

shook hands with her. "I must be on my guard. What is it makes you so wonderfully bright, Miss Ireland, if I may venture to ask?"

"Your coming, I should think," said Angela, with a want of wisdom that belongs sometimes to fifteen years of age. "She was looking doleful enough a while ago, over a letter she was writing."

Kathleen's cheeks flushed hotly as she replied with quick emphasis, and meeting Cyril Wynch's eyes with a full gaze from her own. "Don't flatter yourself with the notion of such a compliment, I pray you. I have been thinking of my country, of my beloved green jewel of the world, to which I return three days hence. It is well I should look glad."

While she spoke, Angela had answered a call from her mother from upstairs, and the two were alone.

The artist looked at the proud beautiful girl, and a sudden longing came to him to soften the defiance in her eyes, to make her spirit yield to him as once he had made her bodily strength submit to his. Had he been able to see into her heart he would not have been so cruel, but he only saw before him the most independent and exquisite specimen of womanhood with which he had yet come in contact, and the only one he had ever met that appeared to utterly defy his many attractions to make any impression upon her? There was a pause of a few moments when she ceased speaking, then, obeying the impulse which he felt to be almost uncontrollable, he suddenly bent towards her and said in low tones—

"And would you rob me altogether of the glad belief that you were pleased to see me?"

What answer he had expected to his unexpected question, he could not have told, himself. He did not even know what he wished it to be. But the answer he did receive startled him very greatly.

The defiance died out of the girl's eyes and attitude, as though in instantaneous answer to the touch of a magic wand. The colour rushed in a flood into her cheeks, and in tones that rivalled Dorothy's for softness she murmured—

"I would rob you of nothing that you cared to have."

Whatever her words might say, it seemed, nevertheless, at that moment, that she must, even then, have robbed him of something, for the rich colour deepening in her cheeks appeared almost as though it had been stolen from his, which had grown pale as death. Cyril Wynch was certainly somewhat vain of his personal attractions and of his talents, but he was much more proud of his high character for honour and upright dealing. Amongst his friends, from boyhood upwards, he went by the name of Bayard, and he had clung with pardonable pride to the knowledge that he did not ill-deserve to be called after the noble knight, who, in dark days of baseness and treachery, lived without fear and without reproach.

He would have little right to the title for the future. Yesterday he had more

than half drawn from Dorothy Gilbank a confession of the love which he had already guessed that he possessed, and for which he began to feel an assured yearning, and now!—Now he had extorted more than a half confession of love from this proud, strong nature, only to humble it by rejection.

To do him justice it must be admitted that at that moment Mr. Wynch felt very wretched. He experienced no base elation at having won the first, best love of two noble, earnest-hearted girls. But he was secretly conscious that he had not only within five minutes lost right to the title of one "without reproach," but he had lost right to the title of one "without fear," also. As he stood before that bending, blushing Kathleen Crofton, he felt very much afraid of her. Afraid, very much afraid to take her, and exceedingly afraid to leave her. And every instant of fear taught him more fully how impossible it would be for him really to wish to have her for his wife. All her beauty, all her grace and brilliancy were as nothing to him in that respect, when weighed in the balance against her want of the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit. Few men, perhaps not two in the whole world worthy of the name, would care to marry a woman of whom they imagined that they would have to stand in awe. Certainly, Cyril Wynch was not one of the few. But how was he to escape from the present dilemma which he had so inexcusably brought upon himself? Something he must say or do!

He felt like a man who in a spirit of foolhardiness had walked on and on up to the edge of a *crevasse*, and discovers at the final moment that he has planted his last step on a slippery slope from which there is no retreat. He chose the path himself, and he must take the death in which it ends.

Kathleen Crofton was standing before him, with the dark lashes sweeping her rose-flushed cheeks, in her turn waiting for an answer. He stretched his hand towards her—she was very beautiful. He drew it back—she was at least as uncertain as the fabled watersprite. A few incoherent sentences, a few stammered words, and then Kathleen slowly raised her eyes filled with a new, strange look of mingled fear and surprise. Steps were heard outside, and as she sprang quickly away to the window Mrs. Gilbank and both her daughters entered the room.

Ten minutes later Kathleen awoke as though from a dream, in which she had heard Mr. Wynch telling them that he was leaving London that night on a few weeks' visit to his father. She, in common with the others, had shaken hands with him and bid him good-bye, and he was gone. Three days later she returned to Ireland without seeing him again.

(To be continued.)



SUNDAY SCHOOL TREATS.



