



THE YOUNG EMIGRANTS.

THE CHILDREN OF THE LORD.

BY MATTIE DYER BRITTS.

A GREAT ship was about to set sail for America, from a foreign port. Passengers were hurrying to and fro, either embarking or taking leave of those who were going away, porters staggering under huge loads of baggage, and sailors everywhere, hauling away at the ropes and cordage, and making all taut and trim for the voyage.

Among the passengers was a lady who had been abroad for her health, and was now returning to her native land. She was quietly walking about, while her husband attended to certain formalities for making her voyage pleasant; a little bird flying and hopping on the canvas covering of one of the boats attracted her attention, and when he flew off to the shrouds and rigging, the lady followed, keeping him in sight, anxious to discover whether or not he meant to start on the long journey with them.

But presently she forgot the tiny bird in a sight far more interesting. Almost under the shadow of the deck house stood a pile of luggage, the lowest piece of which was an old-fashioned chest, securely locked and corded, upon which sat two little children.

The oldest was a bright eyed, manly boy, and the other a sweet little girl of eight or nine years. Both were plainly dressed, but perfectly neat and clean. The boy stood with his arm around his little sister's neck, as if to be her protector, and both looked so innocent and forlorn, that the kind lady stopped and asked them where their friends were.

The two little things shook their heads, and made no answer, when the good lady, judging that they had not

understood her, addressed them in the German tongue, with which she was familiar. Instantly the childish faces began to brighten, and the boy replied to her eagerly. She learned that they were going on the long voyage alone, hoping to find friends in the land of America. The boy took from his pocket a well worn German Testament, and opening it to the fly-leaf, the lady read these words: "When my father and mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up." And underneath was added, in the same hand: "These children, Johann and Gretchen Schrimmer, have lost both father and mother. Their old grandmother, feeling that she has not much longer to stay in this world, sends them to the home of the free, in the care of the good Lord, asking any of his friends who may meet them to be kind to the orphans, for his sake. And may the blessing of the old woman rest upon any such forever."

The writing had this signature, "Barbara Schrimmer, aged eighty-one."

The lady who read these touching words of faith was an ardent Christian, always ready to do the Master's work. Perhaps it was by his special will the little Testament fell first into her hands. She at once showed it to her husband, and they agreed together that the little German orphans should be their own charge while they were at sea. From the captain they learned that their passage money had been paid to New York by the grandmother. Further than that, she had, indeed, left them to the Lord. Her faith and trust were not disappointed. By the time the ship reached the American shore, the lady and her husband had grown too attached to the children to wish to part with them. They

adopted them into their own family, and there they are growing up, intelligent, Christian young people.

Verily, the promise was made good. "when father and mother forsook them, the Lord took them up."

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

STUDIES IN ISAIAH, JEREMIAH, AND EZEKIEL.

B.C. 585.] LESSON XI. [March 13.

PROMISE OF A NEW HEART.

Ezek. 36. 25-38. Mem. verses, 25 27

GOLDEN TEXT.

A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you.—Ezek. 36. 26.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

A new heart and a new life are the need and the hope of the world.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.

Then—When God would restore Israel to their own land. *Clean water*—As a symbol of cleansing from sin. *Filthiness*—Sin is filthy, vile, unclean. *All your idols*—After their return, the Israelites never again fell into idolatry. *A new heart*—The heart is the centre and source of life, sending the life blood to every part of the body. New heart here is a new disposition, new character, new love. *Stony heart*—A sinful heart is cold, hard, and dead, like a stone. *My Spirit*—The Holy Spirit; fulfilled at Pentecost and ever since. The source of life. *Judgments*—Laws. Things God judges to be right. *Save you, etc.*—He repeats that only by being saved from sin can they enjoy their land. *Remember your own evil ways*—God's goodness and love will make them to see the vileness of their sins. *Loathe yourselves*—Sin is not merely wicked—it is vile, loathsome, hateful. *Not for your sakes*—Not because you deserve it. Salvation is God's free gift. *As the holy flock*—The inhabitants shall be many, like the sacred flocks driven in great numbers to the sacrifice of the passover.

The fulfilment of these prophecies was partly on the return from exile; still more when Christ came, and the complete fulfilment will be in the new Jerusalem and the redeemed world.

Find in this lesson—

The way to be saved.
A very great blessing.
A proof of God's forgiving love.

REVIEW EXERCISE.

1. Who was Ezekiel? "A prophet of Judah, carried captive to Babylonia, B.C. 598." 2. When did he prophesy? "For twenty-two years B.C. 593-571, just before and after the destruction of Jerusalem." 3. What did God promise the exiles? "That they should be restored to their land and be prospered." 4. On what condition? "That they should forsake their sins and receive a new heart and a new spirit."

CATECHISM QUESTION.

12. What is faith in Jesus Christ?

Faith in Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive him, trust in him, and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the Gospel.

John 1. 12; Galatians 2. 20; Philipians 3. 9.

LOOKING UNTO JESUS.

BY FRANCES RIDLEY HAVERGAL.

THERE was a poor man in Ireland who listened for the first time to the story you know so well, of how the Lord Jesus came to save us, and of his exceeding great love. And, instead of waiting to hear it over and over again, as some of you do, he believed it at once and said, "Glory be to God!" And then, with his ragged hat off, he went to the preacher and said, "Thank you, sir; you have taken the hunger off us to-day." You see it came true,

what Jesus said so long ago—"He that cometh to me shall never hunger." And it will come true for you directly you come to him; he will "take the hunger off you."

You may thank God at once if he has made you "want Jesus" at all. For it is only the Holy Spirit that ever makes any one hungry for him. I never heard a sadder answer than a young lady gave me the other day. She said, "No, I don't want Jesus; at least not yet." She wanted all sorts of other things, but not Jesus. Are any of you saying that in your hearts? Oh, what will you do without him? What will you do when the day, not of wintry snow, but of fiery terror, is come? You will want him then, when "the great day of his wrath is come," but it will be too late. Will you not pray, "Lord Jesus, make me want thee now"?

Why should you do without him?

It is not yet too late;
He has not closed the day of grace,
He has not shut the gate,
He calls you! hush! he calls you!
He would not have you go
Another step without him,
Because he loves you so.

Why will you do without him?

He calls and calls again—
"Come unto me! Come unto me!"
Oh, shall he call in vain?
He wants to have you with him;
Do you not want him too?
You cannot do without him,
And he wants—even you.

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