

### Little Peter.

There was once in France a poor boy, who was called "Little Peter." He was an orphan, and begged his bread from door to door. He sang very prettily, and people seldom sent him away empty handed. It was an idle and uncomfortable life which he led, but Peter had no one to care for him, and he did not know what else to do. He had the singular custom of saying on every occasion, "It comes from above." I will tell you why.

When his father was on his death-bed—if, indeed, he had a bed, for he was very poor—he said to his son, "My dear Peter, you will now be left alone, and many troubles you will have in the world. But always remember, that all comes from above; then you will find it easy to bear everything with patience."

Little Peter understood him, and in order not to forget the words, he often thought them aloud. He acknowledged every gift with the words, "It comes from above." As he grew up, he used to consider what the expression meant. He was intelligent to see, that as God rules the world, we may well believe of everything that happens in the way of his Providence, "It comes from above."

This faith of Little Peter frequently turned out for his benefit. Once, as he was passing through the town, a sudden wind blew off a roof-tile, which fell on his shoulder, and struck him to the ground. His first words were, "It comes from above." The by-standers laughed, and thought he must be out of his senses, for of course it could not fall from below; but they did not understand him. A minute after, the wind tore off an entire roof in the same street, which crushed three men to death. Had Little Peter gone on, he would probably have been at that moment just where the roof fell.

Another time, a distinguished gentleman employed him to carry a letter to a neighboring town, bidding him to make all haste. On his way he tried

to spring over a ditch, but it was so wide that he fell in, and was nearly drowned. The letter was lost in the mud, and could not be recovered. The gentleman was very angry when Little Peter told him of his misfortune, and drove him out of doors with his whip. "It comes from above," said Peter, as he stood on the steps. The next day the gentleman sent for him. "See here," said he, "there are two half-crowns for tumbling into the ditch. Circumstances have so changed on a sudden, that it would have been a misfortune to me, had that letter gone safely."

I could tell you much more about Peter. When he had become a great boy, he was still called, "Little Peter." A rich gentleman who came into the town having heard his story, sent for him, in order to give him something. When Little Peter entered the room, the Englishman said, "What think you, Peter; why have I sent for you?" "It comes from above," replied Peter. This answer greatly pleased the gentleman. After thinking a while, he said, "You are right; I will take you into my service, and provide well for you. Well you agree to that?" "It comes from above," answered Peter; "God is very good to me: I will gladly go with you."

So the rich Englishman took him away. It was a good thing for the poor boy, who had been taught no trade. Long afterwards, we learned that when his master died, he left him a large sum of money to carry on his business; and that "Little Peter" was then a wealthy man in Birmingham. But he still said, of every occurrence, "It comes from above."—*Dr. Barñ.*

### The Benefit of Afflictions

These are counsellors

That feeling persuade me what I am;  
Sweet are the uses of adversity,  
Which, like the toad, ugly and venomous,  
Wears yet a precious jewel in his head.