

Just so of the angels. They have always lived in heaven, and know how pleasant a place it is. And when any one repents, they know he will go to heaven, and be happy as they are. They have talked with good old Noah about the wicked world that was drowned in the flood, when he

“Humble, happy saint,
Surrounded with his chosen few,
Sat in the dark, secure from fear,
And sang the grace that steered him through!”

They have talked with Abraham, and Joseph, and David, and Paul, and all the happy men in heaven; and they know that they are all happy, and so they rejoice when any one repents and sets out to go to heaven.

Suppose you were to see a poor ragged boy, almost frozen with the cold, and who has no home, and no fire to warm him by, and no food to eat, and no bed to sleep on, and no friends to take care of him; now, would you not be glad to have some kind man to take that poor child in, and give him a home like yours? Yes. I know you would—I know you would, because you know what it is to have a pleasant home. Well, just so the blessed angels feel when any one repents, for they know God will take him to heaven.

Children, what would you let any one take some heavy tool and crush your finger for? For a dollar? No. For ten? No. But what would you have your arm cut off for? For a hundred dollars? No. For all the playthings in the world? No. For how much would you lose your *reason*, and be crazy? For any thing in this world? No. I know you would not. For how much would you have your eyes put out, so that you would never again see your friends, nor the beautiful light of the glorious sun? Not for all the world. But, my dear children, the man who goes to hell because he will not repent of sin, is worse off than if he were to lose his reason, or be put into the fire, and kept burning all day and all night, and a year, and ten thousand years. For he loses his soul, and has not a friend in heaven, nor any where else; and, what is more, he never will have a friend. He is “covered with shame and everlasting contempt.” The holy angels know all this, and rejoice when any sinner repents, and thus escapes the punishment of hell.

This is the first reason. Can you remember it?

2. The second reason why angels rejoice over a sinner who repents, is that *till he does repent, it is very uncertain whether he ever will.*