

No. 75.

1 SERIES.

# SUSAN SMITH:

OR,

## THE COUNTRY S. S. GIRL.

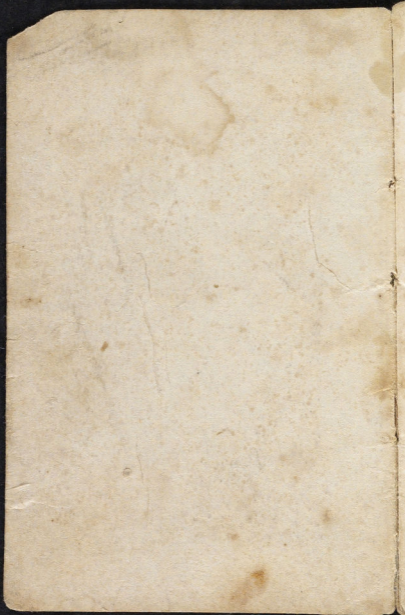


PHILADELPHIA:

American Sunday School Union,  
13 NORTH FOURTH STREET.

1826.

Stereotyped by L. Johnson.

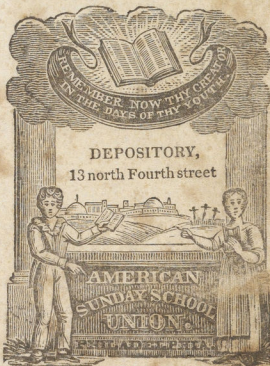


SUSAN SMITH;

*Additive Master*

OR, THE

COUNTRY SUNDAY SCHOOL GIRL.





SUSAN SMITH;  
OR, THE  
COUNTRY SUNDAY SCHOOL GIRL.

---

DURING the last summer I had an opportunity of retiring from town to a distant part of the country, and whilst I was there I generally arose very soon in the morning, and walked out to enjoy the beauties of nature; and to admire the goodness of God. One Sabbath morning I was taking a walk with a bible as my only companion, and was employed alternately in beholding the dawning sun, and in contemplating the superior glories of him who is called the "Sun of Righteousness." Thus engaged, I wandered to a considerable distance, beguiled by the beauties of the scene, and the interesting subject of my thoughts, till my attention was aroused by the sound of a female voice, sweetly singing a tune which I thought I had heard before. Upon looking over a fence, which separated me from the person who was singing, I was surprised to see a

girl who seemed about twelve years old, walking with a little book in one hand, and a bag in the other; her rosy cheek, her lively eye, and her sweet voice, so pleased me, that I walked along till we came to a gate, where we suddenly met each other. She seemed very much confused at this unexpected meeting, and blushing, hung down her head and courtesied.

There was something so interesting in the appearance of this little girl, that I resolved to go across the fields, and to enter into conversation with her. As we became more acquainted, she was less timid, and told me of several little circumstances respecting herself, which afforded me pleasure, and some of which I shall relate. I asked her to let me look at the book she had in her hand, thinking it might be a song book or something of the kind; but how much was I surprised and delighted, to read the following words written on the cover, in a beautiful hand:

“This little book is given to Susan Smith, for regular attendance, constant good behaviour, and great improvement in the Sunday School, by her affectionate Teacher,  
**MARTHA FIELD.**”

I said to her, “My dear, I am glad to see

you have had this good book given you as a reward, that you are fond of singing its hymns, and that you love your teacher.”

“O yes, Sir, I do, I do, (replied she) Miss Field is so kind; you don't know how good, Sir; she taught me to read, and to sing, and gave me this nice book with all its sweet, sweet hymns. Once I used to spend my Sundays in running about the common, and playing, till Mr. Field set up the Sunday School; but now I like to rise early on the Sabbath, to give praises to God Almighty, along with the larks and the birds who sing so prettily as the sun rises behind the hill, and shines upon our house between the trees yonder.”

What, do you live so far off as that, (said I) and how far are you going to your school?”