HO that has had anything to do with the management

of Sunday schools cannot recall some protracted teachers' meeting convened at the beginning of summer to discuss the plans for the children's summer treat? First there is generally a warm discussion as to whether they shall have a treat in the

summer at all, or whether an entertainment in the winter would not be better; but when every one else is thinking of their approaching holidays it seems hard that the poor little children, particularly those in the back slums of our large towns, should not have one day's enjoyment of the fresh, pure country air.

We think a change of air once a year to the country or seaside almost a necessity to the children of the higher classes, but hundreds of poor little creatures, cooped up all the year round in close rooms and narrow alleys, would never have a change of air, nor see the fields and lanes of the country at all, but for the annual excursions which have now become so general in all Sunday and ragged schools.

For children living in the country, who have plenty of fresh air all the year round, and a far larger share of healthy play than falls to the lot of the little ones in towns, there is much to be said in favour of winter treats instead of summer excursions. Being held in the schoolroom, there is not the fear that a storm of rain will damp the children's spirits and spoil their best clothing, and the anxious and responsible teachers are not kept in a constant panic by rumours that a boy has fallen into the river, or a girl is lost in the wood; and last, but by no means least, it is considerably less expensive. But, on the other hand, a very strong argument for the excursions in the summer is that they afford a great, often the only, opportunity for a teacher to become on a friendly footing with the scholars. The lower classes of scholars are too apt to look upon their teachers, either secular or religious, as their natural enemies, only one grade less obnoxious than the policeman, and these holidays give us an opportunity of showing them, by entering heartily into their nappiness, that we are their friends as well as their teachers; and, indeed, that religion, of which we are in their eyes the representatives, makes us better able to sympathise with others in everything, their enjoyments as well as their troubles.

In most schools the discussion ends in favour of the summer holiday, and if this conclusion is come to, the next question to be decided is, "Where shall we go to?" the details and minor arrangements being usually left to a select committee.

It has been said that if Rome had been built by a committee it never would have become the mistress of the world, and happy the school which has one competent person who will undertake all the arrangements and so dispense with the endless discussions of a committee meeting.

But to return to the question of a desirable spot for the excursion. This is generally a very knotty point, and a unanimous verdict in favour of any one place is as difficult to

arrive at as though it were left to the decision of twelve stubborn jurymen. One timorous person puts his veto upon a place, perfect in other respects, because it is too near the river, and children seem to make a point of getting drowned if within a mile of water. Another has a ghastly tale to tell of youthful scholars decoyed away by gipsies, when it is proposed to pitch their camp for the occasion in a wood.

In choosing a suitable place the distance should always be considered, as the cost of conveyance is a serious matter to a poor school. Except in large towns, it is seldom necessary to travel far; the convenience of the place is the chief thing to be considered in the selection, for beauty and scenery are not so much the attraction to the children as the novelty of a picnic out of doors and of having a whole day with nothing to do but play. Nothing can be better than a large field, particularly if it contains a few trees, to which swings can be attached; for though in a limited space like a field it is necessary to provide more amusements, the extra trouble is more than compensated for by the comfort of knowing that all the children are safely under your eye, and not getting into any of the mischief which children are so expert in finding out. Failing a regular field, we must put up with a common, or wood, or any private park which is open for parties.

One important consideration which must not be overlooked is the chance of obtaining shelter in case of rain. No one who has not suffered it can fully sympathise with the despair a teacher feels who has no means of sheltering the children, on seeing them huddled together during a heavy storm, like a flock of sheep, and looking every minute more wet through and miserable. One experience of this kind is generally quite enough to prevent its recurrence. It is most important that the superintendent, or some other competent person, should visit the place first to ascertain that there is a barn or room that can be used if required. If there is no such accommodation to be had, the best plan is to hire one or more large tents, the comfort of which will be found quite worth the outlay, and as the owner will always send men to put up and remove them, they are no trouble.

In the country, when a field can be had for the purpose close at hand, the greatest difficulty of these summer treats, that of conveying the children to their destination, is avoided, an advantage which country teachers cannot too highly appreciate. Comparatively few schools, however, are so fortunate; but there are contractors to be found in nearly all towns who will provide covered vans at a moderate cost, and most of the railway companies make special arrangements to convey schools at less than half price, so that the travelling expenses need not be so large as is generally imagined. The trouble and anxiety is a much more serious consideration, though if the teachers will all come forward to do their part even that is a very trifling matter.

It is generally arranged to meet at the schoolroom, when the children are divided into small parties, each party being assigned to the care of a teacher, who undertakes to see that they neither get into a wrong train nor are left behind altogether. This arrangement saves the superintendent a great deal of anxiety, and indeed, if going by train, is almost a *sine qua non*.

