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CHILDREN'S SUNDAY.

HOW TO INTEREST AND ENTERTAIN THE LITTLE ONES.

Floral Decorations Should Be Conspicuous—Appropriate Emblems and How to Make Them—Advice That Will Be Interesting to Parents and Teachers.

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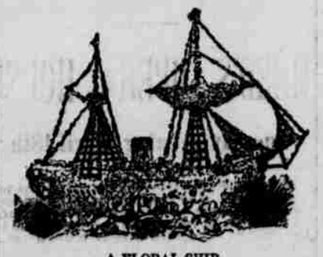
THE chief outward sign of Children's day is its abundance of flowers, indoors and out. They form so important a part of the day's ceremonies and services that it is called Floral Sunday almost as frequently as by its more special title. As that denotes, it is a day given over to services by the children and for the children, and that it is the dearest Sunday in the year to them is evident to every one who has watched them from the morning hours, when they give their sweetly earnest attention to a sermon prepared especially for them, until in the evening they proudly march in to take the front seats in the church and go through their pretty exercises and songs.

Children always love to have things that are "their very own," aside from mere toys and clothes. To possess what seems to be the right of adults fills the soul of a child with joy. It is nothing uncommon for a boy or girl to own books, and to them it is no great treat because all children have them. But give them little bookcases to keep their books in, and how delighted they are! A bureau, too large for a doll, but not more than half as large as grown folks use, is perfection to any little maiden. And as soon as a child is given a room of his own to sleep in, how he loves to keep it nice and accumulate decorations for it!

It must be this inherent love for what usually belongs to older people that makes children regard their special Sunday with such affection. They will work like beavers bringing flowers which, to their regret, they are too small to arrange, and will run errands more willingly for those who are trimming the church than they would on any other day in the year.

On this floral occasion of course many lessons are drawn from flowers. They are used to illustrate many a point in a sermon and as symbols of many a virtue. But there is one plan which, strange to say, has seldom if ever been adopted by the churches, which would not only do much good when Children's day comes, but would teach the children some practical as well as some moral lessons. That is to distribute among the members of a school flower seeds which they are to plant and care for as each variety needs, the object being to bring the growing plants on the following Children's day to decorate the church and afterward to be distributed where they will do the most good.

The lessons in floriculture gained in learning how to care for the flowers will be valuable—the lesson in giving the results of one's own labor much more valuable. New seeds can be given each year, or it may be specified when the first are presented that the children will be expected to propagate them themselves by cuttings or seeds, thus continuing year after year.



A FLORAL SHIP.

The set floral piece, emblematic of some religious thought, is sometimes considered an important feature of Children's day, though many churches do not have it at all. For those that do, these suggestions, old and new, may be of use. A set design to be built of flowers is an expensive thing, as it must be made to order, and each part so arranged that, when filled with flowers, it will fit in its place easily. A floral harp, its frame of flowers and its strings of fine green vines, is a very lovely design. A miniature church is another, also a lighthouse, an anchor or a book made of flowers.

A ladder, each round bearing some word or motto significant of an aspiring or upward climbing life, is a somewhat newer device. The ladder uprights may be of green and may be standing in place before the exercises begin. The topmost round may be marked "Love," and with its placing may be sung the hymn commencing:

Saviour, teach me day by day
Love's sweet lesson to obey.

A large bar of music, all of whose notes are made of flowers, hung in place on the green strings that form the bar, is a new and effective design. Almost any praise song will be suitable for this.

A ship of flowers is always a beautiful sight. If one is built on the platform, a sea of green may be made around it, or it may have a platform of flowers on which to stand, the platform being constructed under it after the ship itself is done. The songs, "Out on an Ocean All Boundless We Ride" and "Jesus, Saviour, Pilot Me Over Life's Tempestuous Sea," are suitable for such an emblem. A large banner of flowers may bear the inscription, "His Banner Over Me Was Love," and may be put together to the singing of "Jesus Spreads His Banner Over Us," and—

Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
Ye soldiers of the cross;
Lift high his royal banner—
It must not suffer loss.

As a flower banner cannot be carried about, one of canvas or muslin, edged with flowers and lettered with a stencil or paper letters, could be mounted on a banner standard and carried by the singing children. When it is set in the center of the platform, its base may be heaped with flowers thrown down by the children, to be given afterward to the sick poor.

But, after all, a cross seems to be the favorite emblem for Floral Sunday building. It is the most easily arranged for and most readily put together. Its arms and base, being perfectly horizontal, can be plainly lettered with any words desired.

CHILDREN'S DAY SONGS.

