

tion, "greatly wondering," breathed, no doubt, in secret, her thanksgiving unto God.

That little boy is now a man of threescore years, and very earnestly does he long, as well as the writer of this narrative, that all little boys and girls may learn from it what a kind Father they have in heaven, and how graciously He listens to their prayers, when offered in sincerity in the name of Jesus.

May they often read and think of the many texts of Scripture which encourage us to pray, as well as of the many examples we have, in which the prayers of God's children, even of very young children, have received a speedy and sometimes, as in this instance, a remarkable answer.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in My name, He will give it you." These are the words of Jesus.

The Editor of the *Friendly Visitor*, in which this story appears, says: "The above interesting narrative was handed to us several years ago by a late and much-beloved minister of the Society of Friends, who said,—*'I was the little boy referred to in this story. If you think the fact will do good, make any use of it you like.'*"

### SEA-ANEMONES AND THEIR MODE OF LIFE.

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Not so very long ago, in the history of zoology, the sea-anemones and their near neighbours were accounted veritable "flowers" by naturalists. Sufficiently fixed in their nature to closely imitate plants, and of flower-like appearance in their expanded state, it was little to be wondered at that the zoologists of one hundred and fifty years or so ago, termed the anemones "sea-flowers." They were believed, moreover to be sensitive flowers, for they drew in their "petals" when they were touched. And this belief persisted until one Peysonnel by name, having demonstrated the truly animal nature of the beings which secrete the red coral, and which are nearly related to the anemones, the

latter also received a due share of attention, and their animal nature was therefore duly settled and determined.

Amidst the very many variations in form, color, and size, presented by the anemone-family, one plain type of structure is discernible in all. We can readily note in any member of the family, the cylindrical body, fixed by a base or one extremity to the rock or stone, and bearing at its opposite or free extremity the mouth, surrounded by numerous tentacles or feelers. These feelers—the "petals" of the

and soon the once-resplendent, flower-like animal becomes converted into a conical mass of jelly-like matter, looking not unlike some of the curious and wonderful fabrications one sees in a confectioner's window.

We thus note that the sea-anemone is highly sensitive to touch, and exhibits what we may conceive to correspond with symptoms of annoyance or alarm, when its natural condition is disturbed or invaded in any way. If we observed one of the higher animals exhibit such features of sensitiveness, we should natu-

by animalcules of much lower grade than the sea-anemones the same sensibility is possessed; and even in some plants—such as the curious *Dionaea*, or Venus' Fly-trap—irritability is present; yet no one has succeeded in discovering in these lower animals or in plants anything approaching to or corresponding with, the nervous system of the higher animals.

In explanation of this seeming paradox, naturalists are led to believe that some power of receiving and appreciating sensations, in the absence of a distinct nervous system, resides in the tissues of the bodies of lower animals, and of plants. This nervous property may be conceived to be present in lower organisms, equally with other powers which even the lowest of beings possess—such as the power of receiving and digesting food in cases where the entire body of the organism consists of nothing more than a minute particle of jelly-like matter, in which the highest power of our microscopes can discover no elements of structure or organs.

Returning to the more apparent features of the sea anemones, we find their bodies to be constructed on a very simple type or plan. The mouth opens in the centre of the crown of tentacles, and leads into a large stomach, which however, is like a pocket without a bottom, in that it freely communicates below with the interior of the body. The stomach is in fact a kind of tube, suspended within the body-cavity; and this open or imperfect condition of the stomach constitutes one of the principal features of the great division of the animal world to which the sea-anemones belong. It is probable that when the

anemone seizes its prey—such as some unfortunate crab or mollusc which has ventured within the grasp of the tentacles—and conveys it to the mouth and stomach, the lower and open end of the latter sac is temporarily closed whilst the food is being digested within it; and after the digestive process has terminated, the stomach is believed to open or unclose, so as to allow the nutritive matter to circulate throughout the interior of the body.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)



supposed flowers—are hollow, and are perforated at their tips. They may, indeed, be regarded as mere extensions of the interior of the body; and that they are highly sensitive and muscular, may be experimentally ascertained by touching a living sea-anemone. In such a case, the tentacles are seen to be quickly withdrawn, and folded within the mouth; the water contained within the interior of the body is ejected from the mouth, and also from the tips of the tentacles;

rally and properly assign to the nervous system the duty of bringing the animal, through its senses, into relation with the external world. But, curiously enough, when we investigate the structure of the sea-anemones, we utterly fail to discover the slightest vestige of a nervous system. In other words, the anemone exemplifies the condition of an animal which feels without, literally, having any apparent or visible nerves to feel with. We know, however, that