And now, having reached our destination, how are we to amuse our young guests? As usual, the boys are most troublesome to cater for; but we generally succeed in making them very happy by providing some cricket-sets, a large ball for football (the goals have to be improvised on the spot), some bats for rounders, and any other games after which boy-nature

is supposed to hanker. The number of each provided depends, of course, upon the size of the school.

In addition, we generally organise some jumping and running-matches, and other athletic sports. The prizes need not be at all valuable. We give simply a rosette of ribbon, which makes the winner proud and happy for the rest of the day, and is a most trifling expense to the school.

For the girls we take balls and a quantity of rope, to be cut up into swings and skipping-ropes, both single and long ones; but they are much more easily entertained than the boys, and are usually quite content with different games which do not require any materials providing. Here comes in a splendid opportunity for a teacher who is fond of any kind of natural history to persuade those who are tired of games to notice the different flowers and birds and insects around them, explaining a little about each. It will be found that some of the girls will think little walks with their teacher a delightful change after a surfeit of games.

By the time the children have played for a couple of hours they will probably begin to get hungry. In most schools who go for the whole day no dinner is provided, but the children are expected to take their own; generally, however, their provisions are eaten, if not before their arrival, at least very shortly after it; so that when the proper dinner hour arrives they are very hungry and have nothing left to eat. In anticipation of this, it is customary to give each child in the middle of the day, either a large biscuit and cheese, or a thick slice of bread and butter, on the strength of which they can go till tea-time, which is generally about four o'clock. This meal, being the only one, is an important feature of the day; and the arrangements for it, unless it is contracted for, generally fall into the hands of one of the lady teachers.

When practicable, it is very much less trouble to put the whole thing into the hands of a contractor, who will provide a good tea, with crockery, tables, and seats, for about sixpence a head; some of the large contractors do it for less. In consideration of the great saving of trouble and the little extra expense, this plan is much to be recommended.

For the assistance of those who are out of reach of these advantages, and compelled to manage the commissariat themselves, I will give a list of the average quantities supplied for 50 children:

Tea, 1lb.; milk, five pints; sugar 4lb.; bread, four quarters; cake, 20lb.; butter, 2lb.

If the children have not left home till after their dinner rather less than these quantities of bread and cake will be sufficient; but when they have been playing all day, with only such dinner as they take with them, their appetites become sharpened to a marvellous extent, and this supply will not be found at all too large.

The best time for treats has not been mentioned, but no rule can be given for it, as it must depend upon the convenience of the teachers, their presence in good numbers being of the first importance. Generally speaking, July is the favourite month, because as far as we can judge at all in our variable climate we expect more settled weather than earlier in the year; there is also the advantage that the hay harvest being over, there is less difficulty in obtaining the use of a field.



VARIETIES.

WOMAN'S POSITION.—Man, in the affairs of life, is a substantive; woman the adjective to agree with it. She has no fixed destiny but the blessed one of being a helper. Her education then must be a continual training of

The first pair of silk stockings made in England were knitted by a Mrs. Montague, and given to Queen Elizabeth, who never afterwards wore cloth hose.

BURIED TOWNS.

1. I wish you could stop, Esther, and take my letter also to the post.

2. It turned so bright once this afternoon.

3. Fancy your not liking it, Ludovic, and a harp is my favourite musical instrument.

4. How ever can nests be built so high without falling?

5. She actually ate that melon. Don't you think it was very wrong of her?

6. She was sent to bed for daring to be so rude.

WE read in old records that the custom of giving rings at weddings was a common practice. One Edward Kelly, a "famous philosopher" in Queen Elizabeth's days, gave away, at the marriage of one of his maid servants, gold wire rings (or rings twisted with three gold wires), to the amazing sum of £4,000, showing not only the riches of the philosopher, but the value in which maid servants were then held.

CANT.—Dr. Johnson's definition is the best:—"A particular form of speaking peculiar to some certain class or body of men." He says the word is most probably derived from *cantus*, referring to the sing-song or whining tone of voice used by beggars. The verb and participle are also used, as when we say, "A canting hypocrite," meaning one who, without real goodness, uses many pious phrases. But, there are other kinds of cant quite as frequent. Dryden speaks of astrologers "abusing the credulity of the world with their cant." Artists and art-critics have their peculiar modes of speaking, not always in harmony with taste and common sense. So have musicians. Of all forms of cant there is none more offensive than what is too common among sceptics and the enemies of true religion.

CHARADES.

1. My first is a part of the human body.

My second is a hard substance.

