

## Poetry.

## "COME, HOLY GHOST, IN LOVE."

Come, Holy Ghost, in love  
Shed us from above  
Thine own bright ray!  
Wholly good Thou art;  
Thy sacred gift impart  
To gladden each heart:  
Oh, come to-day!

Come, tenderest Friend, and best,  
Our most delightful Guest,  
With soothing power;  
Rest, which the weary know,  
Shade, 'mid the noontide glow,  
Peace when deep griefs o'erflow,  
—  
Cheer us this hour!

Come, Light, serene, and still,  
Our inmost bosoms fill;  
Dwell in each breast;  
We know no dawn but thine;  
Send forth Thy beams Divine,  
On our dark souls to shine,  
—  
Our make us blest!

Exalt our low desires,  
Extinguish passion's fires,  
Heal every wound;  
Our stubborn spirits bend,  
Our coldness end,  
Our devotions steep attend,  
While heavenward bound,  
—  
Come, all the faithful bless;  
Let all, who Christ confess,  
His praise employ,  
Give virtue's rich reward,  
Victorious death accord,  
And, with our glorious Lord,  
—  
Eternal joy.

—Translated by Ray Palmer.

## The Fireside.

## TEN-MINUTE SERMON TO CHILDREN.

CHILD-LIFE.

"Even a child is known by his doing, whether his work be pure and whether it be right."—Proverbs xx, 11.

It is a great thing to be a child! Many men would like to go back to their childhood and live again the days and years which have passed away. Out of the boys and girls men and women are made. And men and women are the most important things upon the earth. Each one is accountable to God for what he thinks, believes, says, and does. Beginning once to live, our real lifetime continues forever.

Pluck off a little bud from your mother's rosebush. Cut it into pieces with your pen-knife. Put it under your microscope. Do you see the scores of tiny red leaves and how tightly they are pressed together? Your papa couldn't pick them so nicely if he were to put them under his letter-press for many days. But you had left the bud on the plant a few days longer it would have burst open into a most beautiful and fragrant rose.

A bright-eyed, sunny-faced, happy-hearted school-boy, tripping along the way with his book-bag thrown across his shoulder, will soon be a strong, able-bodied man doing business. He may be building houses, or selling goods, or making shoes, or farming land. He is now like the rose-bud, packed full of possible things; after a while he will be like the open flower.

But there is something else to be thought of besides growing up into manhood and womanhood. There is something greater than getting larger eyes and hands and feet. That something we call "character." By that we mean the kind of men and women they will be. This forming character begins when we are young.

It is in this that makes childhood such an interesting and beautiful thing. Much depends upon very little things, for very great things grow out of very little things. So it is that "even a child is known by his doing, whether his work be pure and whether it be right." Everything tells upon the after-life.

There is a barn upon the Allegheny Mountains so built that the rain which falls upon it separates in such a manner that that which falls upon one side of the roof runs into a little stream which flows into the Susquehanna and thence into the Chesapeake Bay and on into the Atlantic Ocean; that which falls on the other side is carried into the Ohio, onward to the Gulf of Mexico. The point where the waters divide is very small. But how different the course of these waters! So it happens with people. A very little thing changes the channel of their lives. Much depends upon the kind of tempers we have. If we are sour and ill-tempered, no one will love us. If we are kind and cheerful we shall have friends wherever we go. Much depends upon the way in which we improve our school-days, for very great things grow out of very little things. So it is that "even a child is known by his doing, whether his work be pure and whether it be right." Everything tells upon the after-life.

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"I thought the commandment which says, 'Thou shalt not steal.'"  
"They broke that commandment which says, 'Thou shalt not covet.'"  
"They broke that one which says, 'Thou shalt honor thy father and mother.'"  
"Also that one in regard to 'Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.'"  
"I think they violated also the first commandment, 'Thou shalt have no other God but me.'"  
"If you ask me the reason for believing this latter, I must say they made gods of their stomachs. All day they were cramming and stuffing themselves. You might see them lolling about like sloths, hanging on the fruit-wagons, or tramping through the orchards, stealing and eating."

