

## Family Circle.

### Two Little Pair of Boots.

Two little pairs of boots, to-night  
Before the fire are drying.  
Two little pairs of tired feet  
In a trundle bed are lying:  
The tracks they left upon the floor  
Make me feel much like sighing.  
These little boots with copper toes,  
They run the living day!  
And oftentimes I almost wish  
That they were miles away;  
So tired am I to hear so soon  
Their heavy tramp at play.  
They walk about the new ploughed ground  
Where men in plenty lies,  
They roll up in marshes round,  
And bark'd like poor posts.  
And then at night upon the floor  
In every shape he dances.  
For in the trunk, up stairs, I've laid  
Two socks of white and blue;  
It called to put those boots away,  
O God, what should I do?  
I mourn that there is not to-night  
Three pairs instead of two.

I mourn because I thought how nice  
My neighbor, across the way,

Could keep her babies all the year,  
From getting worn or gray;

Yet well I know she's still to own  
Some little boots to-day.

We mothers weary get and wear,  
Over our load of care;

But how we speak of these little ones,

Let each of us be wiser;

For what would our treasures be if bright  
If no little boots were there,

### A USEFUL WOMAN.

A touching incident has been related to us which we are sure will be the promoter of serious thoughts in the minds of all who shall hear of it. In a distant city there dwells a lady of refinement and culture, who is celebrated for her musical accomplishments. She is owned to be peerless in musical circles, and the first performer in private or public. But her talents are consecrated to Christ, and she is a devoted laborer in the saving of souls. By the providence of God she was led to connect himself with a mission enterprise in the city, and when she went to offer her services she asked for the care of the worst class in the school. The superintendent was struck by the novel request, and knew not whether to attribute it to pride and self-confidence or to a gracious and praiseworthy courage. He pointed her to a class of fourteen boys who were standing, looking talking, and kicking in a corner of the room, and told her there was material for the fire and hammer of God's sword. Nothing daunted, she accepted the charge and went over to see what could be done. The superintendent introduced her and left at once for other duties.

"Lads," she said, "do you think that I am a lady?" A glance assured of that, and assent was given. "Then I should like to see you take off your hats." Hats were removed. "Then, boys, if I am a lady, I would prefer not to have tobacco used where I am." Instantly every quid was removed, and either pocketed, thrown away, or buried into the face of some distant mate.

It was well known that all of them were profane, and she spent the rest of the morning in dissuading from that odious vice. One had said to her, "If you only knew where we do, you would swear too; we hear swearing all the time, and are used to it." At the end of the session she promised them a book if they would abstain from swearing during the week, and tell her so next Sunday. Next Lord's day they were all in their places, and every one acknowledged that he had been guilty of swearing, though all had tried to give it up or to avoid it. For some weeks this trial was carried on, and some success attended the effort. One said he had let an oath slip out twice. All along instructions had been given, and this gifted woman had visited the poor lads at their homes. She had gained influence over them, and her class was orderly. Upon one Sunday morning as she was going to her seat at the organ to lead the worship of God, one of the class accosted her, and said, "He had not sworn during the whole week, and had said his prayers every day." There was a fullness and richness in the voice that day when she began, "We praise thee, O, God!" there was a mellowness and softness in the notes of the instrument, and "the stop that prays" was touched. She longed for the return of the next Sunday, that the progress of the good work might be witnessed. But on opening the paper one morning of that week, she saw the sad tale, that the poor boy had been caught in the machinery of a mill where he was at work, and killed!

What was done in that poor soul? Who shall tell or conjecture? Was it the breaking of the wind which bloweth where it listeth, and which wafted the perfume from a flower of the Lord's planting? Was that soul imbued with the new principle of grace? Why not believe and hope such was the case? Such things are enough to encourage effort and to cause thankfulness for the efficacy of Almighty grace. But the day alone can clearly declare the result in such cases. It may be that the black and heavy dy-wheel was the passing chariot of Immortal, which in an instant broke off the hard shell of carnal nature, broke upon the prison of corruption, and let the new man, created by the Holy Spirit, free.

These things are enough to make the labor for Christ serious and earnest; for day by day the last opportunity may be afforded to us to say, "Behold the Lamb of God,"—*Esse queatur.*

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