit of making disparaging remarks about her, kept up this fear, Italia was growing more lovely in charand Sidney would have been really acter, and making such rapid progress unhappy but for the pleasure she had at school that her teacher's praises

Italia's improvement was fast raising With Italia she felt at ease. She was sure that there was no sly fun at her from the humble position she had her expense, looking in Italia's clear eyes, and no contempt would be aroused by any mistake she might chance to make in her presence. Italia had a habit of constantly and modestly placing herself below Sidney, from a sincere belief that such a position became her and a cheerful willingness to give her companion the pleasure of acknowledged superiority. Mrs. Clinton carefully watched the influence the girls were having upon each other, and was convinced that they were helping each other forward. Sidney was by nature calm, even to sluggishness, and her quiet demeanor had its physical effect upon Italia. Her true, affectionate heart had already become strongly attached to Italia, and the consciousness of having been able to win such an affection was in itself 'Never mind why; only don't let of service to the modest orphan. Siddaily felt the power and strength of the deep Christian principle, which seemed to have taken possession of the very springs of life and action with Italia. 'Certainly I'll promise if you want On her lessons she bestowed what she me to, ' said Italia, quickly, for she deemed the requisite amount of study was in haste to rejoin her companion. and then put them by without farther

important preventive is the habit of fixing the attention closely on the subject before the mind at the time. Chance wandering thoughts often bring about these moments of confusion. If my speaking terms with Latin. Sidney were only as self-posessed John had not been without religious and unconscious in the school room instruction, but he had been hitherto

as she is when she is the useful sister at home, she would not have such taught as a child, and to such instruction troubles to fear. I believe your very anxiety to do well often gets you into difficulty.' 'I dare say you are right, uncle,

said Sidney trankly, 'but it is a difficult thing to learn to command one's thoughts.

'It is a difficult duty; but it is a The boy listened, reasoned, and felt duty, nevertheless. We can never have our heart's obedient to the comhimself out-argued and intellectually mands of God, and our prayers anyconvinced by a woman. Mrs. Clinton thing more than mere senseless repewas to be henceforward a person entittitions, unless we learn to command our thoughts,' said the doctor soberly. Italia listened with eagerness, but John grew restless and hastened to say: brought out the stores of his knowledge 'It is strange enough, uncle, that we should forget what we know perfectly well, but it appears to me more strange long quotations in Greek or Latin. He that we should seem to remember Sidney was not studying from an brought home the testimonials of his what never happened before. Sometimes when I am talking, I think I have gone through with exactly the same conversation before, and I almost know what the person to whom I am speaking will say next.'

'Yes, I have lelt that often,' said Sidney. Italia could have told how these shadowy remembrances were ever haunting her. Lessons she seemed to have studied before, even her prayers, As for Dr. Aulick he was thorougly seemed to her but the renewal of petitions offered long ago in the dim past. Was she but puzzled by the same strange half-recollections as others experienced, or was she beginning to recall something of her life during the period that had hitherto been a perfect blank?

Italia eagerly listened as Dr. Aulick replied: 'Almost every one has had something of this feeling at times.'

'Yes Wordsworth says, 'Our birth is but a sleep and a forgetting; the child comes trailing clouds of glory from his better home.' I have not got it quite right,' said John thoughtlessly interrupting his uncle.

essing 'Of course not, if you don't wish it, said Italia, with astonishment. 'But I am sure I cannot see why.'

any body know we ever met before ; promise me that, won't you?' said Mary Jane in a pleading tone. ' Say do you promise?"

Mary Jane now gathered up her anxiety: Her duty was done, and she

taken in the school. Her modesty and gentleness had so won upon her com panions, that all rejoiced at her advancement, all save one young heart in which the sad blight of envy was blotting and destroying all that was good. Italia had kept her promise with regard to Mary Jane, not even mentioning to Mrs. Clinton their meeting and subsequent interview. They had little in common, and were seldom together, but Italia's praises were sharp pain to her self-constituted rival.

to give them. Mrs. Clinton was exer-

knew no bounds.

Italia's name appeared on Monday morning on the blackboard, as highest in the school for diligence and rapid improvement.

Italia's feeling was deep gratitude at the thought that she who had once deemed herself incapable of any intellectual effort, should have been so blessed and honored.

At the dinner table that day, Sidney with unselfish pleasure mentioned the circumstance. 'Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown,' broke forth Master John. 'Look out for squalls ahead Italia, if it has come to that. The world's venomed shaft seek the highest mark. Aut Cæsar, aut Nullus ! is a dangerous watchword."

'I do not believe there is anything of real remembrance in these feelings,' said the doctor. 'They belong to the unexplained phenomena of mind, as do many of the peculiarities of the memory. There are interesting subjects of speculation here left open for us to wonder about and examine. but all that we need to know for our highest good is certain. I have no doubt of the perfect action of memory in the world beyond the grave. It seems to me the lost would be sure of eternal misery could they remember all the sins of their wasted lives, and recall the opportunities of repentance they had disregarded, and the whispers of the Spirit to which they had turned a deaf ear. It becomes us all to make memory our friend and give it only good deeds, good resolutions, and prayers of penitence and faith, to lay up for us in its sure treasure-house."

Italia had been disappointed by the first portion of the doctor's remarks. She was then probably only deluded like others, by some strange fancied remembrances; her past was yet all lost to her. This sad thought was dispelled as the doctor went on, and Italia's face brightened as she resolved anew so to live in the presence of her loving Saviour, as only to have in memory, actions on which he had smiled, and thoughts in which he had ever St 199 South ARC