[Sung to tune of "Webb," or any other preferred.]

All hail! sweet day of flowers, of birds and children's song!
Flow on, ye happy hours, and still our joy prolong!
As through the heavens o'er us the sun pursues his way
We'll raise the thrilling chorus, "Be glad! 'tis Children's day!"

To open founts of learning our church invites her youth;
From sin and error turning, she bids them gain the truth!
Then crowd the school and college, heed wisdom's beckoning ray;
Oh, may a thirst for knowledge be roused this Children's day!

Not songs alone, but giving, will Jesus' smile secure.
In this, like him, we're living who for our sake was poor.
We offer now our treasure, and on his altar lay
Both hearts and gifts with pleasure on this our Children's day!

Children.

Come to me, O ye children!
For I hear you at your play,
And the questions that perplexed me
Have vanished quite away.

Ye open the eastern windows
That look toward the sun,
Where thoughts are singing swallows
And the brooks of morning run.

In your hearts are the birds and the sunshine,
In your thoughts the brooklets flow,
But in mine is the wind of autumn
And the first fall of the snow.

Ah! what would the world be to us
If the children were no more?
We should dread the desert behind us
Worse than the dark before.

What the leaves are to the forest,
With light and air for food,
Ere their sweet and tender juices
Have been hardened into wood,

That to the world are children;
Through them it feels the glow
Of a brighter and sunnier climate
Than reaches the trunks below.

Come to me, O ye children!
And whisper in my ear
What the birds and the winds are singing
In your sunny atmosphere.

For what are all our contrivings
And the wisdom of your books
When compared with your caresses
And the gladness of your looks?

Ye are better than all the ballads
That ever were sung or said,
For ye are living poems,
And all the rest are dead.

—Longfellow.

Children's June Song.

Little ones, let us be happy together
In this beautiful world of ours!
Let us be glad in this sweet June weather,
With the birds and the breezes and flowers,
With the grass and the earth, with the sky and the sun—
Let us be glad in the summer begun!

There are praises rising, and prayers are springing
From spirits and bodies today.
Hark! Faith with a chant and a carol is winging
Her flight up the heavenly way.
Let thought unto thought with the sweetness ring!
Little ones, open your hearts and sing!

For a loving life breathes a fragrance dearer
To God than the breath of a rose,
And the song of the soul has a melody clearer
Than the lark or the linnet knows.
And ever he leans from the silence dim
And waits for the music you make to him.

Little ones, let us be part of the story
Of joy that the world has to tell!
Let us bloom in the beauty and sing of the glory
Of God, who has loved us so well!
Let us give him ourselves, for to him we belong—
Each life be his blossom, each soul be his song!

—Lucy Larcom.

The Moral Effect of Children's Day.

The custom of observing Children's day with programmes arranged with a view of impressing upon the tender mind the fact of immortality and hope has obtained for several years. The little ones look forward with pleasant anticipation to the Sabbath when they shall be the attraction and the older people shall pay tribute. Beautiful decorations and interesting programmes have their effect upon the undeveloped minds, and every child is better when Children's day—with its garlands of flowers, the string music of a band, the march in the bright sunshine, the soft breath of spring bringing sweet odors from field and wood, all conducing to happiness, health and purity—has come and gone.

The White Sunday.

In Switzerland Children's day has gained the poetical name, "Der Weisse Sontag," or White Sunday. The time set apart is always the first Sunday after Easter. There appears a pleasing significance in this selection. The story of hope that Easter brings of the risen Christ and the awakening spring is in harmony with the general rejoicing of human souls standing at the beginning of life's journey.

Memories of Youth.

Impressions made on youthful minds linger, like the "scent of the rose," through long years of a busy, perhaps sinful, life. Instances are not rare of hardened criminals being brought to a sense of their degradation through hearing some long forgotten melody of their youth. The observation of Children's day can but leave memories that will sweeten and purify the later life.

Let Children's Day Be Joyous.

Children's day should be made a joyous occasion to both old and young. Religious training is necessary for children, but it should be associated with the bright and beautiful, as the infantile mind more readily grasps the idea of God's love as exemplified by birds and music and flowers and that prepare it for deeper knowledge to come.

"THE LITTLE BUILDERS."

An Entertaining and Suggestive Children's Day Programme.

An exercise called "The Little Builders," from The School Journal, is very suitable for Children's day. It requires no costuming and no floral setting, but as it is spoken on Floral Sunday each child may wear or carry flowers. Twelve children are needed, and they ought to be old enough to be drilled to recite plainly, or else the plan of the exercise will not be made plain. Let a boy recite first, then a girl, and so on as the quotations are numbered.

