Six Little Feet on the Fender.

BY CORNELIA W. ST. JOHN. In my heart there liveth a picture Of a kitchen rude and old. Where the fire light tripped o'er the rafters And reddened the roof's brown mo'd, Gilding the steam from the kettle That hummed on the foot-worn hearth Through all the live-long evening

Because of the three light shadows That frescoed that rude, old room-Because of the voices echoed Up 'mid the rafter's gloom; Because of the feet on the fender, Six restless, white, little feet, The thoughts of that dear old kitchen Are to me so fresh and sweet.

It's measure of drowsy mirth.

When the first dash on the window Told of the coming rain, O! where are the fair young faces That crowded against the pane; While bits of fire light stealing, Their dimpled cheeks between, Went struggllug out in the darkness In shreds of silver sheen.

Two of the feet grew weary, One dreary, dismalday, And we tied them with snow-white ribbon Leaving him there by the way. There was fresh clay on the fender That dark and rainy night, For the four little feet had tracked it, From his grave on the brown hill's height.

O! why on this darksome evening-This evening of rain or sleet, Rest my feet all alone on the hearth stone O! where are those other feet? Are they treading the pathway of virtue That will lead us together above? Or, have they made steps that will dampen

> A sister's tireless love? Can. Presbyterian.

Ralph's Disappointment.

Ralph was in a very bad temper. | Cinderella's fairy god-mother?' He had expected to go to Rockton | "Don't need her," said Will. with papa on the seven o'clock train, had been his own papa, he would not eyes. have gone racing off in the night to please any one! He would never be and sail 'em," said Will; "you carry a lawyer! No, he was quite sure of one and I'll carry the other.' that! Everybody's troubles about could.

"I never spend a day in the office," alone at breakfast, "that I don't get discovering America." disgusted with people coming in and telling how everything goes wrong with them. And if you hear the other side of the story, its worse yet, and you can't for the life of you tell who tells the truth."

Mamma was much amused as Ralph

"Lawyers should try to discover | yells." the truth," she replied, "and they are paid for their services. Now bear your disappointment patiently, and perhaps next week you can go with me to see your cousin."

But Ralph did not immediately re cover his usual good spirits. He left the dining room, and stood idly in the hall door. The omnibus was coming over from the depot, and as it rolled noisily by, Ralph shook his fist at it, but he could not have told why. Then he ran down the steps and walked aimlessly up the street; when he reached the church on the corner he stood leaning against a tree for a few minutes, and then muttered gloomily to himself:

"There's no one in this town that I want to see this morning; I'll go over to Crystal creek, and have the sulks till dinner-time.'

So Ralph walked slowly out of town. It was a beautiful October day; the sunbeams slanting through the hazy atmosphere, lengered lovingly upon the brown hillsides, and the forests crowning their summits flung out flaming banners of crimson and gold. approached him slowly, and examined vain beyond the heights."-Pres. Wit-Ralph gazed admiringly at the gorgeous pennants, and, leaving the dusty many gestures of astonishment and highway, leaped over the fence, cross- admiration. Then slyly lifting his foot ed the meadow, and soon reached the he threw down the flag, and Columbus rustic bridge that spanned the shimmering waters of Crystal creek. He hand conflict, in which they forgot ing birds that had found a wayside station in an old butternut tree. There were eager chirpings and twitterings, and many little circling flights; but themselves down upon the ground. finally, as by unanimous consent, the of the tree in a great dark cloud, and flew swiftly southward.

Ralph, after watching them out of the tiny waves rippling and gurgling pearance which was very ludicrous.

and color. A large tree had grown I do believe those whoops of yours great fuss. And remember who said: from the extreme edge of the bank, could be heard all over town." leaning downward toward the water, which wooed it with musical murmur. Ralph; "you ought to have seen Chris-A woodbine, dropping gracefully from topher Columbus wading across the its branches, presented a gorgeous Atlantic ocean brandishing the flag of mass of color, in which crimson, brown, | Spain." scarlet, orange and cardinal were blended in excellent harmony. An occasional bird-note pierced the air; the squirrels chatted to each other as to eat one of my own ships.' they gathered their store of nuts; the leaves which lay thick upon the ground | Ralph pondered upon the folly of havrustled to the tread of the shy denizens | ing the sulks. of the wood, and the insects chirped noisily with their shrill voices. Con- a good time," he said to himself, and cealed in his retreat from the highway, when his mamma is quired about his Ralph threw himself down upon the spotted face, he told her of the ships, mossy ground, and lay lazily enjoying and of Christopher Columbus, and the the sights and sounds of this tiny bit | whooping, painted Indian. "It was

of woodland. all alone," he said, "just as if I was the only person in the world."

