

(editor's note: This paper was transcribed from a handwritten cursive copy with various difficulties. For a perfect rendition, the reader might wish to consult the original, itself a copy, in the volume entitled *Literary Club Papers I*, 1885 – 1886 Oct 3, '85 to May 29, '86) The original is very badly faded.

Budget – Hinkle editor
April 24, 1886

Children's Puns

Last year the paper contained some narrations of punny speeches by children. The following are vouched for as true sayings by children of this club, and in one instance by a child whose father and grandfather are in our list of members.

Edward, five years old, was seated at the lunch table with the family, and with unusual exuberance of spirits handled his cup of milk in a careless manner, which threatened its overthrow. His father repeatedly warned him of the danger, but the warnings were unheeded. Finally, when the milky stream had deluged the spotless table cloth, his father dismissed him to the window seat to reflect upon his own unworthiness. Edward laboriously prepared to shed a few tears, but after a whimper or two thought better of it, and occupied himself with the sights outside the house. At the close of the meal his father took him on his knee and after a kind talk on carelessness and disobedience, said: "I'm very glad you didn't cry, Edward, when I sent you away for it was your own fault." The boy, who had been looking very demure and penitent, glanced up quickly with a roguish twinkle in his eye, and said: "Well, you know, papa, there was no use in crying over spilt milk."

Another very small boy on his way to S. S. with his aunt who was teacher of the infant class to which he belonged, was instructed on the lesson as they wended their way to the church. The story of Moses among the bulrushes was the lesson topic for the day, and the aunt proceeded to coach up the little man so that he could lead off in answers to questions. The picture of the infant in the basket, among the rushes, the anxiety of the mother, the watchful care of the sister, were all graphically portrayed, and then the aunt said: "Now, my dear, why do you suppose that loving mother put that poor little baby down there in the water, and left him so long all alone?" This was a poser, but with a spirit of the true young American, Charlie was soon ready with an answer. Looking up confidently into his teacher's face he said: "Well, I thpect she put him there to thoak." (soak). On another occasion, this same young hopeful shocked his mother by the use of profane language which had

been taught him by laborers at work near his home. In a long and earnest conversation, she tried to impress upon his tender heart the sinfulness of such words, dwelling especially upon the wickedness of breaking the 3rd commandment. The little fellow seemed greatly affected, and promised most solemnly that he never again would indulge in such language. Soon afterwards he came to her for assistance in putting on his overcoat. While pulling it on his hand unfortunately caught in the lining of the sleeve, and he muttered, "oh, the dev--" but cutting the word short in the middle, he added. "There, mama, came pretty near saying the devil and if I had, I should've taken the name of the Lord my God in vain, shouldn't I?"

Fritz and Nell one day petitioned their mother to let them have a tea-party on their little table, with toy dishes. She consented, but as lunch time was approaching, gave them a very small allowance of refreshments. Vain were their appeals for more, and so they reluctantly seated themselves at the extremely frugal repast. Nell said to Fritz, "Please ask the blessing." Fritz sat looking mournfully over the scant supplies, and said nothing. Again his sister said, a little more imperatively, "Fritz, ask the blessing." Still no response. Looking savagely at him, and stamping her foot, she reiterated, "Fritz, darn you, ask the blessing." He started, and casting a final scornful glance at the table, closed his eyes and murmured "Oh god, help us to eat these little scraps. Amen."

Another boy, after accompanying his parents to church went with the congregation to a stream near the church where several persons, among them a woman, were immersed. The clergyman who officiated saw the little chap that afternoon, and questioned him as to what he had seen that morning. He described several things, but carefully avoided reference to the baptism. Finally the minister, who was determined to know what impression the ordinance had produced on the mind of the youthful observer said "But what did you see it the creek?" "Well, if you must know, I seed you take a woman swimmin."

Anonymous