

Youth's Corner.

THE GOLD-MINE FOUND.

Two travellers set out on an excursion in the neighbourhood of Gastein, a bathing-place in the Austrian dominions, not far from Salzburg, on the confines of Bavaria. They were surprised to find their guide speak the German language with unusual purity. They had many questions to ask him upon the country in which they were travelling, and he answered with correctness and a degree of intelligence which they had not expected to find in a man of his state in society. They entered into a continued conversation with him, which led them to ask what his travels had been, or what kind of education he had received. It appeared that he had been no farther than the city of Salzburg, that he had always worked at the trade of a tailor, that his schooling had been no more than what was common to all the children in his village; but as to his reading—here he began to speak in rather an under-tone—there were two books which had been in his family for many, many years, and which he had read so many times, it would not be strange if they had given a peculiar character to his speaking. He seemed unwilling, at first, to give an account of them; but after stating that he would not like the matter to be mentioned among his neighbours, he related as follows:—

"When my grandfather was quite a little boy yet, there was a report that some years before, a man had been into a cave in the mountain-side, where he saw a light, and heard the groans of a spirit, which was thought to be the sign of either a treasure hidden or a gold mine to be found. Grandfather agreed with two other boys, while they were feeding their goats on the mountain, to go and examine the cave, in hopes of making a discovery by which they would certainly become very rich. They procured the end of a candle which had been blessed by the Curate of the parish, as the manner in the church of Rome is; by lighting that, they thought they would be quite safe against danger from the spirit, if they should meet him. Thus made bold, they crept in, and got quite to the other end of the cave, but found no indication of gold or other stuff to get rich by. They were on their way back, when they perceived some loose stones laid upon each other, as if to close up an entrance. They took down one after another, till to their great terror they discovered in the opening behind, the body of a man, not dressed in working apparel, but rather as if he had put on the best clothes he had; a tin jug was standing by his side, a lamp, and a bag containing two thick books. After their first fright was over, the boys snatched up a piece each of these discoveries: the strongest of them claimed the jug, the next one took the lamp for himself, and the bag with the books fell to grandfather's share.

"By the time they came out of the cave, again, it had become late; the goats had made their way home, and my grandfather was well scolded for neglecting his proper business. But when he gave an account of his adventure, and brought forth the spoil he had found in the cave, his father and mother became pale as death, and strictly enjoined upon him perfect silence; they assured him that the books were a great treasure, but that it would bring them all into serious trouble, if it became known that they had them. From that time, the books were kept in a hiding-place and only brought out when there was no danger of detection. But they were read then with the utmost eagerness, and many a time with tears and thanksgiving. One of them was the Bible, and the other Arnd's True Christianity. When my grandfather spoke of his discovery of them, he used always to say, he went to find a mine of gold, and he did find it: he sought for riches, and he became rich.

"These books have passed from father to son, and they are now the best treasure I possess. If the priest were to hear of them, there would be peace for me no longer. The time when they were discovered, was not long after the year 1685, when a persecution broke out against heretics, and some of the most obnoxious among them had to hide themselves, as best they could, from the fury of the Bishop of Salzburg who was bent upon rooting them out. It may be that one of their teachers had to take refuge in the cave and that there he died. The jug which was found with him may have contained the last refreshment that his friends could bring him; and after emptying it and eating what food they had provided, he entered into his rest. One comfort remained with him to the last: the word of God to be his refreshment and sustenance. And that has descended as a legacy to a family in whose house it has ever been a blessing; for though we have been poor and of no esteem among our neighbours, yet when discontent and strife have raged among them, we have had peace and happiness in our habitation, and God has ever provided for the necessities of our bodies, even as he has marvellously done for the wants of our immortal souls. —Truly translated from the German.

Christ has taken our nature into heaven to represent us. He has left us on earth, with his nature, to represent him.—Rev. John Newton.

PRESERVATION OF TWO CONVERTED ESQUIMAUX.

From Missionary Accounts of the Church of the United Brethren.

