

APPLICATION

Forgiven the iniquity, v. 2. A woman came to a minister, carrying in her hands a mass of wet sand. "Do you see what this is, sir?"

The Lesson
of the Tide

she said. "Yes, it is wet sand." "But do you know what it means?" "No, I cannot say that I do. What does it mean?" "Ah sir", she said, "that's me, and the multitude of my sins that cannot be numbered"; and she broke into passionate weeping. The minister spoke calmly to her, and inquired where she had procured the sand. "Down on the beach." "Go back there", he said, "and take a spade with you. Heap up a big mound; shovel it as high as you can. Then stand back on the shore and watch what happens to it when the tide comes in." The meaning came home to the woman. She saw the power of the divine forgiveness, how it sweeps away every trace and vestige of sin. Let us, when sorry and ashamed of our misdeeds, not forget the lesson of the tide.

Covered all their sin, v. 2. Luther, during a serious illness, seemed to see Satan coming to him with a great scroll, on which were written all the sins and errors of his life. "These", he said, "are your sins. There is no hope of your going to heaven." But Luther replied: "One thing you have forgotten. All you have said is true, but you have forgotten the promise, 'The blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth from all sin.'"

Turn us, v. 4. After one of his great sea fights, a French officer was brought into the presence of Lord Nelson. He went up to the great admiral and held out his hand. Nelson drew back. "Your sword first!" he said, "and then I will take your hand." That is the true relation of the soul to its Master. First surrender, then reconciliation. First submission, then welcome. It would destroy the whole creation of God if He should welcome rebellion. We have been traveling away from God. It is impossible for us to find Him going in the wrong direction. We need to be turned right about face. Then we shall meet Him.

Quicken (Rev. Ver.), v. 6. A gentleman, visiting a painter in his studio, noticed some

highly-colored stones and asked what they were for. The artist replied "Up to Line" that they were to keep his eye up to line. When he was working in colors his sense of color was insensibly weakened, and by having a pure color near him he brought it up again, just as the singer, by striking a key on the piano, brings his voice to the correct pitch. Such is the dragging of life, and the gradual influence of moral fatigue, that we require to be continually "quicken". We tire of being and doing good as well as of other forms of activity. Then God, with His wonderful grace, refreshes us so that we can be up to our best again. It is a good prayer for the common day,—*"Quicken us again."*

The Lord shall give that which is good, v. 12. It is said that while the famous Dr. Jenner was perfecting his theory of vaccination as a

A Constant
Debt

remedy for smallpox, as he thought of the prospect of being the means of robbing one of the great scourges of the world of more than half its horrors, he always ended in humble acknowledgment of the one Being from whom every blessing flows. It is true that every blessing and advantage that adds to the welfare and happiness of our lives is from God, and we owe to Him constant gratitude.

His footsteps (Rev. Ver.), v. 13. There is a Bohemian legend that tells of an ancient king leaving his palace for the neighboring

"In My
Footsteps"

cathedral accompanied by his little page. It was in the dead of night, for the king was going to greet the Easter sunrise. The snow lay deep on the ground and the lad was soon exhausted. Then the king turned round and said, "My boy, put your feet in my footsteps." Then the little fellow carefully set his feet in the tracks left by the king and felt himself grow stronger. So Jesus breaks the track for us. He goes before us. The foreign lands are full of missionaries who have penetrated to almost inaccessible regions by walking in Jesus' footsteps. There are men and women traveling all kinds of hard roads, and the secret of their success is the same. Remember no place is too hard for us to reach if only Jesus goes before us.