

Poetry.

From the Watchman and Reflector.

CHRIST MY REFUGE.

BY REV. F. DENISON.

Jesu, refuge great and free,
Let me fly in faith to thee;
In thy strength shall be withstood
Anger storm and hostile flood.
Be thy arm around me cast,
Hold me to thy bosom fast.
Breathe thy life within my soul,
Let thy law my life control;
May I more thy image bear,
May I more thy presence share;
Let thy grace my nature fill,
Let thy love my being thrill.

No created arm may move
Souls encompassed by thy love;
Hosts of hell may not overthrow
Those who thy salvation know;
Even in nature's final shock,
Thou art our Eternal Rock.

TWO OF THEM.

MARY MAFFEE DODGE writes these pretty nursery rhymes:

Two little girls are better than one,
Two little boys can double the fun.
Two little birds can build a fine nest,
Two little arms can hold me best.
Two little pots may grow to a span,
Two little pockets may hold my pen.
Two little eyes to open and close,
Two little ears and one little nose.
Two little elbows, dimpled and sweet,
Two little shoes, and two little feet.
Two little lips and one little chin,
Two little cheeks with a rose shut in.
Two little shoulders, chubby and strong,
Two little hands running all day long.
Two little fingers may be used to play,
Twice does he kneel by my side each day.
Two little folded hands, soft and brown,
Two little eyelids cast meekly down.
And two little angels guard him in bed,
One at the foot and one at the head.

The Fireside.

BY MRS. G. A. RAYSON.

CONCEALING THOUGHTS.

Early this morning my little boy brought me the cunningest little toad you ever saw.

"Isn't it pretty, mamma?" he asked; "it's smaller than the one I caught last night."

And it was pretty. Now I do not admire the big toads, but I do think baby toads—as the children call them—are far prettier than baby birds.

At this season of the year, those of you who are so fortunate as to live in the country, can see the little creatures hopping about in the grass, as well as among the trees.

They are on the side walks, as well as among the grass; but I do not think they like to be on the walks, for I notice they hop along till they manage to get off from them.

Some people seem to be much afraid of toads, and will not touch even those pretty little ones. I cannot quite understand this feeling, but believe it is owing to early training.

I once saw a little boy pick up a small toad and gleefully run to show it to his mother. As soon as she saw what was in the child's hand she shrieked, and exclaimed, "Ugh! It's a toad! Throw it away!" and the little fellow, looking quite alarmed, dropped it as quickly as he could; while his mother went on to tell him he must never again touch another of the disgusting things.

I am quite sure the impression then made upon his mind will never be effaced.

Toads are necessary, and that he be carefully laid between the two rows of toes, so as to be sheltered from the sun; Harry runs off with the sufferer talking tenderly to all the while.

It would amuse you to hear him. "You poor, wee toad!" Did a boy stop on you? Well, he didn't mean to, I am sure he didn't. You see, toad, it's the fourth of July, and I guess he was in such a hurry to get his fire-crackers that he never thought of stopping to look for you, so he stepped on you. But you will soon be well again; mamma says so.

Now, is not my child learning better lessons than if I were to shriek at the sight of the creature he brings me, and to urge him not to touch "the nasty things"? Apart from the lesson of kindness to be shown to all God's creatures, I try to make my children acquainted with the characteristics, habits, and if possible the uses of each living thing we meet. It is not always easy to do the latter. For instance, Harry came to me one morning to ask, "Why did God make skaters?" and it is wicked to say they're harmful!

I must admit experiencing a feeling of repulsion when, as I was clearing away the breakfast dishes one morning, this same little Harry ran into the room with something held carefully between his two hands.

"This is such a great big toad! I so big!" But I would not let him know how I felt. I told him the large toad did not like to be handled, so he had better put it in the garden, where it would do much good, and then wash his hands.

"I only brought it in 'cause you said toads like sweet teas, and I thought perhaps you'd let it have a little syrup." It gets that very often.

So I took a feather and put some syrup on it, and put it into Mrs. Toad's mouth. Then Harry took it into the garden, bidding it "Come and see your mother, again, and she'll give you some more."

