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A DAY FOR CHILDREN.

THE ANNUAL SABBATH EXERCISES FOR THE BOYS AND GIRLS.

Flora: Sunday and the Manner in Which Its Osservances Are Made Charming with Music, Flowers and Recitations - Church Decorations.

(Copyright, 1900.)

Years ago the church was a place of terror to lively children. The little ones were taken duly to church, whether their feet touched the floor or not, and whether they could understand the sermon, with its numerous heads, or had to go napping from sheer weariness. If they played any sly pranks or re-iaxed the stiffness and decorum which was thought necessary for churchgoers, old and young, it went hard with them, for there was

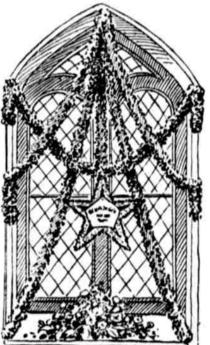


A PLORAL LIBERTOUSE.

the stately tithing man, whose duty it was to remind any youngster of his churchly duties if he failed to observe them. After a while the office of this functionary was abolished, out as churches were still far from comfort the, unwarmed and furnished with high. straight benches, and the pulpit so elevated that looking up was apt to make young necks ache and young eyes grow heavy, children were not much better off.

Today churches are well heated, lighted and furnished, seats are easier, there is music to charm childish as well as grown up cars, and many pastors speak especially to children for a few minutes before each morning sermon. But this is not the best. A whole Sun day in the year is given up entirely to children. No one knows where the plan originatsd, nor whose happy thought it was to have the day a Sunday in early summer, thus linking children with flowers. Some churches call it June Sunday, some Floral Sunday, but whatever the name it is always wholly the Children's day.

There are two things inseparably connected with the celebration of this day—flowers and musical exercises The floral decorations in city churches are often lavish and exquisite. Sometimes the pulpit platform is enlarged, so that the infant class can sit upon it, each row higher than the one in front, the children, in their pale colored and white costumes, looking not unlike a terrace of flowers. Elaborate exercises sometimes include the construction of a large floral piece, each part being brought by one pupil and fitted in its place. It may be a ship or a lighthouse or a mammeth Bible or perhaps a cross. In many cases the pieces which form the whole are the gifts of different classes, though sometimes the expense is borne by the church, Several years ago the pastor of a prominent Methodist church in this city preached on the morning of Children's day a ser-"Flowers; Their Influence and Lessons," the text being "Consider the The afternoon was devoted to lilios." exercises by the primary department. In the evening, general exercises of song and Scripture reading, recitations and addresses took place, the chief feature of which was the erection of a miniature floral church on the platform. Each piece was contributed by a Sunday school class. When finished the edi-



fice was a pretty sight, being furnished with an organ, stained glass windows, lamps and a spire twelve feet high, with a bell. When the process of building was ended a pupil recited Summer Evening Musings," and, as she proceeded, the lights of the large church were lowered, those in the miniature one were lighted, the bell began to sound and the organ played softly. Then an unseen choir ang softly, "I Love Thy Church, O God."

As a rule the majority of flowers and potted plants are pathered around the pulpit, but one school at least has adopted a plan by which the decoration, the expense and the work are distributed. The large church contains perhaps a dozen windows, and to each of the several classes is assigned the task of decorating one window as the members see fit. If they choose they can gather enough flowers to make one window into a thing of beauty. Daisies form a good background for a word in green letters made of leaves. If preferred, the green may form the background and daisies the lettering. Perhaps one class will arrange a window whose slanting sill is banked in this way, the word "Rejoice" standing out boldly. Festoons of green are draped above, and in the center is hung a star of flowers. Another window will be festooned with daisy chains and have several baskets of flowers hung over the masses of roses, edged with smilax, which form a covering for the sill. Of course such a plan involves the sacrifice of Saturday afternoon by many a boy and girl, but the burden of work thus falls more evenly, and children are doubly interested in what they have had

a share in doing. Another feature of Children's day-I do

not know whether it should be spoken of under the head of "decoration" or "music," perhaps both—is the presence of a number of birds whose cages are hung from the ceiling with long wires. The sound of organ and singing seems to inspire canaries, and they pour out their sweetest songs on Children's day, and contribute no small share to its plea-

