

- 1745 **Now I Understand!** Arline Walker Evans
- 1748 **Lessons from the Sun** Paul R. Carmack
- 1751 **We're Not Here to Condemn!** Edwin G. LEEVER
- 1754 **God's Motherhood and "Mom"** Sylvia Dick Karas
- 1757 **Leadership** (Poem) Maxine Le Pelley
- 1758 **How Do You Counsel Others?** Shirley Selby
- 1760 **Crime Has No Victim** June McCleneghan Fowler
- 1763 **Reclothed** (Poem) Ethel R. Rethman

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

- 1764 **The Train Trip** Diana Fagen Johnson

EDITORIALS

- 1767 **The Mind That I**
- 1769 **Respecting Anir**

TESTIMONIES

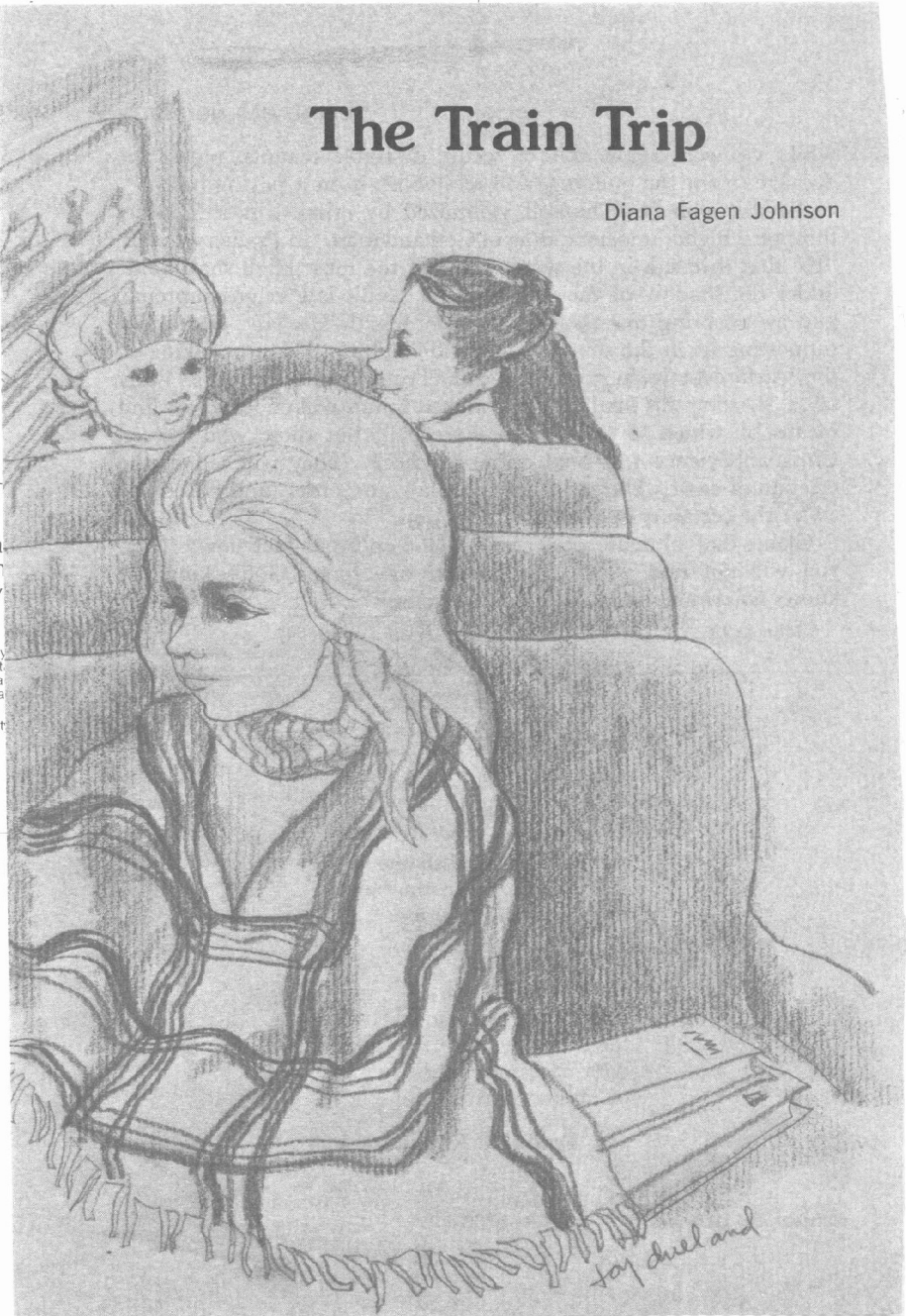
- 1773 **Testimonies of C**
- 1782 **Words of Curren**
- 1783 **Christian Scienc**
- 1788 **A New Leaflet**
- 1788 **Letters to the P**