While wondering what he would do with himself were he "really and truly" the only person in the whole world, he heard a lively whistle in an adjoining cornfield. Presently a barefooted urchin tumbled over the fence, and with him came an enormous yellow pumpkin. "It's Will Johnson," said Ralph, "and he's coming here."

Will was whistling with all the strength of his well developed lungs, but stopped abruptly when he reached the summit of the bank.

"Hullo, come on, Will," Ralph called out, "what are you going to do with the pumpkin?" Will replied slowly, "I am going to

make a couple of ships." "Ships!" echoed Ralph, contemptu-

ously, "did you happen to bring along

He took a big knife from his to spend the day with cousin George, pocket and opening the largest blade, but he awoke just as the locometive divided the pumpkin in halves, and mother that "papa had received a another pocket he abstracted some telegram the night before, and was sticks, and strings, and pieces of white obliged to take an earlier train." It cloth, and arranged sails and masts was quite too bad! He did not see after an ingenious fashion of his own, why people always had to spoil every- until two fantastic ships in miniature body's plans with telegrams, and if he appeared before Ralph's astonished

"Now let's go down to the creek,

The ships were safely launched everything were brought to lawyers upon the water, and sailed slowly for them to settle, and he thought down the stream. The boys watched people might keep out of trouble, or them merrily as they drifted aimlessly else get out of it the best way they about and finally Will waded into the Lucia?" But the little child's faith set; a letter. creek, and piloted them to shore.

"Let's play something," he suggest he explained to mamma as they sat ed; "let's be Christopher Columbus

"We can't both of us bethe renown ed Christopher, said Ralph.

"No," replied Will, "I'll be Columbus, because I am barefooted and can guide the ships, and you can be King Ferdinand."

" But King Ferdinand d'dn't reside thus vehemently summed up his in America. I'll represent the Indians, opinion of a lawyer's trials and duties. and receive you with whoops and

the bushes"

his handkerchief to a crooked stick to And even when she was called to great represent the flag of Spain, and wad- suffering, her faith failed not. A few ing into the water piloted his ships nights before she died, she had been down the stream. The single represent- talking with her mamma about death; ative of the aborigines ran down to the and said she wanted to sing Beulah point, and, dyeing his face and hands Land. Her father, who had been with the juice of some wild grapes asleep in the next room, heard her, that he found there, peered curiously and came to the door and listened as through the bushes and the illustrious his little girl, in the night and near to discoverer slowly advanced.

Will guided his little fleet toward The Saviour comes and walks with me the point, and shouted joyfully, "Land ! land !" Ralph gave vent to He gently leads me with his handa series of whoops that would have done credit to the wildest Apache and made many excited gestures of anger and alarm. But the brave and undismayed navigator anchored his ships, boldly:

"In the name of Ferdinand and Isabella, I take possession of this land.' his clothes, his hands and his face, with | ness. and the Indian engaged in a hand-towith each other until both were ex-

hausted.

"You'd better wash your face, Ralph," aerial travelers lifted themselves out remarked Will presently; "your war- of your dinner. If there is a dull one. terrible to see."

"Now don't you laugh at me," said | them which curse you."-Horace Mann.

"'Twas lots of fun, anyhow," said Will, laconically, "and now I'm going home to dinner. I'm hungry enough | Edited by C. E. BLACK, -

So each took his way homeward, and

"There's more than one way to have jolly fun, mamma," he concluded, "and "How strange it seems to be here I forgot all about that I went to Crystal creek to have the sulks."-Christian

A Child Christian.

How old must a child be to become Christian? Can a little child really be a Christian? The period of doubt upon these questions has long since passed away. My own faith in the conversion of little children, dating as it does from my own boyhood, has lately had an interesting confirmation that I want to tell of for the sake of

I met a dear little girl, Lucia Foster, for the first time in her sick room. went there to try and comfort her, but found comfort instead. She was a bright, intelligent Christian, and her faith in Christ and her love for Him made her face radiant as we talked of the Saviour. There was a quick grasping of religious truth, and an eager response that was delightful. She was then a little over nine years of age; but when this religious experience began none can tell. On calling at rushed whistling and shricking into proceeded to scoop out the pulpy mass the house one day last June, I found the depot, to be kindly told by his which composed the inside. From that she had expressed an earnest desire to be baptized. I asked her if she would not like also to join the church. She had not thought of that as possible, but was very much pleased with the idea. Arrangements were made and we had a delightful service in the sick room where she was baptized, and the communion was admin-

and joining in the service. One day the mamma said to her as she seemed a little better, "If you get well, we'll praise the Lord-won't we, went deeper than the mother's: "Why, Mamma, we'll praise the Lord whether I get better or not." That is one of the sweetest words of simple, childlike faith that I know of. Our faith is too much like that of Jacob-we would bargain with the Lord, and will serve and trust Him, if He will only do certain good things for us. But the dear child's faith is of that unbargaining, unquestioning kind, that she would praise the Lord whether He saw fit to give her health or not.

