

The appeal seemed so reasonable, and the manner of the captain so kind and prepossessing, that a general burst from the ship's company answered, "We will, sir!"

DO YOU LOVE THE BIBLE?

Dear children, do you love the Bible? It is the best book. It is the book of books. It is the book of God.

Are you fond of history? There is no history so wonderful as that which it records. Do you delight to read beautiful stories? There are no stories so beautiful and affecting as the stories of the Bible. Are you fond of sweet hymns and poems? There is no poetry so sublime as that which is to be found in the sacred page. Would you be made truly wise? There is no wisdom like that which is contained in the word of God. Do you wish to be made happy? The Bible alone can teach you the way of happiness.

And, dear children, is not the Bible a letter from heaven—a letter from God to you—a letter of mercy and love? And then, surely you will receive the Bible thankfully, surely you will love it greatly, surely you will read it daily.

Good children in every age have been fond of the Bible.

Here is an illustration from the Bible. A king is seated on his throne. An old man, halting like a person one of whose limbs had shrunk a little, enters into the apartment. There is a younger man with him, who leads the old patriarch forward to the king with a great deal of tenderness. The king speaks as if he were putting a question, and there is an air of wonder on his face. The old man, after saying something to the king, lifts up his hands, and appears uttering a prayer to God. Who were the three persons present in this scene?

Dear children, what little of solid happiness and sound virtue we have, we owe it to the Bible. The less men live according to the Bible, the less you can trust them, and the less happy they are. Then, dear children, despise not its teachings, for God has revealed them even for babes.

And dear children, do not think worldly pleasures will give you happiness; read your Bible and you will see that to love the Lord thy God, with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and thy neighbour as thyself, is true happiness.

Who was it that knew the Scriptures from a child?—*Selected.*