

THE CHILDREN
WHO REMEMBERED
WHAT THEY WERE TAUGHT.



Edinburgh

PUBLISHED BY WRIGHT AND ALBRIGHT;
SOLD BY TANNER, BROTHERS,
BRISTOL; AND AMEN-CORNER, LONDON.
70.



130097



THE CHILDREN

who remembered what they were taught.

T—— school stands on a common, in the midst of several small villages, and all the children, for miles round, attend it

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regularly. A lady who used often to visit the school one morning taught the children the text, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right." Eph. vi. 1. They all repeated it very perfectly, and seemed quite to understand what was meant by obeying their parents. One little girl said they must mind their mother and father directly when they spoke, and not do their bidding slowly or unwillingly. But when the lady asked the children what was meant by obeying their parents in the Lord? they did not answer. She then asked them if, unhappily, any child had a father or mother who

told them to steal, should they do it? The little ones directly answered, "No; for God says, Thou shalt not steal." The lady again asked, "If a parent should be so wicked as to tell a child to lie, would it then be right to obey?" The children said "No, for lying lips are abomination to the Lord." After a little more conversation they perfectly understood, that though our duty to our parents is the first of our earthly duties, yet duty to God stands first of all. And that even parents are not to be minded if they order anything contrary to God's will: they are to be obeyed in the Lord.

A little boy and girl of six and seven years old, who were present with many others, listened very attentively. On their return from school, they were playing outside the cottage, when their grandmother came out and told them to run to farmer C.'s field, and pull some turnips for dinner. As the children did not stir, the old woman repeated her order in a louder tone, adding, "If you don't make haste, you will have to go back to school without your dinner."

One of the children then said, "Indeed, granny, we can't go." "Pretty learning is this you get at the school you are so fond of,"

said the grandmother, "do they teach you not to mind your parents?"

"Indeed, granny," said the little boy, "that's the very thing the lady told us about this morning." "Then why don't you go directly, as I bid you," called out the old woman. "Because, granny," added the child, "the lady told us the Bible said we were to mind our parents in the Lord, and you know God says 'Thou shalt not steal.'"

The old woman was much struck by the earnestness of the children. For years she had been accustomed to help herself out of farmer C.'s fields, without think-

ing that as she had no leave to take them, and the turnips were not hers, it was stealing. She had always settled the matter by saying to herself, "Farmer C. will never be the worse for my taking a few turnips out of his great field, and besides he is so kind to the poor, I am sure he would not grudge them." In this last she was right: farmer C. had she asked him, would not have grudged them; but she was not the less a thief for taking them without leave. The old woman, for the first time, applied to herself the words, "Thou shalt not steal;" and taught by what her little grandchildren had learned

at school, she never again robbed a field.

I would like to ask the little children who may read this story whether they make as good use of what they hear, as the little boy and girl who saved their grandmother from being a thief?

“Children obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.”
Eph. vi. 1.

“Your parents in the Lord obey,
Children,” thus our teachers say;
For 'tis written in that book,
Where we all should love to look.

Quickly, when your parents call,
At their word attend you all.—
Do not linger, do not stay;
At their bidding leave your play.

Jesus did his parents' will:
 Oh be ever like him still!
 Gentle, humble, meek, and mild—
 Such should be each little child.

For your parents work away,
 Be not idle, loving play:
 Hard, your parents toil'd for you—
 Care for them in age is due.

But, if bid to lie or steal,
 This is wrong, you all can feel:
 God can't love the thief and liar,
 Ever will they dwell in fire.

Gently say, "Oh, mother dear!
 'Tis the Lord we first must fear.
 We should always do His will—
 If not done, 'tis surely ill.

In all else we will obey,
 And to please you, leave our play.
 Ever, God we first must love—
 He it is, that reigns above."



WHY should I deprive my neighbour
Of his goods against his will?
Hands were made for honest labour,
Not to plunder or to steal.

'Tis a foolish self-deceiving,
By such tricks to hope for gain;
All that's ever got by thieving
Turns to sorrow, shame, and pain.

Have not Eve and Adam taught us,
Their sad profit to compute!
To what dismal state they brought us,
When they stole forbidden fruit.

Oft we see a young beginner
Practise little pilfering ways,
Till grown up a hardened sinner,
Then the gallows ends his days.

Theft will not be always hidden,
Though we fancy none can spy;
When we take a thing forbidden,
God beholds it with his eye.

Guard my heart, O God of heaven,
Lest I covet what's not mine;
Lest I take what is not given,
Guard my heart and hands from sin.