On the 4th of June 1821, two Esquimaux brethren, Peter and Titus, who had gone to their usual spring-place for catching seals, were carried off on a field of ice, which broke away from the firm ice on the coast. The news was brought by Conrad, who was with them when this happened. As they were all anxious to acquaint their families and relations with the misfortune that had befallen them, Conrad turned a sledge, which he had with him, into a kind of raft, by tying skins and seals' bladders to it, and contrived to paddle to the firm ice. His view was to go with a boat to help his brethren; but by the time he got back to the coast, a south-west wind had carried them so far out into the open sea, that he could not follow them.

We remained till the 13th, uncertain what the fate of these poor men might be; and cried often to the Lord to have mercy on them and their afflicted families. On the above mentioned day, we had the great joy to see them return. Their hearts and lips overflowed with thanksgiving to their Almighty Preserver; and the whole congregation joined them in shedding tears of joy and gratitude, for their wonderful escape from a watery grave.

These Esquimaux brethren have written an account of this perilous voyage; by which we see, how, in their great distress, they turned with faith and confidence to the only helper in need, and how richly they were comforted and supported, under so severe a trial. Both the size and strength of the field of ice were such, that it afforded them the means of building a snow-house upon it, about six feet in height, in which they took shelter during the night, and in rainy weather. They had caught eight seals on the day of their departure, which afforded them nourishment; though, for want of fuel, they could make no fire, but ate the meat raw, and drank the blood. In dreadful uncertainty how this voyage might end, they spent nine whole days, and were not delivered from their danger till the 13th, when they were brought safe to land. Some extracts from the account, written by themselves, are subjoined, as affording strong proof of what the grace of God can effect in the hearts of men, lately the most ignorant and the rudest among heathen nations.

Peter wrote the following: "When, on the 4th of June, we were driven off the coast, upon the field of ice, I was not much alarmed, for I did not apprehend much danger. At night, when we lay down to rest, we commended ourselves in prayer to God our Saviour, and gave up our lives into his hands, which we always continued to do.

"On the 5th, I began to feel great fears about the preservation of my life; and thinking of my poor forsaken family, I wept much. With many tears, I cried fervently to Jesus to save me. I could speak with him as if he stood by me: 'O shew mercy to me; and do thou, the only helper in need, take care of my poor family!' Then those words occurred to my mind, 'hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown;' which made me shed tears of gratitude and love to our Saviour, like a child, though at so great a distance from home. I entered our snow-house, weeping, and we both joined in calling upon Jesus for help and comfort. This we did every morning and evening.

"On the 6th, in the morning, finding ourselves carried far away from the land, into the ocean, we again looked for comfort to Jesus, and prayed to him with many tears to help us, and direct our course. We sang that verse together, 'O lift up thy countenance upon us, &c.' and those words were impressed upon my mind, 'I am the good Shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.' I felt my unworthiness deeply, and nothing but the words of Jesus could give me joy. I prayed fervently to him; that he would give his angels charge over me. I spent the whole day, in prayer, and as I walked about alone, several parts of Scripture occurred to me, especially the account of our Saviour's being taken captive. The prayer he offered up for his disciples (John xvii.) was peculiarly precious to me, and gave me great comfort. Frequently I felt joy in my heart, on remembering our Saviour's words, that he said to his disciples, 'Receive ye the Holy Ghost!'

"On the 7th, the fog was so thick, that we could not see whither we were driven. I cried to Jesus; O help me; and his words came sweetly into my mind: 'Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart.' Then I felt comforted.

"On the 8th, 9th, and 10th, we could see nothing on account of the fog. I wept, and longed only to enjoy the boundless love of Jesus. I remembered how the apostle Peter was frightened in the storm, and was comforted by our Saviour. Thus, also, he comforted us in our dreadful state. I cried continually to him to bring us again to the shore, for the thought of my poor bereaved family caused many tears to flow from my eyes; but I felt confident that they were under the care of

our Saviour. I remembered St. Paul's shipwreck, and how for many days he saw neither sun nor stars, and was delivered. At another time, the poor thief's cry to Jesus on the cross, 'Lord! remember me, when thou comest into thy kingdom'; and again, St. Peter's deliverance from prison, when an angel came and said to him, 'follow me; proved a comfort to me. Thus I also hoped we should be brought out of the great ocean, back to the land. Once I called to mind the story of the Prefigural Son, who had spent all his living, and said, 'My father's servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger; I will arise and go to my father, &c. This I felt to be my case, and that I was as unworthy to be received.

