

THE MOTHER'S GOOD-BYE.

"Sit down by the side of your mother, my boy. You have only a moment. I know; But you'll stay till I give you my parting advice. 'Tis all that I have to bestow."

"You leave us to seek for employment, my boy? By the world you have yet to be tried, But in all the temptations and struggles you meet, May your heart in the Saviour confide."

"You'll find in your satchel a Bible, my boy. 'Tis the book of all others the best; It will teach you to live, it will help you to die. And lead to the gates of the blest."

"I gave you to God in your cradle, my boy. I have taught you the best that I knew; As long as his mercy permits me to live, I will never cease praying for you."

"Your father is coming to bid you good bye. Oh! how lonely and sad we shall be! But when far from the scenes of your childhood and youth You'll think of your father and me."

"I want you to feel every word I have said. For it came from the depths of my love; And my boy, if we never behold you on earth, Will you promise to meet us above?"

"Hold fast to the right; hold fast to the right, Wherever your footsteps may roam, Oh! forsake not the way of salvation, my boy. That you learned from your mother at home."

The Fireside.

THE NEW GIRL'S EXPERIMENT.

"You couldn't spare me a very little money, could you, father?" Janet leaned over him as he counted some bills.

"If it is for something absolutely necessary, my daughter."

"I can't say it is exactly that, but I never get a cent of pocket money now, father."

He sighed as he answered, "I know it, and I am sorry, but the pressure seems harder every year. Wants seem to increase faster than the means of supplying them. Hand this to your mother, Janet."

"Forgive me for worrying you, dear father. I ought to be making my own spending money, but there are so few ways of doing that, unless I go away from home."

"We can't let you do that. There's enough for all if we are careful."

"Take it out to Bridget," said her mother, as Janet gave her the money from her father.

"Twelve dollars. Dear me!" said Janet to herself, rather fretfully, as she slowly walked toward the kitchen. "Bridget has earned it, and I don't grudge it to her, but I wish I could earn \$12."

"Wirra, Wirra!" Bridget sat on the floor, holding an open letter, and rocking herself backward and forward with dismal groans. Pots, pans and kettles were around in their usual confusion. "It's myself that be lavin' yez the day, Miss Janet."

Servants were hard to find, and Janet's face wore the accustomed expression of dismay with which such notices were always received, as she asked, "What's the matter, Bridget?"

"It's me sister's got the faver, bad, an' it's meself must be goin' to her; an' it's six weeks intirely I'll be sthavin' when it's so far to be goin'."

As Janet handed her the money, a sudden thought came to her.

"I am sorry for you, Bridget. Of course you must go, if you must. Perhaps we can get along without you until you are ready to come back."

"Mother," she said, returning to her, "Bridget's going away for a few weeks." Mother's face grew as dismayed as Janet's had, for she was not strong, and there were four boys.

"An' plase ye, ma'am, it's after comin' to try to get the place I am."

"What do you mean, Janet?" said her mother, laughing, as the girl courted low.

"I mean, mother, will you pay me the same you pay Bridget, if I will do her work?"

"You can't do all, Janet."

"What I can't do I'll hire. I want to do something. I want to get some money I can feel is my own, and that I have a right to spend if I want a new book or a bit of music, or anything else. I can't get a school—there are forty applicants where there is one vacancy. I can't get more than two music scholars. I can't dispose of fancy work, or painting, and if I could, I might dabble over them for a month, and not clear more than Bridget does in a week; there are so many doing that kind of work. Kitchen work is the only work there seems to be plenty of for girls."

"You may try it, but I think you'll get very tired of it."

Janet spent a good part of her first week's wages in buying gingham aprons, rubber gloves and paying a stout woman to come and scrub and scour till the last traces of good-natured, slovenly Bridget's presence were removed. Then, with clean kitchen, clean utensils

and clean towels, Janet took hold of her work with a right good will.

