

Pastor and People.

FEED MY LAMBS.

Saviour, the lambs are Thine,
Them Thou did'st call,
Round them Thine arms did'st twine,
Blessed one and all;
Tenderly Thou did'st say;
"Feed ye my lambs alway,
Feed ye My lambs."

Give us the heavenly bread,
Manna divine;
That we may, in Thy stead,
Taking of Thine,
Feed those Thou lovest best,
Guard them at Thy behest;
Feeding Thy lambs.

Then should'st Thou call us hence
Gladly we'll go,
Burning with zeal intense
Thy will to know;
For in that upper fold,
May we not still be told,
"Feed ye My lambs."

Mr. E. E. Hodges in the Mid Continent.

A POPULAR PREACHER.

BY REV. I. A. R. DICKSON, B.D.

A great popular preacher, and she a woman, and her *nom de plume* is "Pansy." She is, without controversy, one of the greatest popular preachers of the age. Her pulpit is the press, and her sermons are found in the "Pansy" series of stories, which for many years have been household words on this broad continent, and of late years have been republished in beautiful volumes by a number of highly respectable houses in Britain. Her books are the most widely read of all books in a well-assorted family or Sunday school library. And it is well that it is so, because they carry in them a message which is definite and clear, instinct with the truth of God, and pulsing with His mercifulness and compassion and grace, and withal charmingly told. Some of our readers may ask: Who is Pansy? What books has she written? What is their character? and so on. I will try and answer these questions because I believe that in so doing I may direct some into a pleasant and profitable path, where joy and help will come to them.

Who is Pansy? She is the wife of the Rev. G. R. Alden, D.D., a Methodist minister, whose local *habitat* is not fixed. Sarah K. Bolton has given a very sketchy sketch of her in her book entitled "Successful Women" in which she seems totally to forget the desire we have, who are fond of biography, of definite information. There are fifty necessary things she omits. She does not give us her father's name, and she even forgets to tell us Pansy's maiden name, beside much *minutiae* which give crispness and charm to a biography. We invite S. K. Bolton to study "Ruskin's," or if that be too severe a task, then take "Johnson's Lives of the Poets." However, we are thankful for the little she gives us. We learn from her that "Pansy" was born in Rochester, N.Y., in 1842, and that she had two blessings, perhaps the greatest earthly gifts, a father and mother who were wise, patient, tender, helpful under all circumstances. Her father had pronounced convictions on all the great questions of the day. He was a strong temperance man, a strong anti-slavery man, a leader in every moral reform, and pressing forward, often stood alone, fifty years in advance of his time. The mother was a sunny-hearted, self-forgetful woman, devoted to all that was pure and "of good report." In this we have the key to Mrs. Alden's life-work. She drank in, as the flowers do, the atmosphere about her, and put forth her strength in the beauty and fragrance of wise counsel and Christian kindness. How "Pansy," the in *nom de plume*, came to existence was on this wise: While yet a baby her mother had a choice bed of great purple and yellow pansy blossoms, which she was treasuring for a special occasion. One morning the wee child, being in a helpful, loving mood, sallied out, and picked them every one, and bringing the treasures in her arms, showered them in her mother's lap, with the generous statement that they were "every one for her." They were to have been used on the evening following, and the good mother was much disturbed, but the father mounted his baby in triumph on his shoulders, and called her his own little pansy blossom; and from that time the sweet name clung to her.

Mrs. Alden has a fine head, a full dark eye—or as the Bible phrases it—"a healthful countenance"—a round, motherly face, beaming with kindness and grace. Sweetness sits enthroned on every feature.

Her husband is the pastor of a large city church, and she works faithfully by his side. She is president of the missionary societies, organizer and manager of a young people's branch, superintendent of the primary department in the Sunday school, and the private counsellor of hundreds of young people. This, all in addition to her literary work. She says of that: "My rule has been to work when I can get a chance, subject to the interruptions which come to a mother, a housekeeper and a pastor's wife." For seventeen years she has been under contract (never broken) to keep up a serial story in the *Herald and Presbyterian* through the winter; and for ten years she has given efficient help at the principal Sunday school assemblies all through the States. For twelve years she has prepared the Sunday school lessons for the

primary department of the Westminster Teacher, and for two or three years she has been the editor of the *Primary Quarterly*. A busy life has hers been, but it is this that has furnished her material for her books.

