Poetry.

WHAT THE CHOIR SANG ABOUT THE NEW BONNET.

A foolish little maiden bought a foolish little bonnet, With a ribbon and a feather and a bit of lac

upon it; And that the other maidens of the little town might know it, She thought she'd go to meeting the next Sunday,

just to show it. But though the little bonnet was scarce larger than a dime,

The getting of it settled proved to be a work of

So, when it was fairly tied, all the bells had stopped their ringing, And when she came to meeting, sure enough, the

So this foolish little maiden stood and waited at the door,

And she shook her ruffles out behind, and smoothed them down before. " Hallelujah! Hallelujah!" sang the choir above

her head ; " Hardly knew you! Lardly knew you!" were the care ? words she thought they said. This made the little maiden feel so very, very

That she gave her mouth a twist and her head a little toss,

For she thought the very hymn they sang was all about her bonnet, With a ribbon and a feather, and a bit of lac-

upon it. And she did not wait to listen to the sermon or the

But pattered down the silent street and hurried up the stair.

Till she'd reached her little bureau, and in a bandbox on it Had hidden, safe from critic's eye, her foolish little

Which proves, my little maidens, that each of you

In every Sabbath service but an echo of your And the little head that's filled with all these silly

Will never get a blessing from sermons or from -Miss Hammond.

The fireside.

AN INCIDENT.

It was Thursday, and the hour for the weekly | Elsie, please take them.' prayer-meeting of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. Mrs. Ogden, the pastor's wife, was | said, bringing the oranges separately wrapped. standing on the first step of the long flight leading up to the hall, when quite a young girl, leading another still younger, came up hurriedly, and asked in eager, excited tone :

' Is this the place where they pray for folks?' The eyes of both children were large and bril liant, and their faces were aglow with enthusiasm. 'This is the place for the prayer-meeting. Yes.' Mrs. Ogden smiled as she spoke. 'Did your mother send you here?' reaching out her hand to

'We come our own selves, mother's sick, and we want somethin' special.' 'We want God to make mother well, and :

it to-night,' looking into the face of the younger as if asking her to corroborate the desire. The children were tidy. The straw hat that the oldest girl wore had evidently been washed clean although one side of the rim was gone. Her dress was coarse, and fringed at the bottom; but her mother was sick, and doubtless she was the chief manager at home. All this Mrs. Ogden took in at

' Were you ever hero before?' she asked, drawing the children aside, so that the ladies could pass up the steps freely.

' Not us; mother used to come sometimes when she was well, and father wasn't that bad

' How did you find the place to-day?' 'A boy told us. He said he belonged to the

Juves and he showed us. He said the women prayed and God gave 'em everything they asked ness, for. And we want things and we come.

Tears were in Mrs. Ogden's eyes. Taking the children by the hand, she led them to the platform. and in a few words made known their story. 'The lad who directed them was doubtless

member of the Juvenile Society,' she said. 'Yes, that's it,' said the girl, making a quee little courtesy. 'I couldn't think of it. It something for the sick woman.

sounded like Juves. "We want to belong, so we can ask God for things,' piped Sue, the youngest. 'Yes; you may give us your names,' Mrs. Ogden answered.

'Elsie Anners, and she's Sue Anners,' was the answer.

' Have you brothers and sisters?' was asked. ' Just us is all,' dropping another courtesy. ' And now can we ask? Can we tell God everything, and will He make mother well and keep

father from comin' home cross?' asked Sue. 'You may tell God everything, and you may ask Him to make mother well. And, if it is best,

He will do it,' Mrs. Ogden answered. 'That's what we come for. Come Sue,' said the girl, taking her sister by the hand. 'Mother

will think we've been gone a long time. 'Won't you wait a little, Elsie?' 'It's in a hurry we are. We want to tell mother

and we want to ask God. 'Ask him here, Elsie.'

lost or something. Good-bye,' to the ladies, and was found for their father to do. with the elasticity of one who feels that she has Mrs. Dunning had heard of the door, lead- is to us, and how really nice father looks, and how and attend the house of God. But have you, inafter the meeting, in which the family were not s'pose He loves her well enough to tell her every- sober, honest, forgiving, kind ! Never industry forgotten, she accompanied Mrs. Ogden to their thing?' answered Sue.

mother. The poor woman was pillowed up in an he'll do it. He always has.' old arm-chair, with a needle in her hand. Her eyes were large and dark, with the peculiar bril- beautiful? And this is the spirit that each and all the first and chief command is to love the Lord our liancy of one in the last stages of consumption, and | must feel who come to God aright. her cheeks had a dash of scarlet that spoke of a

consuming fever. 'Were you anxious about the little girls?' was

'I was afraid they could not find their way. Elsie has heard so much of the good done throughprayer, she begged me to go, and I could not deny

Here the woman had a violent fit of coughing. Elsie came with a cordial. 'Is Elsie your only nurse?' was asked.