"On the 11th, when we saw land through the fog, we wept for joy, for it was clear to us, that we were guided by the hand of our Saviour; we were still surrounded by broken pieces of floating ice. On the 12th, in the morning, we again saw the land before us; but as we could not trust the fragments of drift ice, we remained upon our large field, and returning into our snow-house, felt comforted in prayer. Having examined more fully whether the drift ice lay close together, it appeared, towards evening, as if we were approaching the firm ice. But just as we were again entering our house, our ice-field sustained a terrible shock, and a large portion of it broke off. We now left it, being convinced that the Lord would direct us. In passing over the drift ice, whenever we were in danger, I cried to Jesus, and he provided a way for us till we were in safety.

"On the 13th, in the morning, we arrived among our own people, thankful to our Saviour for this wonderful preservation, nor shall I ever in my life forget it. PETER."

Titus wrote thus: "When, on the second day, being June 5th, we knew not whither we were going, I cried out of my inmost soul to Jesus, that he would cleanse me from all my sins. On the 6th, we were carried forward very fast by a strong wind. With many tears I prayed to him, that he would not suffer me to perish in the sea, as the thought of my poor destitute relations greatly distressed my mind. I was filled with shame and repentance, thinking of my depravity, my sins and unfaithfulness.

"On the 7th, in the morning, we prayed without ceasing to Jesus. I thought of his pierced feet and outstretched hands as he hung upon the cross; and could represent him to my mind, as he was tormented for my sins; and when I examined myself, I became quite heavy, thinking of my frequent transgressions, my unsteady walk, my evil propensities, levity, and disobedience. Then I besought our Saviour, that he would cast all these my sins into the depths of the sea. On the 8th, in the morning, I cried fervently to him: 'help me, O Jesus! I wish not to be buried in the ocean! O Jesus, save me, though I am a great sinner!' As I was thus praying, my heart was filled with such joy and comfort, that I did not know what had happened to me, and whether I should rejoice or weep.

"When we came out of our hut on the 9th, the fog was again very thick. I looked with tears to our only deliverer, and also thought much of our teachers, who have so faithfully taught us the way of salvation. Why have I been so often disobedient? I ought to have been more obedient to my teachers! On the morning of the 10th, while my companion was walking about on the ice, I knelt down and cried aloud, and with great earnestness, for help, to Jesus. When, on the 11th, we saw the land, my heart was filled with joy and thankfulness. On the 12th, our ice-field struck against a rock, upon which we left it, and with fervent prayer to be preserved, walked upon the broken drift ice to the land.

"On the 13th, we were delivered from all danger, therefore I likewise bring most humble thanks to Jesus. Yes, indeed, I am thankful to Jesus! Jesus is worthy of thanks! Titus."

A COUNTRY'S HOPE.

To visit a large city and look at its beautiful buildings, columns, and porticos, is very pleasant; but hope for my country is much rather raised by seeing a plain, little school-house at every cross-road as I travel through the length and breadth of the land. I delight exceedingly in seeing the march and parade of troops, and hearing their warlike music; but hope for my country is much rather raised when I see the roads to the school-houses thronged with children; nodding and curtsying at the traveller as he passes; and when I hear their voices singing simple hymns of praise to God and love to one another. I should like very well to ride in a fine carriage, with servants behind, and every body waiting to know my pleasure; but for my country's hope I would much rather be the hardest working man in it, serving my customers, but helping to make the best provision for the training up of our children, that they may learn to love God who has made them, his Son who has redeemed them, and the divine Spirit who is able to sanctify them; to yield dutiful obedience to their country's laws, and to practice good will towards all their neighbours.

Carnal joys produce sorrows, but spiritual sorrows produce joys. In this life the glory of heaven is but revealed to us; but in the life to come it shall be revealed in us. Omission of good is a commission of evil.

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Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and they are they which testify of me.—JOHN i. 30.

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