Decorations need not all be so elaborate as those described above. The humblest congregation and Sunday school can ornament the interior of the building it occupies per hapsonly a school house—if the boys and girls are enlisted to help in the work. Arouse their interest and enthusiasm, and there is nothing they will not do. Set them to gathering flowers, no matter how common, provided they are pretty. The spirit of the day is the same, whether the decoration come from field or florist. The boys can make the framework of the floral piece intended for these exercises. This can be covered with green and made to stand upright in a shallow box which forms its base, the box to be filled with flowers. Let a number of members of the school come up with a blossom or a bandful of them, and repeat something about flowers. When the base is completed the word Jesus or Saviour may be spelled in flowers on the transverse beam of the cross. If possible, let the wall behind the desk or pulpit bear the inscription: "In the cross of Christ I glory," made of flowers, or evergreens, or gilt paper. Flowers for this purpose can be made of tissue paper, if not too gaudy, though natural ones are, of course, the best. As for the music, new annuals are provided for this day each year by leading music publishers. The following selections may be of use in the exercise ith the cross. As each pupil lays his hand of flowers at the base, he or she can give one of the quotations, adapting it as nearly as possible to the kind of flowers brought. Children taking part in spelling out the name on the cross may repeat verses of Scripture as they put their flowers in place:

Your voiceless lips, O flowers, are living preachers, Each cup a pulpit, every leaf a book, Supplying to my fancy numerous teachers From lonellest nook.

Neath cloistered boughs each floral bell that sowingseth: And tolls its perfume on the passing air Makes Sabbath in the fields, and ever ringeth

A call to prayer. English Poet

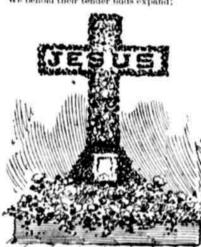
The infinite bliss of nature

I feel in every vein. The light and the life of summer Blessems in heart and brain. - Bayard Taylor. But not alone the fairest flowers The merest grass
Along the roadside where we pass,
schen, and moss, and sturdy weed

Tell of his love who sends the dew The rain and sunshine, too, To nourish one small seed

in all places, then, and in all seasons Flowers expand their light and soullike wings. Teaching us, by most persuasive reasons, How akin they are to human things.

And with childlike, credulous affection We behold their tender buds expand:



FLORAL CROSS. Emblems of our own great resurrection Emblems of the bright and better land

And all the world with greens that shine, And breaking buds and wings that flit, Seems one expectancy divine
Of something God has promised it. -Edgar Fawcett

VL 'Tis heaven alone that is given away;
'Tis only God may be had for the asking;
No price is set on the invish summer; June may be had by the poorest comer VIL

Flowers are the grandest thing that God ever

nade without putting an immortal soul into them Tis summer, glorious summer: Look to the glad green earth.

How from her grateful bosom The herb and flower spring forth; These are her rich thanksgivings. Their incense floats above. Father, what may we offer? Thy chosen flower is love

Each day is a branch of the Tree of Life, laden beavily with fruit. If we lie down lazily beneath it, we may starve; but if we shake the branches some of the fruit will fall for us -Longfellow.

> X Our Saviour wore a crown of thorns. With not one rose entwined: And more did this sad crown adorn Than that he left behind;

> And gladly did he press it there. Upon his godlike brow Knowing that in our path more fair Would bloom the roses now

O, when we grasp the fragrant flowers That throw such beauty round And murmur midst our blushing bowers,



MINIATURE PLORAL CHURCH That will a thorn is found, O let us think of him who Fore The thorn without the rose, And bear, as patiently he bore Our fewer, lighter woes

ANNIE ISABEL WILLIS



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0 0 0 0 0 0 0 The upper horizontal of seven and the left vertical, reading downward, a word of seven letters, signifying "a large ship with three or four decks, formerly used by the Span lards as a man-of-war, as in the Armada, and also in commerce, as between Spain and her colonies in America." The lower horizontal and right vertical, another word of seven letters, "beginning to exist or grow;" in chemistry, "in the act of being produced or evolved, as a gas." The second horizontal and second vertical, "spirits or ghosts of the departed," "hobgoblins." The third, "an ornament of ribbons," "a tuft of feathers, diamonds, etc., in the form of a heron's crest."