'Elsie does for us all. She is a good child,' was

whispered. Mrs. Dunning had slipped from the room. She

'It's just what I asked God for. I didn't think per time. His mother often talked to him about The Bible tells us, "If a man say he hath no sin, and Fur Tops. He would answer so quick. And now if He re- this; but it did little good. members the other,' said Elsie, giving Sue a warm At last she said, "The next time you are not not one. All have sinned and come short of the

"The other, Elsie? Do you mind telling n what it is?' Mrs. Oguen asked in a low voice. We want God to keep father from drinking We asked Him, on our knees we asked Him, and Thanksgiving Day. Bob was going with his father upon you. In God's book all your sins are written I 'most know He'll do it.'

Where do you go?

us ; but he won't."

There was so much sweetness in their faces and all night too. The next morning the snow was not take away sin. The past cannot be recalled. might come to his family at night free from the soon as she called. fury engendered by strong drink.

exhausted from coughing.

'Yes. I read to mother. It eases the pain and ran in. sometimes. I read about the asking! 'And then you ask?'

enough. We wanted to be sure.' swer?' asked Mrs. Ogden.

'To be sure. Mother will like it.' After the reading and a brief prayer by each of Suddenly some one called him. It was Edward, the ladies, the visitors took their leave, with the the coachman. He had come for him with grandpromise to come soon again.

she would go for her father. 'Just after dark. He doesn't like to have folks I guess we'll be in time for dinner.

'Suppose the minister should go into Pete's at | The horse seemed to fly. They arrived just as dinthat time, and so go home with you, would you ner was ready. Everybody was glad to see him.

'Do you know the minister?' was asked. 'Yes, I know him. He is a good man, and it is ossible he can help your father.

Don't think he can. God can, was said, rever-

'Ged helps in this way, my child. You and Sue asked God to send your sick mother nice things. God put it into Mrs. Dunning's heart to go out and get them. And God can put something into the heart of the minister that will do father good.' Mr. Ogden was in the habit of dropping into saloons. Frequently he sung a song that opened the way for a few words, sometimes prayer.

Mrs. Ogden hastened home. As soon as it was dark the minister was on his way to Pete's saloon, leaving Mrs. Ogden in her room and saying as he went out,

'Remember, I am praying that you may do the poor man good.' Elsie and Sue were pleading with their father to

come home. Pete was talking threateningly to them. 'But we came for father,' spoke up Elsie.

Yes, mother wants him,' piped Suc. Just then Mr. Ogden opened the door and entered without ceremony.

'Yes, Anners; sorry to hear your wife is sick. Here is something for her,' said Pete, taking from a box behind the counter a couple of oranges. 'She don't want anything from here; only father,' spoke out indignant Elsie.

Sue pulled her gown. 'They are oranges; and such big ones! Do,

'Yes, Anners; put these in your pockets,' Pete 'I will carry them,' cried Sue, darting to the side of her father. He made no resistance. Mr. Ogden said a few pleasant words to the saloon-keeper.

'Come, father,' plead Elsie. The man staggered to his feet.

'As your wife is sick I will go with you,' said

'She's always sick, now," was stammered out. 'I try to see all of our sick people,' was answered, Sue gathered her treasures in her apron and ran

Elsie assured herself that the minister had her keep father from comin' home cross. And if this's father by the arm; then she followed her sister. the Jews descended. the place where you ask Him, we want Him to do | Sue was the first to reach her mother's room.

'Look, mother; oranges. Pete give 'em to father; 'twas the minister's comin' in. And he's comin' home with father.

'I want to peel one for you, mother, 'fore they come in,' began Elsie. 'Now, mother,' when it was done, 'just eat this passage.

and you ll feel stronger. The poor woman opened her mouth.

'It's nice, isn't it?' 'Yes, child; now you may have the rest. ' No, indeed, mother; it is every bit for you.

