

Children's Page.

WANDERERS FROM HOME.

OH brother, what shall we do, however shall we find our way back to the Palace," said the girl, as she clung to her brother, and looked round at the wild and desolate plains which stretched out before them on every side.

"Patience, sister, there must be an end to these sandy plains," and, putting his arm round his sister, he strained his eyes to see if he could notice any signs of life, but strain as he might, nothing but the level monotonous plains of sand lay before him.

With a sigh he drew his sister closer to him. How bitterly he regretted his disobedience. His disobedience to his father's commands, not to stray out of the palace gardens, would now cost him his life, and that sister, whom he had persuaded to follow him, would also have to die. They had wandered on and on since early dawn. At first the wide stretching level plains had charmed them, the scene was so different from the shady gardens, full of all manner of beautiful trees, through which the gay birds flitted, and across the grounds of which cooling streams of living waters flowed.

"Oh, how free we are!" the brother had exclaimed, as he ran along in the first flush of liberty.

"How far are we going, brother?" asked his sister.

"Oh never mind, come along, isn't it glorious? There is nothing to check us."

So they went on, never heeding. If the sister was weary at any time, she looked back, and the sight of her father's beautiful palace, as it towered over the green trees which surrounded it on every side, cheered her. She said to herself, when I am very, very tired, I'll ask brother to turn back, and it won't take us long to get home. Suddenly the boy cried out, "See! sister! see! the beautiful city."

Looking in the direction her brother pointed, the girl saw, in the distance, the outlines of a

fair city. Tall spires reared their slender forms above the mass of verdure, and she almost fancied she could distinguish the sparkle of a river as it flowed through the city and out into the sandy plains.

"Oh, how lovely!" she cried out.

"Father never told us there was another city so near. Come, sister, let us go and see its wonders."

Full of excitement, they ran along, eager to reach the wonderful city. After they had gone a long way, and the sun was rapidly nearing the mid sky, the girl stopped and said:

"How shall we ever get back?" and she turned her wistful gaze on her home, which now seemed but a speck in the distance.

"Never mind about getting back. See this city is nearer to us, let us push on, and when we get there I shall ask to see the king, and when I tell him who I am he will send his servants to tell our father where we are, and send us back to-morrow with a royal train. Courage sister, come on!"

But though their father's palace grew dimmer and dimmer, the new city never seemed to grow larger or closer.

All through the afternoon they plodded on, footsore, weary and thirsty, still they seemed to get no nearer to the wonderful city; and at last when the sun was about set they had paused. The boy as tired as his sister, but too proud to own it; and the girl as hopeless as she was tired.

"How strange, the city seems as far away as ever" muttered the boy.

"Brother see the sun has set. Oh that we had not left home!"

"The city! the city! Where is the city?"

The sister forgot her weariness and looked up as her brother spoke.

Look which way they would there was no city to be seen. It had disappeared completely.

It was then that the girl clung to her brother and said: "Oh brother, what shall we do?" and that the brother had drawn his sister closer to him and whispered to her to be patient.

While the lad was repentant of his disobedience yet he still had hopes that when the sun