

...said, "and I couldn't see him a week, and he died when I were one night, and we couldn't see him say good-bye. Don't take me, sir; let me be with him; I'll have!"

So Jack was taken to a room such as he had never entered in his life before. The minister was poor enough himself. He had just managed to save enough out of his scanty stipend to hire rooms a little better than those in which he lived at present, which were in a noisy thoroughfare, and looked out on a tan-yard. But he set aside the idea at once when he heard the woman speak. She must be with her child to the last. So he laid the little mangled form gently on a soft bed in one of the better class of lodgings, and went out to get a doctor, leaving them together.

For the greater part of the time Jack was unconscious. The fever ran high, and he talked incessantly. Sometimes he fancied he was selling violets, and would say piteously in his little broken voice, "Please, lady, buy; oh, do buy! mother and me haint nothing to eat!" At other times he would think that he was shivering in the keen east wind, although there was a warm fire burning in the grate. "Aint you a little bit of shawl for me, mother? Why do them people in that window have such a blazin' fire, and we be out here in the cold?" For Jack was always of an inquiring turn of mind, even in delirium.

But most frequently his mind would run on the one great subject which had occupied it before the accident. "If only we could see him, so beautiful and kind. He'd take care of us, and we'd never be unhappy any more if we got to him. Never hungry, never thirsty, never no more pain." And his voice sank away faintly.

The minister came often to see them both, but he never, save once, found Jack conscious. He was standing one day by the bed-side watching the child, when suddenly Jack opened his eyes, with a ray of recognition in them. His face grew pinched and eager with the desire to make himself understood. He reached up his little hand, and pulled the minister down to him. "The King," he said, excitedly, the beautiful King—where the big gates—ain't shut—can't us get to un?" But before the clergyman had time to speak Jack's mind had wandered again. Long ago the woman had told him the story of the Sunday evening in January, and patiently, at the very beginning, he had explained to her the meaning of his sermon.

Late one afternoon, when the sleet fell in splashes against the window, and the wind was moaning round the house, Jack's mother sat beside his bed. It was getting dark, and the firelight played in fitful gleams about the room.

Suddenly Jack woke. For an instant he turned his eyes on his mother, then he fixed them eagerly, intently on the "glimmering square" of the window which was every moment becoming more and more a vacant place of darkness; but it was no darkness to Jack.

As he gazed, his eyes grew brilliant, and a wonderful radiant smile broke all over his little wan face. "It is!" he cried, "It is! O, mother, pearl and amethysts—and the gates aint shut, and—suddenly he sprang up in bed—"the King, the King, the King!" he almost shouted. Then all at once he fell back on the pillow.

So Jack did see the King in His beauty at last. Straight out he went from his fever and his bitter torment into the beautiful city; where there is no more suffering, and the King himself showed him the way.

Never hungry, never thirsty, never cold, never in misery any more. And the minister coming in later, found the woman on her knees beside the bed trying to comfort herself with the child's own word. "Never no more pain," she was sobbing low to herself,—"Never no more pain," while on the bed lay little Jack with the same rapturous white smile upon his face with which he had gone out to meet the King.

The minister bent over the child and his eyes were dim. "And Jesus called a little child unto Him," he said, softly.—*Quiver.*

SUNDAY OPENING OF MUSEUMS.—The question of the Sunday opening of museums was discussed for several hours at a recent meeting of the fellows of Sion College. A resolution was proposed by the Rev. Septimus Hansard, rector of Bethnal-green, and seconded by the Rev. John Oakley, vicar of St. Saviour's. Hoxton, in favour of the opening of public museums and galleries on Sunday afternoons. An amendment was moved by the Rev. J. Bardsley, rector of Stepney, and seconded by the Rev. F. G. Blomfield, rector of St. Andrew Undershaft, recognizing both the religious ground of observance and the just claims of the working classes to one day in seven for rest, worship and religious instruction, and also expressing an opinion that the welfare of the working classes would not be promoted so much by removing any of the existing restrictions as by the better adaptation of religious ministrations to their requirements. The original resolution was lost by a majority of 29 to 6, and the amendment carried by 28 to 5.

BISHOP FRASER ON MR. GLADSTONE'S SPEECH.—The Bishop of Manchester, speaking at a meeting of railway servants at Oldham on Friday, referred to Mr. Gladstone's speech at Birmingham. The bishop said he was glad to notice that this great statesman had told 30,000 Englishmen that the policy which the British nation ought to pursue was one of wisdom, justice and peace. He was glad the right hon. gentlemen had taken his text from the good old book—the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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