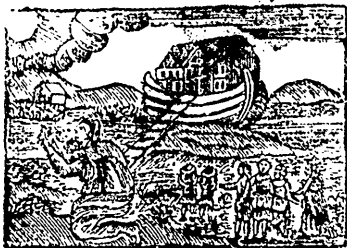


way to have a peaceful heart and be happy, is to do nothing which you deem evil, and neglect to do nothing which you esteem it your duty to perform.



OF NOAH AND THE FLOOD.

Some years after the death of Abel, Adam's son, men became numerous on the earth; they also grew so wicked that the Almighty determined to destroy them.

But there was one man who found favour in his sight, whose name was Noah; the Lord, therefore, told Noah, to build an ark, that is, a wooden house, which should float upon the waters—large enough to hold himself, his children, and such of the birds and beasts as were to be saved.

He was commanded to take some of all kinds of living things with him into the ark, and some of all food that was eaten both for himself and for them; and God declared that as a punishment for the sin of the world, He would bring a flood of waters upon the earth that should destroy every other living thing.

Noah did as he was commanded, and he was six hundred years old when he entered the ark with all his family; and as soon as they were safely shut in, the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. The rain poured down in torrents for 40 days and 40 nights, and the flood was so great, that the tops of the highest mountains were covered.

At the end of one hundred and

fifty days, it did not rain so much; and after Noah had been some time in the ark, he sent out a dove, because he thought, if the waters were gone, she would not return; but she could find no place to rest upon, and returned to him again.

In a few days, he sent the dove out once more, and she brought back a small olive branch in her mouth. By this Noah knew that the waters were partly dried up; and when he sent her out the third time, she returned to him no more. After this, the Lord told Noah to come out of the ark with his family, and all the birds, beasts and creeping things; and when they were all once more on the earth, Noah built an altar, and offered burnt offerings to that God who had so wonderfully preserved him.

And God promised Noah that he would no more destroy the earth with a flood: and He said, "This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you, and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations; I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth. And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud: and I will remember my covenant which is between me and you, and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh."

You have all, I do not doubt, seen the beautiful rainbow in the sky. It must have been a cheering sight to Noah and his family, when they had so long beheld nothing but torrents of rain, to see the clouds break, and once more to behold the bright sun after his long absence; but when, for the first time, they beheld this beautiful arch in the dark cloud, they must, indeed, have praised him who rules the storm, and owned the Lord for their God.