And here's another for to-morrow. 'It's comin' just what we asked for,' Sue whispered, at the same time she ran to open the door

for her father and the minister. 'How are you feeling to-night, Mary?' asked the poor man in a voice that spoke of old-time tender-

The poor woman's face shone with a sudden joy, as she put forth her hand. ' William !'

' I do believe he's done it, Sue,' whispered Elsie. Every way God's better'n we thought. It was something new to see their father talking

with the minister, and occasionally rising to do A few days passed and there was a sensible change. The sick woman was perceptibly weaker; the father was there, and the little girls begged

that they might not be sent away. There were few words; the sufferer was apparently asleep. At length she opened her eyes and made a feeble attempt to sit up.

'Kiss me, my darlings ; your father-' 'I am here, Mary,' falling on his knees by the them along

' William, you must care for these children ; you

'God helping me, I will, Mary.' Not until long after the funeral did the little girls learn that their father on his way home that night with the minister stepped into the prayermeeting of the Reformed Men's Club, and there pledged himself to abstain from strong drink; that their mother died knowing this. And after the burial how these same men gathered around their father, and made a wall about him, and likewise that it was through their influence that more com-'Couldn't 'fore I tell mother. She'll think we're fort was visible in their home, and plenty of work

Elsie met them at the door and led them to her | we're never to forget to ask God for things, and | He knows all our thoughts. Have you, then, never

YOUNG FOLKS' COLUMN.

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TLEMENT, KINGS COUNTY, N. B.

CONTRIBUTIONS AND ANSWERS RESPECTFULLY STORY.

TOO LATE.

and mother to spend the day with his grandmother. down! You cannot get rid of them. Were you

Down to Pete's. Pete says he'll set his dog on This year there had been no snow until the day yesterday's where it was. Were you to give all and Mitts. before Thanksgiving. Then it snowed all day, and you possess, or suffer torture and death, it would

such apparent candor that both ladies felt they had several inches deep. Bob begged his mother to let. But there is forgiveness, free, full, eternal, for the never asked for another with the same implicit faith him go out and play a little while before getting guilty. Jesus has pardon for thee, sinner, purthat they now asked for this poor father, that he ready to go with her. He promised to come in as chased with His own blood! Come for it! Come

Bob had great fun tumbling about in the snow. The poor woman was lying against the pillows When his mother called he had just begun to make ix. 3-23; Matt. v.; Rom. iii. 10-20, 23; 1 John i. a snow-house. He said, "In a minute," and went 8-10. 'I see you have a Testament,' Mrs. Ogden said on with his play. At last he remembered that his mother had called him. He threw down the shovel

Bob found no one in the house but Sarah, the maid. His father and mother had gone without But we didn't know, just Sue and I, if it's him. Poor little Bob! The tears would come, in spite of himself. The time passed very slowly. 'Yes, Elsie, I see just how you felt. And now He had no heart to play, but sat by the fire, thinking shall I read a few verses to show you how willing of the jolly times they would have at grandma's,-God is to have you ask, and how gladly he will an- all the uncles, aunts, and cousins, -everybody but himself! And then the dinner! Bob's heart was nearly broken when he thought of the dinner.

ma's horse and cutter. At the door Mrs. Ogden asked Elsie what time | "Come," he said, "your grandma begged for you, and your father has sent me for you. Hurry!

> Bob was ready in less time than one can think. He never needed another lesson .- A. M. Talcott, in Our Little Ones.

POETRY.

WONDERFUL WORDS.

Keep a guard on your words, my darlings, For words are wonderful things ; They are sweet like the bees' fresh honey, Like the bees they have terrible stings. They can bless like the cheering sunshine,

And brighten a lonely life; They can cut in the strife of anger, Like an open, two-edged knife. Let them pass through your lips unchallenged

If their errand is true and kind : If they come to support the weary, To comfort and help the blind. If a bitter, revengeful spirit

Prompts the words, let them be unsaid; They may flash through the brain like lightning, Or fall on the heart like lead. Keep them back if they're cold and cruel,

Under bar, and lock, and seal; The wounds they make, my darlings, Are always slow to heal. May peace guard our lives, and ever, From this time of your early youth,

May the words that you daily utter,

Be the beautiful words of truth.

Contributions from Young Folks.

THE MYSTERY. No. 19.—Drop Letter Puzzle. FROM "BRUCE," PORTLAND.

- l-t-l- t-a- a r-g-t-o-s m-n-a-y -i-k-d. No. 20. - NUMERICAL ENIGMA.