My whole is a useful piece of furniture.

2. My first denotes equality.

My second something we are all sorry to see.

My whole is one of the feathered tribe.

3. My first is a sound.

My second is something good to eat.

My whole the name of a town.

4. My first is part of an American plant used for food.

My second a portion of the inside of a house.

My whole we find in fields.

5. My first is a disagreeable thing to take.

My second is a period of human life.

My whole denotes spoliation.

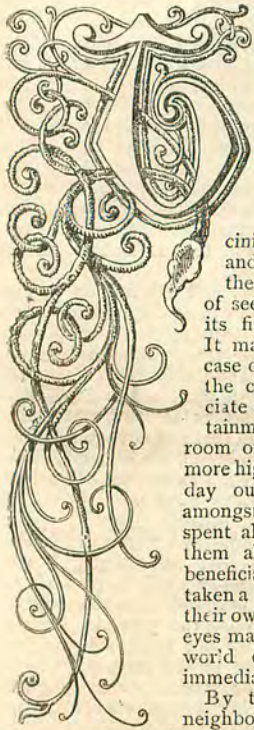
A COUNTRY VISITOR.—Some time since a ludicrous circumstance occurred at the British Museum. There is, it seems, in the Ashmole Museum, at Oxford, a skull said to be that of Oliver Cromwell. A visitor at the British Museum, after having seen the curiosities that were there shown to him, inquired of the assistant, "Pray, sir, have you a skull of Oliver Cromwell in this house?" To which the assistant answered, "No, sir," "Well," said the stranger, "I wonder at that, as they have one at the Ashmole Museum, at Oxford."

Rest is pleasant, but it is so only to the industrious and not to the idle. How can there be any such thing as rest to her who is never seen doing anything? If anyone says, "Give me idleness now, I shall be busy to-morrow," she is putting the cart before the horse. Besides, to-morrow is uncertain, and seeing industry is clearly a duty, I vote we all begin to-day. Work, as things go, is not always pleasant, but when inclined to fret, let us pluck up our spirits. Maggie, who prompted me to write this paper, has the true philosophy of it, for she is always singing—

The more I toil and suffer here,
The sweeter rest will be.

JAMES MASON.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TREATS.



HERE is a diversity of opinion on the subject of Sunday School treats, as to the superior advantage of the summer excursion over the winter entertainment. This depends very much on the vicinity of the school, and the opportunity the children may have of seeing the country in its fine summer dress. It may be that, in the case of a country school, the children will appreciate some sort of entertainment in the school-room on a winter evening more highly than a summer day out in the fields, amongst which they have spent all their lives. For them also, however, it is beneficial to be sometimes taken a little distance from their own village, that their eyes may be opened to the world outside their own immediate surroundings.

By the kindness of neighbouring gentlemen, they may be admitted in detachments into a garden of one of the large houses, and allowed to see the wonders of the greenhouse and the curiosities of the Conservatory. Or even reversing the usual order of things, the children may be taken into a town, if there is one near enough, and shown museums, picture galleries, zoological gardens, and the like.

But it must be admitted that in the case of a town school, a country excursion gives great pleasure and benefit to the children. The delight of the little city arabs is unbounded at being really out in the country amongst flowers, which they are allowed to gather, and grass on which they are not prohibited from walking or rolling if they will.

The summer treat is very likely the only opportunity they ever have of seeing the wonderful and beautiful works of nature, and the sweet, pure sights and sounds of the country dwell in their memories during long months, amid the noise and dirt, the bodily and spiritual uncleanness of the city. Perhaps the chief objection to this form of treat is the uncertainty of our climate; we cannot depend on having a fine day, and the success of the summer treat depends mainly on the weather. It is well, if possible, to agree, when making arrangements, that the excursion be post-

poned till the next day in case of the one fixed upon proving wet or unsettled. But if this cannot be done, the next best thing is to see that the spot selected be within reach of some shelter, such as a barn or shed, so that the pleasure-seekers may not have the additional grief of getting their holiday attire wet and spoiled. Here, too, some games, blind man's buff, &c., may be played with great zest, some impromptu charades acted by the teachers, and other little sports devised, so that the time may be passed pleasantly enough in spite of the weather. Whilst, on the other hand, nothing can look more miserable than, with the rain pouring down, the poor draggled children crouching under umbrellas or fighting for the poor shelter of tree or hedge.

