

its pink dress and sash. The tiny hands grasped the treasure tightly, and baby crept with it until she was seized with a sudden impulse and into a wash-bowl of water it went—Dorothy having just placed the bowl upon a chair preparatory to washing baby's face.

"Oh, dear, dear!" and the poor disappointed girl burst into tears. It was getting so near Christmas, how could she do all that work over?

However, it would do no good to cry and she brushed away the tears and went on bravely.

The woman who helped to take care of the mother did not recover rapidly, and Dorothy's hands were full of work so that when it wanted three days only to Christmas she had none of the presents ready with the exception of the mittens.

Very much discouraged she wended her way to the one store of the country district to buy something for papa and mamma. She bought for papa a handkerchief and for mamma a tiny work-basket. And in her selecting of the articles she told the kindhearted storekeeper her troubles.

The good man expressed sympathy and the little maiden, somewhat cheered, went home.

As soon as Dorothy was out of hear-

ing Mr. Rider, the storekeeper, called in his wife from the room in the rear of the building and to her related the story.

And then these two good people went round that store selecting things for the Blake family. "We are not so very well off, but we can play at Santa Claus, can't we, wife?" exclaimed Mr. Rider, enthusiastically.

First of all they measured off a bright woolen fabric enough goods to make Dorothy a dress. Then they brought forth woolen caps for the boys, dolls for the little girls, and a rubber doll with a whistle in it for that mischievous baby. A box was used for the occasion, and all the spare room was utilized for groceries. A pair of slippers was tucked in for Mrs. Blake, and a pair of overshoes for Mr. Blake. I almost forgot to tell you that a generous supply of candy went into that Christmas box.

Christmas eve, when Dorothy was almost utterly discouraged, that box appeared and the Blakes had their Christmas, and a merry Christmas it was.

FOR MOTHER.

He was only a mite of a boy, dirty and ragged, and he had stopped for a little while in one of the city's free play grounds to watch a game of ball between boys of his own and a rival neighborhood. Tatters and grime were painfully in evidence on every side, but this little fellow attracted the attention of a group of visitors, and one of them, reaching over the child's shoulder, as he sat on the ground, gave him a lucious golden pear. The boy's eyes sparkled, but the eyes were his only thanks as he looked back to see from whence the gift had come, and then turned his face away again, too shy or too much astonished to speak. But from that time on his attention was divided between the game and his new treasure. He patted the pear, he looked at it, and at last, as if to assure himself that it was as delicious as it appeared, he lifted it to his lips and cautiously bit out a tiny piece near the stem. Then with a long sigh of satisfaction and assurance he tucked the prize safely inside his dirty little blouse.

"Why don't ye eat it, Tony?" demanded a watchful acquaintance.

"Eat it? All meself? Ain't I savin' it for me mother?"

The tone, with its mingling of resentment and loyalty, made further speech unnecessary. Whatever else Tony lacked and it seemed to be nearly everything, he had learned humanity's loftiest lesson; he held another dearer than self, and knew the joy of sacrifice.—*Baptist Young People.*

THE SERMON STEVE PREACHED.

One Monday, Steve, who had been at church the day before, thought he would have a church of his own. He got his four sisters to be the congregation. He stood on a stool and spoke very loud. This is part of the sermon that he preached:

"This is to be a 'mind mother' sermon. There are two ways in which you ought to mind everything she says.

"Mind her the very first time she speaks. When mother says, 'Mary, please bring me some coal or water,' or 'run to the store,' don't answer, 'In just a minute, mother.' Little folks' minutes are a great deal longer than the ones the clock ticks off. When you say 'yes' with your lips, say 'yes' with your hands and feet. Don't say 'yes' and act 'no.' Saying 'Yes, in a

minute,' is not obeying, but doing 'yes' is.

"Mind cheerfully. Don't scowl when you have to drop a book, or whine because you can't go and play. You wouldn't own a dog that minded you with his ears laid back, growling and snapping. A girl ought to mind a great deal better than a dog."

That was Steve's sermon. Don't you think it was a good one?—*Olive Plants.*

A MAGNANIMOUS VICTOR.

A pretty little story of a spelling-class in China is told by the *Golden Rule.*

The youngest of the children had, by hard study, contrived to keep his place so long that he seemed to claim it by right of possession. Growing too self-confident, however, he relaxed his efforts, and one day missed a word, which was immediately spelled by the boy standing next to him.

The face of the victor expressed the triumph he felt; yet he made no move toward taking the place, and, when urged to do so, firmly refused, saying:

"No, me not go; me not make Ah Fun's heart solly."