Harry has a way of making me mother of all sorts of creatures. If he finds a wounded chicken, or a young robin learning to fly, and in distress, because it has got down and it is afraid to try and fly up again, he brings each and all to me; often saying, as he does so, "There! go your mother, birdie; she'll fix you good."

I like him to have this feeling. But it makes me very humble to know that my little child believes I have such a large motherhood of heart that I can take in even the humblest and meanest of all God's creatures, and care for it as a mother.

"Dear Lord! I wish I had this heart of love! Why, this is what God does. To feel that, and to do this, is to be, in a small degree, approximate to the Divine disposition. For of the little sparrow it is said, 'Not one of them is forgotten before God.'"

Last evening we—the bairnies and I—had a meeting: one of a series we have held ever since they were old enough to ask questions; and as it was concerning toads, some questions had been asked me when I was too busy to answer them properly. I told my little daughter so, and promised to try and make time for a talk over the matter in the evening. Remembering this, when that time of

restful quiet came, I said, "Now, children let us have a little meeting."

They knew what this meant, and joyfully gathered round me; one child at each side, another on the step at my feet and all as close as they could get to me.

Rather too close for comfort such a warm evening; but to have hated that would have cast a shadow over their loving hearts, and better a trifling discomfort than that.

"Now for the little girl's questions 'Do toads lay eggs?' 'How do the young toads come?'"

So I proceeded to tell them that toads spend the winter in a torpid, or sleeping state, and when the warm spring weather comes they issue from their retreat.

In March or April they deposit their eggs, or spawn which resembles that of the frog, and the eggs of the frog are in clusters like white transparent beads, with a black dot in the middle of each; while the spawn of the toad is discharged in a long albuminous tube, which is coiled spirally in the water.

The large toads do not like to remain in the water, as the frogs do; but their tadpoles live there like those frogs. The young tadpoles are very small when they issue in the tad and gills, and exchange the tadpole for the adult form.

Each child had something to relate about the usefulness of toads in gardens, as they live on the insects they find there; and I had read, that for this reason, the market gardeners in the neighborhood of London often purchase them at the price of four pence each, also that in Paris they are sold for a like purpose.

Then we told what we had read or heard of toads being tame. It is even asserted that such cases they display some intelligence, readily recognizing those who feed and are kind to them.

Pennant, in his work on 'British Zoology' gives an account of a toad which lived for more than forty years, and was at last killed by a raven. It is rather difficult to believe this story, even though it comes from such high authority.

"Mamma can you believe that toads have been found in the inside of trees—right in the wood—and in rocks?" Numerous instances are on record of toads having been found embedded in the trunks of trees, and in walls and rocks. And it has been shown that toads are capable of living a long time in imprisonment, where air is not entirely excluded. Probably they are in a dormant state at such times.

Now all of this, and much more, the children can easily remember; and I know these familiar conversations do much toward imparting a fund of general information, as well as increasing their interest in their studies.

The older ones bring me bugs, moths and anything curious of insect or plant they meet with in their walks; and such things we examine and study together. The youngest child may be taught in this way, and large, as well as small enjoy having the book of nature thus opened to their gaze. To this end God has given them inquiring minds; therefore their repeated questions should be replied to with loving thoughtfulness.

We mothers, busy as we constantly are, and so tired as we often feel, cannot always reply just when the question is asked; and will patiently wait for the time of leisure that is to explain all.

Dear little hearts! They are not so inconsiderate as they often are represented to be.

And then too, how beautiful is their gratitude over the pains taken to instruct them. Their "thank you, dear mamma," with kisses from each sweet mouth, after some evening devotion to their entertainment and instruction, does more to drive away the tired feeling, and repay for what sometimes cost a little self-denial than would the entire evening given to solitary resting.

DIDN'T MEAN TO.

John came home very angry.

"Someone left the bars down," he said, "and the cows are gone. I cannot find them."

"Oh dear!" cried Jenny, "when I went across late, I forgot to put them up after me; I didn't mean to!"

So her father had a long hunt, and came home very tired.

Next day Jenny was late at school, and had a black mark. "Why were you not in time?" asked the teacher.