Of late years many schools have adopted a different system from the old one of an united excursion in which the whole school joins. The disadvantages of the old custom are many. It is impossible, among so many, for each teacher to keep her own scholars in sight; so the elder ones usually stroll off together, and perhaps get into bad company, whilst the juniors often become boisterous and unmanageable. One benefit supposed to be derived on these occasions is that the teacher becomes more intimately acquainted with her scholars, and, sharing in their pleasures, gains their confidence and wins a new way into their hearts. This is difficult or impossible if the whole school be together; the classes are mixed up, and individual conversation is out of the question.

The new and, we think, improved plan is for each teacher, or two or three together if the class be small, to take their scholars some little excursion separately from the main body. The expenses are paid by the school fund, and the arrangements made by the superintendent or responsible person, just as though the whole school were going together. By this plan there are not too many children to be under the direct supervision of the one or two teachers, and it has been found to work better in many ways than the old system of an united excursion.

A trip to the seaside makes a delightful treat for the children if the distance be practicable, or again, some pleasant excursions have been made by hiring one or more canal barges, and going some little distance up the canal, to a favourable spot for embarkation. After partaking of a meal and enjoying some games, the party returns by the boats again. Little children should not be taken on such an excursion as this, and even those who have, or ought to have, reached years of discretion, will need to be looked after very sharply by the elders, so prone are children even of a larger growth to fall into the water on every possible occasion.

Apart from excursions by water, vans are much to be preferred before trains, the additional expense being their only drawback.

Sometimes, however, it may happen that there are members in the congregation to which the school is attached who own vans or waggons and who would be willing to lend them gratuitously or at a reduced rate. Where the system of taking the classes separately is adopted, one friend will often engage to provide a vehicle for the Bible class, another for the next class or the next two together, and so by dividing the burden, the whole is easily managed.

The system of sending children round from house to house with collecting cards is much to be deprecated; it not only makes them inclined to be bold and impudent, but also fosters a habit of begging which in after years may grow to a ruinous extent. If funds cannot be procured by other means, let us be content with a less costly form of entertainment.

Should the school be going to a public place of amusement, such as the Crystal Palace in London, it is a good plan to let each child wear some badge by which it may be at once recognised by its party. A little rosette of ribbon, pinned in a conspicuous place, answers well for the girls, and a small piece tied through the button-hole for the boys. In providing the ribbon, a quarter of a yard each all round is sufficient, the girls' rosettes taking rather more, and the boys' ties less than that amount.

It may be observed here that the infants should not be taken on these long excursions. If they must have a treat at all, two hours or so in a field not far off is quite enough for them; the little things are soon weary, even with play. Provided the grass is dry, it is best to let them sit down on the ground for tea; there is less danger of their overturning their cups, and of falling off the forms themselves. They will enjoy some simple games, started by the teacher, or running races, in which it is funny to see the little rivals tottering along, as often as not tightly clasping each other by the hand, so that the umpire is puzzled to decide which is the winner.

But to return to the elder scholars. It should be stipulated that all who participate in the treat shall have been regular attendants at the school during at least six Sundays past; and it has been found that the entertainment is more appreciated if a small charge is made for admission. Except amongst the extremely poor, this charge does not keep the children away; they can always manage to save up a few pence which otherwise might have been spent on sweets or something equally needless.

The arrangement of the commissariat has been so fully treated in a former paper that only a reference to it will be necessary now.

The average quantity—though this differs greatly in different parts of the country—for fifty children is—tea, 1 lb.; sugar, 4 lb.; milk, 5 pints; bread, 4 quarterns; cake, 20 lbs.; butter, 2 lbs. or 3 lbs. When possible it is more convenient, besides saving the teachers trouble and expense, to have the tea supplied by a contractor, who will furnish food, tables, seats, and crockery for about sixpence a head; if desired he would also provide a tent or tents.

As to the amusements to be provided for a treat in the country, different games, such as cricket, football, quoits, and so on, should be taken for the boys, and races of all sorts, jumping and vaulting matches, and other athletic sports organised, in all of which the boys will join with a will, particularly if a small prize be offered for the championship.

For the girls, they may be encouraged to gather bunches of flowers, to be sent afterwards to one of the hospitals or infirmaries; prizes might be offered for the prettiest bouquet, the one containing most varieties, the largest one, the prettiest bunch of flowering grasses, ferns, and so on. Besides amusing them for a time, exercises of this sort will awaken an interest in botany, and lead the children to observe the beauties of nature with which the most ordinary field is filled, and of which most of them would otherwise remain ignorant.

Should there be any sort of home improvement society connected with the school, the summer treat affords a good opportunity for the distribution of the prizes, and, if practicable, a display of the objects sent for competition will be very interesting to the children and their friends.