BUILDING THE FLORAL WALL.

If desired, a more elaborate exercise may be made of this by having *a floral wall* built on a framework made ready beforehand. Each pupil brings a block made of either greens or solid colored flowers, in the center of which is the word italicized in his or her speech. The first speaker may put in place a row of blocks of green as a sort of foundation for the wall.

I.

All are architects of fate
Working in these walls of Time—
Some with massive deeds and great,
Some with ornaments of rhyme.

Nothing useless is, or low;
Each thing in its place is best,
And what seems but idle show
Strengthens and supports the rest.

For the structure that we raise
Time is with materials filled;
Our todays and yesterdays
Are the blocks with which we build.

Truly shape and fashion these;
Leave no yawning gaps between;
Think not, because no man sees,
Such things will remain unseen.

In the elder days of art
Builders wrought with greatest care
Each minute and unseen part,
For the gods see everywhere.

Let us do our work as well,
Both the unseen and the seen;
Make the house, where gods may dwell,
Beautiful, entire and clean.

—Longfellow.

II.

I will fill my day with *joy*. "It is a comely fashion to be glad. Joy is the grace we say to God."

III.

I will fill my days with *good deeds*. "How far that little candle throws his beams! So shines a good deed in a naughty world."

IV.

My days shall be filled with *kindness*, for "kindness is the music of good will to men, and on this harp the smallest fingers may play heaven's sweetest tones on earth."

V.

My days shall be full of earnest *work*. "Life should be full of earnest work."

VI.

Cheerfulness is a good thing to make one's days bright. "A laugh is worth a thousand groans in any market."

VII.

My days shall be spent in getting and giving *knowledge*. "An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest."

VIII.

Time used in *doing for others* is well used. "Bestow personal service if you cannot give gold."

IX.

I shall fill my days with "small, sweet *courtesies*," for I believe that "life is not so short but that there is always time enough for courtesy."

X.

My days shall be fashioned with *gentleness*.

Speak gently! 'tis a little thing,
Dropped in the heart's deep well;
The good, the joy that it shall bring
Eternity shall tell!

XI.

In building my days I shall use a great deal of *patience*. "All things come round to him who will but wait."

XII.

My days shall be filled with the spirit of the *golden rule*—"Do unto others as ye would that they should do to you."

PULPIT DECORATIONS.

In concluding, all repeat the closing words of the first poem:

Build today, then, firm and sure,
With a firm and ample base,
And ascending and secure
Shall tomorrow find its place.

Thus alone can we attain
To those turrets where the eye
Sees the world as one vast plain
And one boundless reach of sky.

Suggestions For Church Decoration.

Mass pot plants in bloom, cut flowers, bouquets, etc., around the pulpit, and hang festoons of evergreens ornamented with bright blossoms around the auditorium, the pillars being wound about with floral ropes. These decorations, with hanging baskets and birdcages swung from the galleries, present a charming and beautiful appearance.

Thrashed a Man Twice His Size.

The other day a small, harmless looking manentered a New York street car, andaccidentally trod on the toesof a big six-footer. He apologized, but the six-footer wasn't satisfied. He talked for some time, and finally invited the little man to leave the car and settle the matter on the sidewalk. Greatly to his astonishment, the latter accepted. Those who wittnessed the contest say that it didn't last long, but that the big fellow had to be carried home in an ambulance, while his dimutive antagonist walked away with a cheerful smile. And so it is with Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets. They're not half as big as most of their rivals, but they do their work quietly and thoroughly. For sick headache, billiousness, constipation, dyspepsia, etc., there is nothing like them. They are the only liver pills absolutely sold on trial! Your money back, if they don't give satisfaction.

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It is unjust to tax the stomach with burdens that it cannot bear. Many silly people thus tyranize that faithful servitor until it rebels and punishes them as they deserve. Dyspepsia is usually the child of gastronomic folly, but whether this or the natural associate of inherent feebleness from childhood, it is surely and pleasantly remediable with Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, the finest and most highly sanctioned gastric tonic in existence. As a result of the tone imparted to the stomach, and the increased activity of its digestive and assimilative action, insured by the persistent use of this benign invigorant, general stamina is augmented, the nerves strengthened and tranquilized, and a tendency to insomnia and hypochondriasis defeated. Billiousness, chills and fever, rheumatism and kidney troubles are conquered by this admirable medicine.

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KIDNEY AND URINARY Weak back, pain in side, abdomen, bladder, sediment in urine, brick dust or white; pain while urinating, frequency of; Bright's disease and all diseases of the bladder of both sexes.

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