"We'll all co-operate," said her father, when he heard of her intention.

"We'll co-operate," cried the boys, and they kept their word well in bringing in wood and water, and sweeping the walks. And after the first morning she found that Tom had made the fire and ground the coffee before she came down.

"There's great satisfaction in doing things thoroughly," said Janet to her mother, after the first day or two. "Before, when we have been without a girl, I always hated it because I tied how little I could get along with doing, and how much I could shove out of the way. And, mother, you would be astonished to see how little cleaning there is to be done when nobody makes any unnecessary dirt, or how much work can be saved by using your wits to save it."

She never told her mother how her back ached during those first days of unusual exercise. This wore off as she became accustomed to it. Every day she learned more and more to simplify her work. A few minutes in the kitchen just before bed time arranged things so exactly to her hand that there was no hurry or crowding at the busy time in the morning. Careful handling of the table linen and other things made the wash smaller, so that the stout woman could do two weeks' wash in one. Janet found that there were few days in which she could not sit down when the dinner work was over. Other surprising things came to light.

"What's the matter that you don't burn any wood nowadays?" said Tom; "I have so little splitting to do."

Bridget, like so many of her sisterhood, had always seemed to consider it her duty to keep a roaring fire all day, regardless of whether it was needed or not, and father always looked blank over the fuel bills. One half the quantity was now amply sufficient, and a difference was soon apparent in many other things. The food for one person is always noticeable in a small family, where a rigid hand must be kept upon expenses, besides which Janet was not slow in perceiving how many things went further than before. Odds and ends were utilized which had been thrown away or had counted for nothing, but no one felt afraid of scraps done over by Janet's hand.

"We never were so comfortable before," said father.

"We never had such good things to eat," declared the boys, who highly appreciated the dainty, though plain cookery, as contrasted with Bridget's greasy preparations; for Janet, full of honest determination to earn her wages, had given such attention to the getting up of palatable, inexpensive dishes, seeking a variety, while Bridget had moved almost in the one groove.

"I almost dread having Bridget come back," said mother.

But the time came when she was hourly expected. Mother sighed as she took note of the spotless kitchen, in which it was now pleasant to come and lend a hand at the cookery, or sit with her knitting, with Janet moving briskly about.

"It's time I was settling with you, Janet," she said. Six weeks—I owe you eighteen dollars."

"No; six off for hiring Mrs. Burt, and a few other things."

"Not a bit off, dear; I've been looking over the bills of the month, and I find quite a difference, more than pays for all your extras. Not only in meat, groceries and fuel, but I notice it in the wear and tear and breakage. Dear me! I don't believe five dollars a week covers expenses of Bridget's being here."

"You don't, mother dear," said Janet, in great delight; "Then you are not tired of your new girl, and wish to have Bridget back?"

"No, indeed," said mother fervently.

"Then she isn't coming back! I've found my way of earning, and I'm going to stick to it for awhile. It isn't all pleasant to be sure, but I don't know any kind of business that is. Only," she said, laughing, "I shall insist on having my wages paid as regularly as if I were Bridget. I shall clothe myself out of them, and be saving dear old father about five dollars a week, if you are right in your calculations, mother."

"What will you do with Bridget when she comes?"

"Mrs. Whitcomb wants a girl, so she can go there. O mother, dear, it's a real comfort to feel as if I were supporting myself. And I wonder why I never thought how pleasant it is, this doing for you all."

And Janet worked on, feeling sure she had found her best way of securing her pocket money in thus expending her energies for those she loved. How many daughters, restless and fretful for want of something to do, might find the same way blessed to themselves and to others, in homes made bright and sweet by their faithful ministrations.—Sel.

THE CANDLE OF THE LORD.

Fred was taking off his shoes and stockings, getting ready to go to bed. His shoe was wet, and five little water-soaked toes with seams and wrinkles all over their pink faces looked at him accusingly. If they could have spoken they would have said, "You got us wet, you did. You told a lie; you said you did not step into the brook."