“About two miles further, Sir, and this field is about half way; but I don't mind the distance, for I can't sleep on the Sunday morning, for thinking of my teacher, and longing to be at school. Having my clothes all ready on Saturday. I get up about five o'clock on the Sabbath, and then read a chapter, say my prayers, and look over my catechism, hymns, and lessons. Then I have my breakfast, and having put some bread and cheese into this bag for dinner, I set off for school soon after

six o'clock; and I often please, and, I hope, do myself good, by singing as I go. Or, if I am silent, I pray with my heart, that our Father who is in Heaven would bless our dear teachers for being so good to the poor children, and Miss Field tells us, that God will hear the prayers of little children, and the first hymn in this little book says,

“The eternal God will not disdain  
To hear an infant sing.”

“Isn't this true, Sir?” “Yes, my dear, and I am very glad that you love to pray and to praise; for no child can be truly good who does not delight in prayer, nor can any one expect to join in the songs of heaven, who dislikes to praise God on earth. But how do you spend your time at school?”

“You must know, Sir, that our school is held in a large school house; I generally get there a little before eight, where I meet many school-fellows about my own age, and we are all very glad to see each other again in health and happiness; for one of the girls in our class caught cold and died last winter.

“At eight o'clock, the three Miss Fields and their three brothers, come into the school, then we sing a hymn, and one of the young gentlemen prays with us. After this, the children go to their different teachers,



till the time comes for church; when we march out, and often sing as we are going across the fields.

“In the afternoon we meet again, and before we part, one of the young gentlemen speaks a few words to us, and when he tells us about Jesus Christ, I find the tears come into my eyes, almost without knowing it, to think that he should show such love to those who deserved his anger. Then we sing a hymn, and always end the service by prayer.

“When this is done I go home, and I am sure I have plenty to think on by myself, as I am walking; and when I am at my father’s house, I tell my parents, and brothers and sisters, of all the good things I have heard, and go to bed blessing God for all his mercies, and rejoicing in the Sabbath as the happiest day of the week.”

“Well, Susan Smith, and what do you work at in the week?” “Why Sir, I nurse my little sister, and take care of my two young brothers, and mend their clothes; I feed our chickens, and work in the garden.”

“But how, Susan, do you find time to learn, having so many things to do, and so much work in the week?” “Why Sir, I get up early in the morning, and generally

keep my book in my pocket, that when I have a few spare minutes, I may learn a little, a verse, or an answer of Catechism, and when I am nursing my little sister, I say these over to myself, or sing a verse or two, and this keeps them fresh in my mind. I also try to teach my brothers, and this fixes these good things in my memory."

"There are many good plans, my little girl, and I often find in my Sunday School, that those good children who work hardest, learn the most; while lazy children, who have a great deal of spare time, learn hardly any thing. 'Tis a mercy that God Almighty has given us so much work to do, that he might keep us from being idle and wicked, and if all people would improve to the utmost, the advantages they now have, instead of grumbling at their present situation, it would be a great deal better for them and for others.—Godliness, with contentment, is great gain."

On looking at my watch, I perceived the time was fast advancing, and having rambled to a considerable distance, I was obliged to part with Susan Smith. I then gave her a few little books which I had in my pocket, and promised that I would send her some more when I returned to town.

✓

A LARGE ASSORTMENT

OR

# Children's Books,

Published and for Sale by the AMERICAN SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION at their Depository, No. 13 North Fourth Street, Philadelphia, among which are the following:

No.		per hundred
26.	<i>Original Hymns</i>	\$3 75
24.	<i>Watts's Divine and Moral Songs</i>	3 75
25.	<i>Hymns in Sheets</i>	2 00
30.	<i>Bible Catechism</i>	5 00
31.	<i>The Shorter Catechism</i>	2 50
32.	<i>The Catechism of the Protestant Episcopal Church</i>	1 33
33.	<i>The Baptist Catechism</i>	2 50
34.	<i>The Methodist Catechism</i>	2 50
35.	<i>Dr. Watts's First Catechism</i>	1 00

Discount of 25 per cent. to Auxiliary Societies.