That was even better than the apology by Whittier's little friend, who was sorry she spelled the word, and hated to go above him—but went.

A PICTURE SOCIAL.

Cut from magazines and papers a large number of pictures of prominent persons, and paste them upon cardboard. Trim the name from each one, and put a number upon it instead. Make a list of the pictures with the corresponding numbers.

Seat the guests in a circle about the room. Supply each one with a card having as many numbers along the edge as there are pictures. Distribute the pictures. Each one who recognizes the picture that he holds writes down the name of the person he believes it to be opposite the corresponding number on his card, and then passes the picture on to his next neighbor on his left hand.

At the same time he receives another picture from his next neighbor on the right, and so on until the pictures have gone around the circle. Each one then signs his name to his card, and they are gathered up. A prize is given to the one having the list most nearly complete.—*Selected.*

SERIAL ABLUTIONS.

Joey's mother, who had been away for a fortnight, returned unexpectedly. After the first greetings were over, and she had straightened the sofa pillows and re-arranged the books on the tables she turned her attention to her son.

"Joey," she said sadly, after a brief examination, "I don't believe you have had a bath since I went away!"

"Yes, mother, I have. Honestly, I have," protested Joey, "only you haven't looked in the right place!"

"Looked in the right place! What do you mean?"

"You looked at my neck. You ought to have looked at my arms. They were just as clean this morning! You see I've been bathing in chapters—a chapter a day. Legs are one chapter, arms are —"

"O Joey!"

"Well, if you've got to wash yourself, that's the only exciting way I know!" whimpered Joey.

All thinking is initially wrong which does not begin with the holiness of God and does not give our Saviour a supreme and sovereign place.

IF YOU CATCH COLD.

Many things may happen when you catch cold, but the thing that usually happens first is a cough. An inflammation starts up in the bronchial tubes or in the throat, and the bronchial mucous from the head constantly poisons this. Then the very contraction of the throat muscles in the act of coughing helps to irritate, so that the more you cough the more you have to cough. It is, of course, beyond question, that in many cases the irritation started in this way results in lung troubles that are called by serious names. It is in this irritated bronchial tube that the germ of consumption finds lodgment and breeds.

Great numbers of people disregard cough at first and pay the penalty of neglect. Cough never did any one any good. It should be dispensed with promptly. Adamson's Botanic Cough Balsam is a well-known remedy, and it is the surest cough cure known to-day. It does not deceive by drugging the throat. It soothes the irritated parts and heals them, then the cough stops of its own accord. The action of this medicine is so simple that it seems like nature's own provision for curing a cough. Every druggist has it. 25 cents. Be sure and get the genuine, which has "F. W. Kinsman & Co." blown in the bottle.

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Diseases of the Kidneys are numerous, from the fact that these organs act as filters to the blood, and form one of the great channels for the removal of impurities from the system, which, if allowed to remain, give rise to the various kidney affections, such as Dropsy, Diabetes, and Bright's Disease.

The following are some of the symptoms of kidney disease:—Backache, sideache, swelling of the feet and ankles, frequent thirst, puffiness under the eyes, floating specks before the eyes, and all disorders of the urinary system, such as frequent, thick, cloudy, scanty, or highly colored urine.

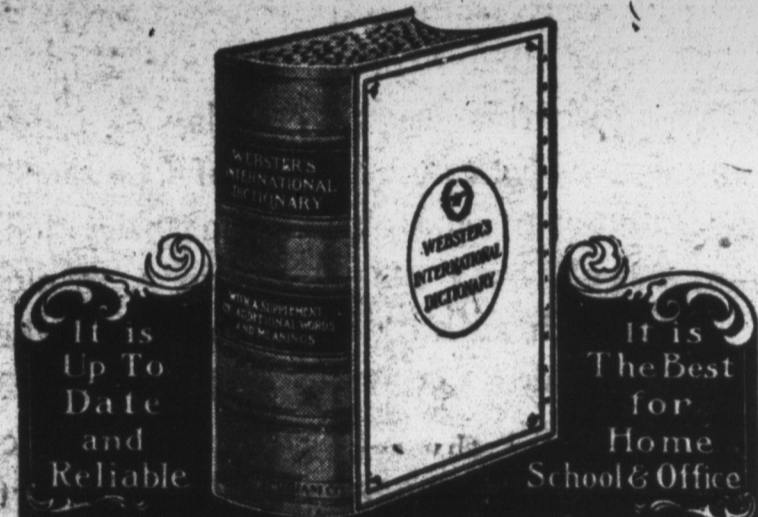
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