What books has she written? It would fill a full page to give the names of all her books great and small. We may mention a few just to awaken an interest, and to whet the appetite of any who may not have made acquaintance with them. "Mrs. Solomon Smith Looking On" is a volume brimful of shrewd observation and quiet humour as well as piquant wit. It is thoroughly enjoyable and is withal exceedingly instructive. It is a painting to the life of much in society to-day. It is difficult to select a passage out of a book containing so many good things. It is a rich treat for the one who would learn how to act in different circumstances. Mrs. Smith is always the true Christian lady. "Crissy's Endeavour" celebrates the Christian Endeavour movement. It gives a good introduction to the understanding of what it is and its special advantages. "The Hall in the Grove," "The Four Girls at Chataqua," "The Four Girls at Home," and several others discover to us the value of the work at Chataqua, and in the scientific and literary circles throughout the land. "The Pocket Measure" opens up, illustrates and enforces the Bible principle of proportionate giving to religious objects. "Three People," "Wise and Otherwise," and the "King's Daughter" are capital temperance stories.

"Ruth Erskine's Crosses" and "Judge Burnham's Daughters" exhibit the follies of worldly alliances, and the heart-break that comes of them. "The Randolphs," "Interrupted," and "Household Puzzler" portray the battle of life in society; "The Endless Chain" and "Echoing and Re-echoing" the far-reaching power of influences that flow from character and conduct. "Tip Lewis and His Lamp" shows the worth, the priceless worth, of the Bible to a boy. And so we might go on. Every book has an object, a noble and worthy object. "Jessie Wells" illustrates working for Jesus.

What is the character of her books? That has been suggested already. They are an application of the principles of the Gospel to the lives of men, high and low, rich and poor, learned and unlearned. She has a thorough appreciation of the relation of the Christian to the world, and of all that is involved in that. Her books are such that one might easily imagine that we have the essence of a thousand experience meetings in them. The portraits are drawn to the life. She holds the mirror up to Nature. Nothing is overdrawn or to a spiritual mind insipid. Everything is flavoured with the salt of Bible truth and a sound religious experience. The style in which the books are written is attractive. It draws you on, so that you read to the close. And when you are done you have learned something, received something, by way of spiritual awakening, and stimulus, and direction. You have a new love shed abroad in your heart; new desires for service awakened in your soul; new possibilities of holy and helpful action proposed to your consideration; new views of life and new values attached to it. We bless God for Mrs. Alden and her work. Every book of hers is a benediction to the reader. We can conceive of no books more suitable for a Sunday school library or a children's library at home. We would say to those who are able, "Get the whole series," and let the children have full freedom with them. How many thousands on thousands have read them already? Her pulpit is an high one, and her audience a most impressive one. She speaks to the young, the aspiring, the struggling. And what an audience! It speaks over continents. How highly favoured is one who is called to such extensive service as this!

She is doing much to mould thought, to control sentiment, to guide action, to shape life. Her hand with all its tender motherly kindness is laid upon the thousands of her readers, as in reality it is, in benediction!

For eleven years she has edited *The Pansy*, a well-known Sunday magazine for boys and girls, and one of the most interesting things in connection with it is "The Pansy Society," composed of children who are subscribers, and who are pledged to try and overcome some besetting fault, and who take a whisper motto, "I will do it for Jesus' sake." All who join have a badge, a beautiful pansy painted on white satin, and fastened at the top by a silver pin. It has in it thousands of members, and the good it has done is incalculable.

Long live Pansy, and her Pansy Society; and may her hand never grow weary at her helpful and holy work.

FAITH IN THE FAMILY.

One of the most intelligent women, the mother of a large family of children, was eminently a woman of faith. She never heard the tramping of her boys' feet in the house, or listened to their noisy shouting in their play, or watched their unconscious slumbers, without an inward, earnest prayer to God for wisdom to train them. She mingled prayer with counsel and restraint, and the counsel was the wiser and the restraint was the stronger for this alliance of the human and divine elements in her instruction and discipline. And at length, when her children had become men and women, accustomed to the hard strife of the world, her name was the dearest name they could speak; and she who had "fed their bodies from her own spirit's life," who had taught their feet to walk, their tongues to speak and pray, and illuminated their consciences with the great light of righteousness and duty, held their reverence and love, increased a thousandfold by the remembrance of an early education that had its inspiration in the faith in God, and its fruit in the noble lives of upright men and women.