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#### THE TRAIN TRIP

Donna went to school every day by train. Each morning she would wait at the railway station, her ten-ride ticket tucked safely in her purse and her books in her arms.

It was fun to board the train and see her friends wave and pull over one of the double seats so everyone could sit together.

"Tickets, please," the conductor called out. Donna gave him her ticket, then settled back comfortably to look out of the window. As she watched the houses and streets whiz by, the smoke from the engine floated past the train window and clouded the sunny morning scene outside, but only for a moment. Fresh gusts of wind soon blew away the smoke.

Sandra and Jan were sitting together just across from Donna as usual. They were in Donna's fifth grade class and lived near each other in the same town farther down the line. Donna didn't realize it, but Jan had been feeling very unhappy lately about Sandra and Donna becoming such good friends. In fact, Jan was getting more and more jealous of Donna every day. That afternoon Jan decided to teach Donna a lesson, a lesson she wouldn't soon forget!

When school was over that day, the girls boarded the train to come home. As Donna got on, she noticed at once that something was wrong—very wrong. Jan, Sandra, and the other girls had turned one seat back as before, but they were whispering together and laughing. Jan had been very busy that day persuading the other girls to tease Donna and leave her out of the group. "Don't sit here, Donna," said Jan. "We don't like you anymore."

Puzzled and startled, Donna sat alone several seats away. She looked out of the window and told herself she didn't care what they did. "It doesn't matter anyway," she thought. A short whistle blast from the engine signaled her stop. It seemed the longest ride she had ever had, although it lasted only five minutes.

When she got home, Donna burst into tears. Her mother asked, "What is it, Donna? What's happened?"

"The girls don't like me," Donna sobbed. "Jan told them not to sit with me on the train, and I can't go to school or ride on the train with them anymore."

Mother put her arm around Donna. "Nonsense, they'll forget all about it tomorrow. You'll see."

#### CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SENTINEL

But the next day the girls were still playing their unfriendly game. To Donna it seemed as if everything was dark. The sunniness had gone out of her days. She felt as if she had no friends at all. At home she cried and cried, and her mother didn't know what to do.

Donna had experienced healings in Christian Science, but they had all been healings of sickness. She hadn't yet realized that Christian Science can solve all troubles. The next Sunday she didn't even think of telling her Sunday School teacher about the problem. On the way home in the car Donna thought, "Tomorrow is Monday, and I'll have to see the girls again. There just has to be an answer, some help for me."

Donna was in her room for a while after dinner. She remembered how happy everything had once been at school. Then something happened. One minute everything seemed dark and hopeless, and the next minute she had an idea. It had to do with the Lord's Prayer. At Sunday School Donna had learned this prayer of Christ Jesus and Mrs. Eddy's spiritual interpretation of the prayer in *Science and Health*.

She thought over the first line, "Our Father which art in heaven,"<sup>1</sup> and then remembered the spiritual interpretation of that line, "*Our Father-Mother God, all-harmonious.*"<sup>2</sup> She, Jan, and Sandra all had the same Father-Mother. They were God's children, living happily together in God all the time. But the special message for Donna was:

"And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
*And Love is reflected in love.*"<sup>3</sup>

Donna now saw clearly that *she* must first express more of God's love to Jan and the others. She would be loving to everyone no matter what had happened.

The next day, how hard she worked to be loving! She picked Jan first to be on her spelling bee team—to Jan's great surprise. She saved Jan a seat in the reading circle as she had done for Sandra many times before, and she even asked Jan over to her house to play after school. That was the end of the problem. It didn't have a chance to survive, because of the spiritual love Donna was expressing.

Donna understood why it is that all of God's children are friends.

<sup>1</sup> Matt. 6:9; <sup>2</sup> *Science and Health*, p. 16; <sup>3</sup> *ibid.*, p. 17.