She seemed to know of her approach-"Well, I'll start from here, and you | ing end even better than her friends, can go down there to that point among and tried to study the kindest and sweetest ways of telling them that it So Christopher Columbus fastened was to be, and that it was all right. death, sang

> And sweet communion here I see; For this is heaven's border-land.

What a vast contrast between the Christian philosophy of the little Lucia, | B. B. that could transform a dying bed into "heaven's border-land," and the hopeand planted the flag he carried, saying less philosophy of the skeptic who uttered these pathetic words over his brother's coffin: "Life is a narrow vale between the cold and barren peaks of Ralph, with well-assured awe, now two eternities. We strive to look in

What Boys Should Do.

You are made to be kind, boys; generous, magnanimous. If there is a boy in school who has a club foot, don't | C. I. Lague. Sydney, C. B., La paused here to watch a flock of migrat- their assumed characters, and wrestled let him know you ever saw it. If there is a boy with ragged clothes, don't talk about rags in his hearing. If there is of MINARD'S LINIMENT. Tired and out of breath, they threw a lame boy, assign him some part of the game that doesn't require running. If there is a hungry one, give him part paint is something wonderful and help him to get his lessons. If there is a bright one, be not envious of him; Ralph followed his advice wi hout for if one boy is proud of his talents, sight, crossed the bridge and, turning delay, but the grape-juice had taken and another is envious of them, there abruptly to the left, ran up a narrow so tenacious a hold upon the skin that are two great wrongs, and no more path leading to the summit of a wooded after his ablutions his countenance talent than before. If a larger or bank which rose perpendicularly from presented a stripped and spotted ap- stronger boy has injured you, and is sorry for it, forgive him. All the is as far in advance of its rivals, as Mr. t its base. The ground was covered "Never mind, Ralph, 'twill wear school will show by their countenance her rivals, in the estimation of the with moss of many varieties of growth off," remarked Will, consolingly, "and how much better it is than to have a public.

'Love your enemies," and "Ble's

Moung Folks' -Column.

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The Mystery Solved.-No. 49.

No. 288,—Psa. 34:4. BO41 4 .. W

No. 289.-Wild was the night, yet a wilder Hung round the soldier's pillow,

In his bosom there raged a fiercer Than the fight on the wrathful billow.'

No. 290.—Electricity.

No. 291. one angle

No. 292.-Prov. 20:1.

No. 293.-Psa. 9:1. No. 294.-C. E. Black.

No. 295 .- Ida, Mary, Ella, Hattie.

--- | The Mystery.-No. 52. |---

No. 306.—DIAMOND PUZZLES. I. A letter, a useful article, a city, a metal, a letter.

II. A letter, a pearl, a tree, an

animal, a letter .- " CARRIE." -:0:--No. 307.—DROP-VOWEL.

Sn- - dr-p -s -n- -f th- f-rst fl- - - rs CARRIE W. --:0:--

No. 308. - Drop Letter. P-e-s-r-s -r- l-k- p-p-i-s s-r-a- -os-i-e -h- f-o-e- i-s b-o-m -s s-e- -r l-kistered to the little disciple, her parents | t-e s-o-f-l- -n -h- r-v-r -n- m-m-nt -n and many other friends being present t-e r-v-r -n- -o-e-t w-i-e t-e- m-l s BARRISTER-AT LAW

f-r-v-r. -- CARRIE. --:0:---No. 309. - DIAMOND. (1) A vowel; likely; a month; ap-

(2) A letter; to steal; flowers; an insect; a letter.

(3) A letter; an animal; ornaments; a beverage; a letter. EMILY HICKS. --:0:--

No. 310 .- DROP-VOWEL. Th-r- -s n- m-r-d-st -n th- s-nb- -m th-n -n th- r-st -f th- r- -m. CARRIE

--:0:--No. 319.—Drop Letter. H-r- w-o- h-r- m-k-s - b-d -t-n- w-l B-t - o-t -p-n -o-t a-e- n-n- a- a-l-

CARRIE. No. 312.—Transposition.

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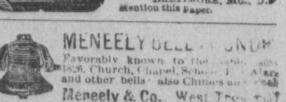
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