

Family Department.

OH, PASS ME NOT

"Jesus of Nazareth passeth by." Luke xviii: 32.

BY MARTHA A. KIDDER.

Oh, pass me not, dear Lord, though far from Thee  
Too often I have wandered. Tremblingly,  
Again to seek the narrow path I try.  
Remember not the years that have gone by!  
No longer from thy presence would I flee!  
Because I am so blind I cannot see  
How great my need of help and strength must be,  
Look on my witness, Lord, with pitying eye!

Oh, pass me not!  
Thy blood upon the cross was shed for me  
To set my spirit from its bondage free,  
And without Thee I dare not live or die!  
Thou, who dost harken to the sinner's cry,  
Now listen to my humble earnest plea!  
Oh, pass me not!

THOSE BOYS

CHAPTER IV.—I CANNOT TELL A LIE.

They went on staring for fully half a minute; then Mike went up to Ted, and put his hand on his shoulder.

"I'm going out into the garden for a bit," he said; "I've got to think about this."

Without waiting for his brother to reply, he vaulted over the low window sill and disappeared.

Poor little fellow, his first great temptation had come upon him. Would he yield to it and fall, or would he conquer it, and go on his way a braver boy than ever? Mike was naturally a brave boy; he had a great deal of physical courage, far more than Ted. But now for the first time his moral courage was being severely tested. There is a great difference between moral and physical courage. The boy who has physical courage is without bodily fear; his nerves are strong; he is not easily startled or alarmed; if taught to swim, he can swim well; if brought face to face with real danger, he will meet it without shrinking. This is a fine thing, but moral courage is a much finer thing.

Moral courage is the courage of one who is more afraid of God than man. It is the courage of one who does not mind what man thinks about him, if God is pleased with him. It is the courage of one who who fears God. What does the Bible say of this righteous fear?

"In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence."

"The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life."

"His mercy is on them that fear him."

"To you that fear my name shall the Sun of Righteousness arise with healing in his wings."

The boy who has this courage will kneel down and say his prayers in the face of a whole school. The boy who has this courage, happen what may, will dare to do right.

This greatest kind of courage is God's own special gift, and he often puts it into the heart of a very timid

little boy or girl. It is always possessed more or less by those children who have come to him to have their sins washed away in the blood of his dear Son.

Now Mike, when he went into the garden, ran very hard until he found himself in a shady walk where he could be quite alone. Then he put his hands before his face and began to think. He had for the first time in his life committed a great sin—he had disobeyed his mother—he had tried to conceal his disobedience—he had told a lie. He was frightened—his conscience was reproaching him very loudly. He had never meant to sin so deeply; he had been led on step by step, from his first careless act of forgetfulness to this last deliberate lie. Well, he had sinned! What should he do now? There were two paths before him; the path of virtue, steep and difficult; the path of sin, broad, pleasant and easy, as that path always looks at first.

Alas! for Mike. Had he gone down on his knees—had he prayed God for Christ's sake to forgive him, and to impart to him the moral courage to confess all to his mother, then, how much sorrow and further sin might have been spared him! But instead of doing this, he went on thinking, and Satan, who you may be sure was not idle, went on, whispering into the little boy's ear, telling him that there was no help for it now, that the sin was sinned; telling him, also, that it was no such great sin after all, and painting in the brightest colors the delightful trip in store for him on his birthday, and which the confession—in any case hard to make—would quite lose to him; for though his mother might forgive him, she also would undoubtedly put down that bad conduct mark, which would take away all hope of his birthday treat. Ted would go away with his uncle, and he—he must spend a long miserable week alone.

"You could not bear this," whispered the tempter; "it would be quite too great a punishment for such a little sin." And as the boy listened, a certain hard, resolved look came upon his bright face. He hesitated no longer—his mind was made up.

He turned to find Ted; for alas! it was necessary to make Ted promise to screen him; and he felt that, timid as his twin-brother was, he might have some difficulty in getting his consent to this. He was too much pre-occupied even to notice old Patrick, who was watering roses, and who called loudly after him—

"Why, thin, Masther Mike, is it jokin' you are, never to pass a remark on the beautiful rose tree as I put in yer garden?"

At another time this piece of information would have driven Mike wild with delight, but now he never replied to the old servant, but ran round the house to find his brother. Ted was feeding and cleaning his rabbits, of which he had four—Spot, Fluffy, Long-ears and Beauty. Fluffy had just presented him with a whole litter of young ones, and Ted hung over her in an ecstasy.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

DEATH.

PAYNE.—Died on the 17th Oct., on board the Barque Argentina on the way from Montreal to Buenos Ayres, Samuel B. Payne, a native of Dover, England, aged 66 years.

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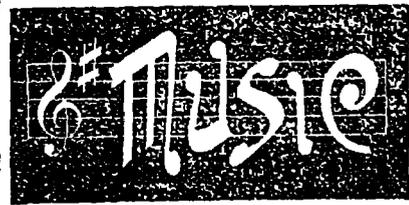
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