

## JESUS LEARNING.

"They found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors both hearing and asking them questions." Luke ii. 45.

It was the blessed Jesus, the only son of God, our Lord and Saviour, whom they found.

It was Mary his mother, with Joseph the carpenter, to whom she was espoused, who found him.

He was at that time twelve years old. Where, if we had been sent to seek, might we so reasonably expect to find him as in the house of God—in the company of learned and religious men—and talking with them about the meaning of the laws of God?

The customs of the nations who live in the East are in general very different from ours. Among us, when wise men meet together, they commonly shut themselves in private, and do not admit every body, much less children, to their meetings. This might make it appear strange at first, how our Saviour, when only twelve years old, could gain admittance to the company of "the doctors," that is, wise and learned teachers of religion. But it is not so in the East. There, the most aged and honorable men of a city meet together in some public place, where every one may go and find them, and ask their advice, or hear their teaching. Sometimes their place of meeting is an open space near to the gates in the wall with which their cities are surrounded. Then they are said "to sit in the gate." Sometimes it was, in Judea, in the synagogues, where the people met to worship God on the Sabbath, as we do on the Lord's day in our Churches. Just so, now, the Mahomedans meet in the courts of their mosques, which are the places where they worship.

The Jews were as fond of this custom as any of the Eastern nations. But, as God had blessed them with the true knowledge of him, and with his word in the writings of Moses and the prophets, their wise men had something better to fill their mind than mere worldly wisdom. When they met together, they used to explain the commandments of the law and the meaning of hard passages in the word of God, and the difficult parts of their religion. The young people were allowed and encouraged to hear them. They "sat at the feet" of the old men, and drank in their instructions with eager and willing minds. This was what our blessed Saviour did, while he was yet a child, when his mother and Joseph found him in the temple.

Little reader! we are commanded to copy the example of the Son of God. Do you, like him, rejoice in using the means of becoming wise and good which God has given you? When he was missing he was found in the house of God, learning his will. Would such be the case with you? When the angels of God who watch over you, give their report of the little charge, can they say that you have been "in the temple both hearing and asking questions" of those whom God has sent to lead you in the ways of truth and holiness, and train you up for glory and immortality?—*Children's Magazine.* E.

FOR THE CHRISTIAN SENTINEL.

## ORIGINAL.

## THE HARMONY OF THE CREATION.

"Nor rural sights alone, but rural sounds  
"Exhilarate the spirit, and restore  
"The tone of languid nature."

COWPER.

Who hath not heard with raptur'd ear  
The Lark's shrill matin echoing clear,  
While grove and meadow, far and near,  
Resound with tuneful melody?

How sweet, how full the blackbird's note  
Seems on the morning gale to float,  
While many a warbler strains his throat,  
To aid the cheerful harmony!

When at fierce noon the sun rides high,  
How sweet on rivers bank to lie,  
Safe shelter'd from a cloudless sky,  
Some shady tree for canopy!

There listen to the murmuring stream,  
Like one entranced in moody dream:  
Then mark on distant sail the beam,  
Of sun-shine glistening cheerfully  
And oh! what tuneful notes resound,  
What heavenly music all around,  
When, reach'd his daily journey's bound,  
Bright Phœbus sets resplendently!

Oft have I loiter'd on my way,  
While choristers on every spray,  
Sang Vespers to the closing day,  
And vied in sweetest symphony!

Is there, whose sensual, grovelling mind  
By taste, by virtue unrefined,  
Can hear this melody combin'd,  
And not enjoy such minstrelsy.

In vain to him returning spring  
Bids flow'rets blow, or songsters sing;  
Their charms no heartfelt raptures bring,  
Nor wake to mental ecstasy.  
Not so the man divinely taught,  
His soul with nobler feelings fraught,  
Ascends on wings of heavenly thought,  
To God—the source of harmony.

In all the music of the grove,  
He hears a song of joy and love,  
Praising the name of Him above,  
The one eternal Deity.

## METRICAL PARAPHRASE

ON THE COLLECT FOR THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.

O God our refuge and strength, who art the author of all godliness; Be ready we beseech thee, to hear the devout prayers of thy Church: and grant that those things which we ask faithfully we may obtain effectually; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O God in whom we refuge find  
When storms and tempests rise,  
Whose goodness oft against our foes  
All needful strength supplies.

To Thee we owe each virtuous deed,  
Each holy good desire:  
In vain shall man without thy grace  
To Godliness aspire.

Oft as thy Church devoutly prays  
Before thy awful throne,  
Thy ready ear, O God, incline  
And make thy favour known.

Yes! Grant that all we ask with faith  
In humble fervent strain,  
May with thy blessed will accord  
And all our wish obtain.

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