FROM " MARIANNIE, ' KINGS. I am composed of 18 letters. My 13, 14, 15 is a tree. My 18, 4, 16, 5, 17 is an animal My 7, 8, 9, 11 is a building.

My 2, 16, 5, 10, 3, 13, 1 is a distinguished man of the Scriptures. My 6, 12, 4, 1 is the name of the man from whom My all is the name of one of the sons of Isaiah.

No. 21.—TRANSPOSED TEXT. FROM " NO NAME," FREDERICTON. Eth odrl erinethg; etl het tearh joreiec; tel eth demtitulu of lesis eb dalg ofreeth.-Give

No. 22.—BIBLICAL ENIGMA.

FROM "NO NAME," FREDERICTON. 1. A famous man.

2. The scene of a tragedy. 3. An epistle. 4. A very wicked man.

5. One of the tribes. 6. A high priest. 7. A wicked king. 8. A queen.

9. One of the tribes. My initials name a place in the Bible.

(The Mystery solved in three weeks.) THE MYSTERY SOLVED.

(No. 2.) No. 4. - John xiv. 27. No. 5. - Chushan-rishathaine. No. 6.— ditto.

(See Judges iii. 8.) No. 7.-Exodus ix. 31. No. 8. - John xiv. 15.

CHAT. STORIES .- We would like to receive little stories written by the young people themselves. Puzzles.-We are in need of Puzzles. Send

PRIZE COMPETITION.

The prize, a handsome book entitled, The Stolen Cherries; or, Tell the Truth at Once, by Emilia Marryat Norris, has been awarded to ELLA BLACK, of Lakeview, Queens, who answered 17 Puzzles of the December Mystery.

BIBLE STUDY. TOPIC : COME TO JESUS. WHY SHOULD I COME? YOU ARE A

SINNER! COME FOR PARDON. Perhaps you do not feel you are a sinner. At east you think you are no worse than others, but better than many. You are no drunkard, thief, 'If mother could only know how good everybody adulterer, but keep the Sabbath, read the Bible, pride, malice, anger, deceit, or lust? God requires 'It'll make her happier to know; and for us, purity of heart as well as of outward conduct, and cherished the thought of sin in your heart, though The trusting spirit of a little child. Is it not | you have feared outwardly to commit it ? Besides, you have feared outwardly to commit it? Besides, the first and chief command is to love the Lord our God with all our mind and strength. Have you always done this? Always been thankful for His mercies, always carefully read His Word in order mercies, always carefully read His Word in order to obey it, always tried to please Him, loved to pray to Him, delighted in His day, His people, His worship, always striven to be "holy as He is holy," to make known His truth, to induce others to love Him, and endeavoured in all things to glorify Him? If you have always done this, you have only just done your duty, and have nothing to boast of. But you have not done it. Conscience tells you so. You know you have sinned thousands of times. You know you have sought your own Bob had one great fault which grieved his father | pleasure, and in your best actions you have not and mother very much. If asked to do anything, been prompted by a desire to please God. You now returned with a basket filled with appetizing he said, "In a minute," and then forgot. If he have lived for yourself; you have sought man's ap was going anywhere he was never ready at the pro- proval, but God has not been in all your thoughts. he deceiveth himself. There is none righteous, no. ready to go with me I shall go without you." This glory of God." Oh, my fellow-sinner, is it not true of us, "The God in whose hand our breath is, and His father and mother began to hope he had imwhose are all our ways, thou hast not glorified?"

The flext time you are interested in the control of the con

Read Ex. xx. 1-18; Psalms li., cxxxix.; Dan

"BLAKE," Queens.-Correct solutions to The Mystery of Jan. 2nd and 9th received. MAME A. PETERS, St. John. - Answers received. You will receive due notice.

"VAN," York.—Thanks for clippings. Puzzles for Prize Competition received. Thanks. JENNIE McDougall, St. John. - Jan. 2nd and Oth correctly solved. Thank you for Puzzles. Noted in due time.

LITERARY. - We are in receipt of The Christian, The Little Christian, and No. 1 of The Anti-Infidel Inbrary, edited by H. L. Hastings, Boston; also, Wide Awake, Our Little Men and Women, Babyland, Pansy, and Chautaugua Young Folks Journal, from D. Lothrop & Co., Boston; also, The Rural New Yorker, a farmer's paper, from N. Y.

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