No. 101. Acrostic Riddle. 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

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0 0 0 0 I watched my first in lofty flight With sweetest song till out of sight My second, flying low, I found With wings that did not leave the ground My third, whose wings we cannot see, May yet take flight from you or me. My fourth, though destitute of wings, Flies high aloft but never sings. Now if my first you rightly name, You'll find my initials spell the same,

> No. 102.—Letter Enigma. In grape but not in plum. In gross but not in sum. In baize but not in wool. In ealf but not in bull. In meat but not in chop. In break but not in lop. In mute but not in loud In laugh but not in cloud. In Nacre, also in relation. My whole is a constellation

No. 103.- Hidden Reptiles. Of a good little boy who aspires to the name Of Roger Newton, I now write; His kinky haired pate is quite unknown to fame. But his friends think him elever and bright His naked feet dance to a dear little song

As he jumped every more from his bed; He can make a salmon, and ere very long He thinks he can stand on his head The years drag on slowly with him, for he talks

Every day of "when he is a man," And regrets that his mother his progress e'er And keeps him a child while she can

No. 104 .- A Tramp's Stratagem. Four tramps applied at a farm house for alms. "Well," said the farmer, "I have a piece of work that will require 200 hours'

labor. If you want to do it, I will pay you \$20, and you can divide the work and the money among yourselves as you see fit." The tramps agreed to do the work on these conditions: "Now, boys," said one of the tramps, who was at the same time the laziest and the most intelligent of the four, "there is no use of all four of us doing the same amount of work. Let's draw lots to see who shall

work the most hours a day and who the fewest. Then let each man work as many days as he does hours a day." The plan being agreed to, the lazy tramp took good care that chance should designate him to do the least number of hours of work.

Now, how were the 200 hours of work allotted so that each tramp should work as many hours a day as he he did days, and yet so that no two tramps should work the same number of hours!-Indiana Farmer.

Jumped His Board. McFingle had taken the landiady's daughter, chaperoned by her mother, to the circus. They were watching the tumblers, who, leaping from the spring board, turned one or two

somersaults over an elephant. 'Wonderful, ehf' remarked McFingle. "Yes," said the old lady, "and do you know they remind me of you!"

"Of me! Why, I'm no athlete."
"No," was the sour reply, "but you do jump your board so easily?"

Comforting. "So, Hattie has refused you! Weil, I

wouldn't care. She's a thoughtless thing, and doesn't know her own mind." "That so! Oh, well, if she doesn't know her mind, perhaps I ought not to mind her

A Natural Thought. "Oh, what pretty chickens!" exclaimed Mabel, looking at some whose fluffy feathers had been dyed different colors. "Yes," explained 7-year-old Madge "They

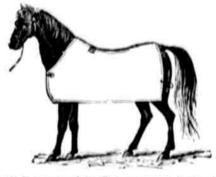
were hatched out of Easter eggs." Key to the Puzzler. No. 90.-Charade: Bread fruit. No. 91.-An Hour Glass: Centrals, Bonaparte, Cross words 1. grumBling, 2. shrOuic, 3. VeNus, 4. nAp. 5. P. 6. (Ab. 7. arRow, 8. PlaTter 9. PromEnade. No. 02-In Many Places: A bar. No. 93.-A Train of Cars: 1. Carnival. 2 Carmus and cardinal 6 Vicar.

No. 34. - Hidden Trees: Sandal, cak, yew. No. 25. - A Standard Work: Barnes' Notes on the Acts.' No. 96 - Numerical Enigma: Powbatan No. 97 -A Word Change: Flag-flap

slip-ship. No. 98 - A Bird Puzzle: Star-ling. Martin Lin-net. Spar-row.

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Capital Prize, \$300,000.

\$5: Tenths, \$2; Twentleths \$1 LIST OF PRIZES. LIST OF PRIZES.

1 PRIZE OF \$300,000 is
1 PRIZE OF \$100,000 is
1 PRIZE OF \$6,000 is
1 PRIZE OF \$6,000 is
2 PRIZES OF 50,000 are
5 PRIZES OF 10,000 are
100 PRIZES OF 10,000 are
200 PRIZES OF 300 are APPROXIMATION PRIZES. 100 Prizes of \$500 are.....

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