Oh! that beautiful brook, so near the school-house, with such lovely stepping-stones, such pretty little lucky bugs skipping about over the water, such charming mud in which to paddle! Why could it not run in some other part of the town so little school boys would not be tempted?

Fred threw his shoe and stocking under the bed, said his prayers, without mentioning the lie and went to bed.

"I know I told a lie about the brook, but I don't believe I will think of it," he said to himself, and while he was trying to give his whole mind to some other subject, he fell asleep. He dreamed that a beautiful angel stood by his bed, with a bright candle. He said, "This is the candle of the Lord. I have come to search out all the sins that little boys keep hid away in their hearts, and do not confess. This candle shines right upon them."

Then Fred's heart was all lighted up, and there was found the lie, unforgotten, unconfessed.

"This is very sad," said the angel. The good Lord loves him, and is ready to forgive that sin if he will confess it. It grieves him so much to have little Fred cover it up, and the candle shone very bright, and the sin looked very black.

"I hope," continued the angel, "that now this little boy knows he cannot hide the lie any longer, he will ask the Lord to forgive him."

Fred woke with a start, and knelt down and confessed his sin. He went in his night-gown to his mother's room, and as he clasped his arms around her neck, and told her all about it, he promised, with God's help, never to tell another lie.—The Pansy.

HOME HINTS.

CREAM COOKIES.—Take one cupful of cream, one of sugar, a piece butter the size of a hickory nut, one egg, one teaspoonful of soda. Mix as soft as can be easily rolled.

SOFT COOKIES.—Take two cupfuls of thin cream, two cupfuls of sugar, three eggs, caraway seed or not, as you like, flour sufficient to make it as thick as pancakes, two even teaspoonfuls of soda. Drop with a spoon on buttered tins, and bake fifteen or twenty minutes.

APPLE PIE.—Peel and quarter your apples; boil in a little water till almost done, then add sugar and boil till soft. Remove and mash; line a pan with an under crust, fill with the stewed apples and bake. Beat the whites of two eggs to stiff froth with one teaspoon powdered sugar, and flavor with a few drops of extract of nutmeg; spread over top of pie and brown lightly.

Young Folks' Column.

Conducted by C. E. BLACK, Case Settlement, Kings Co., N. B.

PUZZLE DEPARTMENT.

The Mystery.

No. 135.—NUMERICAL ENIGMA.
(FROM "STRABO," QUEBENS.)
My 9, 3, 4, 1, 6 is a weight, whilst my 1, 6, 7, 8 belongs to a prison. My 7, 2, 10, 6 is what all young people should try to get; and my 4, 9, 5, 6 is what they now possess. My 1, 2, 10, 6 all good housekeepers do to apples before cooking.
My whole is one of the titles given to the Saviour by one of the prophets.

No. 136.—DROP-LETTER PUZZLE.
(FROM "JOE," GREENSWICH.)
B—m—p—i—c—s—u—e,
—n—o—l—s, c—e—l—
t—e—u—g—s—f—t—e—e—r—h.

No. 137.—PI PUZZLE.
(FROM H. H. McDONALD, KINGS.)
Fiothu tanifni ehtayd fo dvreistay,
yht trsnegth simslal.

No. 138.—DROP-LETTER PUZZLE.
(FROM S. KNOWLES, WOOD'S HARBOR.)
oor ty fte n mte he a te frst
omadet wt rms.

No. 139.—BIBLE QUERIES.
(FROM A. ADAMS, OAK PARK, N. S.)
1. Where in the Bible is "greyhound" mentioned?
2. Where is "piety" mentioned?
3. Where will you find "hen" and "chickens" mentioned?

No. 140.—CROSS-WORD ENIGMA.
(FROM "BLAINE," QUEBENS.)
My 1st is in Bible, but not in Testament;
My 2nd is in chapter, but not in verse;
My 3rd is in cover, but not in lid;
My 4th is in work but not in play;
My 5th is in night, but not in day.
My whole is a noted English writer's name.