Our Young Folks.

BE PATIENT AND BE PURE.

What matter if the clouds are dark
That gather o'er thy head,
If hunger stare thee in the face,
Thy friends and fortune fled?
Have faith and pray unto thy God
To aid thee to endure,
And through the darkest hours of life
Be patient and be pure.

Temptation passes by the strong
And seeks the weak and frail,
And seems to know the day and hour
When we are prone to fail.
But spurn the tempter and his wiles;
To those who can endure
God's strength will come, then heed these words—
Be patient and be pure.

Spurn the smooth lip and lying tongue
That tells thee "Fill thy purse;
Heed not the means, but fill it well,
No matter who may curse."
And stand erect, in manhood's might,
The struggle to endure,
With this thy motto, all through life,
Be patient and be pure.

THE YOUNG MANS SIN FOUND OUT.

BY REV. J. A. R. DICKSON, B.D.

Moses told the elders of the tribes of Reuben and Gad, when they were entering into covenant, on condition of possessing Gilead and the adjacent territory, to go before the host armed for war to bring their brethren into their land that if they failed to do so, to be sure that their sin would find them out. This is a truth of universal application. As a dark spot on a white sheet draws the eye, so a sin committed commands the attention of God. It matters not how it has been done, there it is and its punishment will follow without fail.

"Be sure your sin will find you out. Num. xxxii. 23.

It may be done alone, as in the case of Cain, Gen. iv. 10.

It may be done secretly, as in the case of Moses, Exod. ii. 14.

It may be done cunningly, as in the case of David, 2 Sam. 12.

It may be done in concert, as in the case of Joseph's brethren, Gen. xlv. 16.

It may be done piously, as in the case of Corah, Dathan and Abiram, Num. xvi.

It may be done outside the knowledge of any other, Josh. viii. 9.

It may be done in fellowship, as in the case of Judas, Matt. xxvii. 4.

It may be done in greediness, as in the case of Achan, Josh. vii. 25.

It may be done in lust and passion, as in the case of Solomon, 1 Kings, 11.

It may be done in fear, as in the case of Abraham, Gen. xxix. 8.

It may be done with the approval of others, as in the case of Absalom, 2 Sam. xviii. 14.

It may be done under the counsel of others, as in the case of Jacob, Gen. xxxii. 7.

"It shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before Him; but it shall not be well with the wicked." Eccl. viii. 12, 13.

JOE AND JENNY.

Have any of our young readers noticed an odd difference which there is between the generosity of boys and that of girls?

Joe and Jenny, for example, are walking to school and pass a cat which has been hurt, or a bird with a broken wing. In almost every case the girl will stop to pet and care for the hurt creature. She lavishes time and tenderness upon it, while the boy with a shrug runs on and thinks no more of it.

It is Jenny who will bring flowers to the invalid at home; who will hang over her couch trying to be useful; who will gladly sacrifice play or sleep in order to help her.

Joe, as a rule, hates a sick room, shirks the sight of pain, and has little sympathy to give to any misfortune of grief.

But if Joe and Jenny have each ten dollars to spend, it will usually be the girl who will hoard the pennies, or who will be hard and sharp in driving a bargain, who will be unreasonable in expecting too much for her money from tradesmen.

Yet if you probe the matter to the bottom you will probably find that naturally Joe is not more liberal than his sister, or that Jenny really is more affectionate than Joe. But their training has been in some respects different. The boy has been given money and has formed a habit of using it more freely; into the girl's indoor life have been brought leisure and habits of kindness. Each gives of that which previous training makes most easy and natural. The boy, his loosely held money; the girl, her time and sympathy.

The defects in Joe and Jenny would be lessened were their education in some respects the same; if gentler and kinder influence were brought into the boy's daily life and if the girl were early taught the use and abuse of money.

A STEAMER, while passing through the Red Sea, met with a curious experience. For twenty-four hours the vessel made her way through a veritable bank of locusts. It is estimated that these insects covered the sea for over a surface of 325 miles.