If, then, so much depends upon little things, and so many things go to shape child-life, I ought to say that a few rules are necessary for its guidance.

1st. We must have pure ideas. Truth is found in many places; but pure truth—truth without any error—the whole of truth which relates to our life and the future world, is found only in "Jesus" and his "Word." He is the perfect teacher. If we start in error it doesn't matter how far we go in it, it is error still. And it leads from bad to worse and then to the worst. But if we give our hearts to Jesus he will fill them with truth and love.

2nd. We must do right actions. Some children are quarrelsome, others are kind. This child is deceitful, that one sincere. Some are dishonest, some obedient. Some are selfish, others easily conquered. Now, so do right is the first thing to learn. But we are only able to do right when God helps us by the Holy Spirit. We ought to pray for that Spirit.

3rd. We must have right motives. By motive is meant the cause we have in doing things. Some things may turn out good to others, although we mean it otherwise. If our thoughts and intentions are wrong, we can get no credit for what our actions may do.

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Quickly and brutally the hard-hearted monster struck the boy away.

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Turning pale, the man said, "Have you reasoned me, then, to take my life?"

"No! I have a sweeter revenge. I have saved the life of a man whose brutal deed has remained with me twenty years. Go! and remember the tears of a friendless child."—Rev. H. H. Pardo, in the Christian Union.

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But there is something else to be thought of besides growing up into manhood and womanhood. There is something greater than getting larger eyes and hands and feet. That something we call "character." By that we mean the kind of men and women they will be. This forming character begins when we are young.

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There is a barn upon the Allegheny Mountains so built that the rain which falls upon it separates in such a manner that that which falls upon one side of the roof runs into a little stream which flows into the Susquehanna and thence into the Chesapeake Bay and on into the Atlantic Ocean; that which falls on the other side is carried into the Ohio, onward to the Gulf of Mexico. The point where the waters divide is very small. But how different the course of these waters! So it happens with people. A very little thing changes the channel of their lives. Much depends upon the kind of tempers we have. If we are sour and ill-tempered, no one will love us. If we are kind and cheerful we shall have friends wherever we go. Much depends upon the way in which we improve our school-days, for very great things grow out of very little things. So it is that "even a child is known by his doing, whether his work be pure and whether it be right." Everything tells upon the after-life.

In the year 1867 I lived in the romantic town of B—, in Pennsylvania. A stone's throw from my study window stood a splendid tree, its boughs bent to the ground by the weight of golden apples. My neighbor, Mr. Y., and his family were away from home. These shaggy boys knew this tree and knew also of the ripe fruit. These boys made frequent raids upon the old tree. Sunday morn'g not excepted. One evening I halloosed them most lustily just as one was ready to mount the tree and fill his pockets. How they sneaked away, trying to get beyond my sight. They forgot that "the eyes of the Lord are in every place." I set myself to thinking how many sins were bound up in that one little thing of taking apples without the consent of the owner.

"I thought the commandment which says, 'Thou shalt not steal.'"  
"They broke that commandment which says, 'Thou shalt not covet.'"  
"They broke that one which says, 'Thou shalt honor thy father and mother.'"  
"Also that one in regard to 'Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.'"  
"I think they violated also the first commandment, 'Thou shalt have no other God but me.'"  
"If you ask me the reason for believing this latter, I must say they made gods of their stomachs. All day they were cramming and stuffing themselves. You might see them lolling about like sloths, hanging on the fruit-wagons, or tramping through the orchards, stealing and eating."

If, then, so much depends upon little things, and so many things go to shape child-life, I ought to say that a few rules are necessary for its guidance.

1st. We must have pure ideas. Truth is found in many places; but pure truth—truth without any error—the whole of truth which relates to our life and the future world, is found only in "Jesus" and his "Word." He is the perfect teacher. If we start in error it doesn't matter how far we go in it, it is error still. And it leads from bad to worse and then to the worst. But if we give our hearts to Jesus he will fill them with truth and love.