No. 141.—BIBLE QUERY.

(FROM LIZZIE A. KEER, YORK.)
Where in the Bible is this verse found:
"In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, HOINNESS UNTO THE LORD; and the pots in the Lord's house shall be like the bowls before the altar?"

(The Mystery solved in three weeks.)

The Mystery Solved.
(No. 18.)

No. 118.—P
P E T
P E K A H
T A R
H

No. 119.—S
S H E R D
P H A R A O H
E R A S E
D O E

No. 120.—Salvation.
No. 121.—Psalms cxlvi. 5.
No. 122.—Save.
No. 123.—Thrush, owl, martin, kingfisher.

CHAT.

HELEN R., St. John.—Your letter went up the big house at Ottawa,—the Dead Letter Office—and we had to send there for it. Thank you for the puzzle. All the puzzles in No. 16 were correctly solved.

"YANKEE," Waterville, Me.—No. Those who live in England have as good a chance for the prize as those who live next door to the printing-office. The prize will be awarded to the one sending the largest number of correct solutions to the puzzles in "The Mystery" for the months of April, May and June. All answers to be in before the time of publication,—allowance, of course, being made to those living at a great distance, or beyond good postal facilities. Thank you for your puzzles. You have correctly solved "The Mystery" of the 21st ult., and all except No. 115 of the 28th ult., and also those of the 5th inst., excepting No. 118.

FAY ROBINSON, St. John.—Please accept our thanks for the ten excellent puzzles which you sent us. All solutions correct.

"PUG NOSE," Upper Brighton.—Five puzzles in No. 16, and all in No. 17 correctly solved. Come again.

J. McDUGALL, Carleton, St. John.—Sorry you lost one paper! Could you not borrow one?

Nos. 105, 107, and 109; also 111, 112, and 117 are correctly solved.

L. R. STEEVES, St. John.—All correct.

JESSIE B. SHARP, Kings.—Glad to hear from you again. You have correctly solved Nos. 99, 100, 112, 120, 121, 122. Write often. Thanks for the puzzles.

PRIZE COMPETITION.

Additional correct answers to No. 16 have been received from Helen R., 6; "Yankee," 6; "Pug Nose," 5; J. McDugall, 3.

The following have correctly answered "The Mystery" in No. 18:—"Yankee," 5; Fay Robinson, 6; L. R. Steeves, 6.

OUR LETTER BOX.

"Mariannie" Heard From.
OAK POINT, King's County, }
May 6th, 1886.
Dear Uncle Ned,—You wished to know if I received the prize—The Messenger. I did; and I thank you for it. 'Tis so nice. I read it and then give it to "Partridge" and "Autumn Leaf" to read. I like it very much. I like the COLUMN as well as ever, but circumstances prevent me from going on in the Prize competition. I am very glad to see so many taking an interest in the COLUMN.
Wishing each, as well as yourself, every success, I remain,
Yours, &c.,
"MARIANNIE."

[I am pleased to know that you like the Messenger so well, and am glad to note your kindness in lending it to others to read. Uncle is very sorry that you cannot go on in the Prize competition. Why not? Wishing you much happiness, etc.]

UNCLE NED.
Jessie's Pleasant Letter.
MIDLAND, King's County, }
May 10th, 1886.
Dear Uncle,—I am glad to see such an interest taken in the YOUNG FOLKS' COLUMN. I hope you may live long to keep up the COLUMN. I also hope that my answers and puzzles will be a help to you. I am always glad to see new ones entering the COLUMN. Wishing you every success, I remain,
Your loving niece,
JESSIE.

[Thank you, Jessie, for your kind words. They cheer me on my way. Your puzzles, etc., are highly appreciated by your old (!) uncle. They are a help. Write some more.]

UNCLE NED.

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