"I stopped a minute to play with Katie Brown, and did not think it was so long. I didn't mean to be tardy."

That same week she was playing with the kitten one day when the baby was sitting on the floor. Jenny did not look where she was going, and ran against him, so that he fell over and hurt his head very badly. He cried so loud that his mamma came.

"How did he get this great bruise?"

"I hurt him," said Jenny; "I didn't mean to!"

Then her mother told her that she didn't mean to, if she let it live, would grow into a great, ugly, giant habit, and make a slave of her.

So Jenny said she would try very hard to kill it while it was little; and she has grown so careful since then that she might play with her for a year, and not touch it so that she was the very little girl I have told you about.—*Congregationalist*.

HOW TO TRANSPLANT EVERGREEN TREES.

Some arboriculturists have stated that the most satisfactory success has attended their efforts at transplanting evergreen trees when the work was performed in the latter part of August or early in September. But our judgment is that the condition of the soil will exert far more influence in promoting the growth of trees than any period during the growing season. If the soil is just as dry as it is in the autumn, the trees will be removed and transplanted at any time during the spring or summer months. We have transplanted evergreens during the sultry weather of July, and the trees root readily and grow vigorously. In order that a tree may take root, let the soil be dug up deep, say twenty inches in depth and two or three feet in diameter. All the lumps should be broken fine. The more fertile the soil, the better will it be for the tree. If the dirt is as dry as sifted sand, place the tree in its desired position, spread out the roots, cover with with mellow soil, then spread straw, hay, or coarse stable manure over each tree, so as to cover an area of about six feet in diameter, after which pour on another paulful, then a third, fourth, and fifth, until the mellow soil is thoroughly saturated with water. The straw will keep the soil moist for two or three weeks; and the roots will soon send out new fibres all through the mellow bed. But let trees be stuck in little holes, and they will certainly die.

Last season, about the middle of August, some unknown forest sent to me a bundle of rose bushes. The entire ground was almost dry to the touch. But we spaded up a mellow plot for each bush, planted the roots directly in the dry dirt, then gave each one a generous drenching and mulched the ground around each point. Every leaf was removed from the stems. In less than three weeks those bushes were growing beautifully.

A MOTHER IN JAIL.

Sabbath evening we were sitting reading in our room, the bell rang, we answered and found two small boys, the elder not more than six years of age, the younger perhaps four. With a sad, pleading face the elder one looked up and said, "Please give me some bread; I am hungry; my father can not work, and he is taking care of the baby who is sick; my mother is in jail." "What," we asked, "is the matter that your mother is in jail for?" "Oh, she was drunk," we asked. "How long has she been there?" "A week," he replied; "but she says she won't next week."

The boys were so bright and interesting children, we would not see in any family. Very the catalogue of crime and pauperism, caused by strong drink is long; especially when taken into account the loss to society of the many children throughout

our land—children whose intellects are dwarfed through the vice of the parents, and who might be bright lights in their day and generation but for this blighting curse of strong drink. Who can look upon these wretched orphan children without vowing to do all he can to bring about the overthrow of that which causes this misery sends the poor starving, shivering children, in the dead winter, to the streets, to freeze or starve, or to a penitentiary, where they will be sold for a few cents per rod—one thousand will plant 30 rods of fence for the winter in John, Frederic, and Woodstock, Grand Falls, Houston, Portland, 10,000 or upwards of each place.

Also Forest and Fruit Trees, Evergreens, viz.: Hollis, Laurels, Limes, etc., etc.

Grapes and Clusters of many different kinds, either mixed or separate; Turnip, Cabbage, and other Vegetables, raised from seed.

CHOICE collections of Flower Seeds and Bulbs for large and small gardens.

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ESSENCE OF JAMAICA GINGER.

This popular preparation possesses all the most valuable

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It is an excellent Tonic, and is particularly recommended

for the relief of the stomachic troubles, and in all cases of indigestion, flatulence, and in all cases of "Weak Stomach," so prevalent among the

soldiers advanced in years. It gives tone and strength to the system, and is a valuable remedy for the Stomach, dyspepsia, a cordial warmth, thereby gradually

restoring the system to its normal condition. It is a powerful

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