

## Sunday School Advocate.

TORONTO, NOVEMBER 10, 1866.

### "THOU GOD SEEST ME."

Genesis xvi. 13.

Now, little ones, repeat the text—

"THOU—GOD—SEEST—ME."

Many hundred years ago, long before the Saviour was born, a beautiful and fruitful land was inhabited by several wicked nations. Now God hates sin, and will punish the sinner if he continue in his wickedness: He therefore resolved to destroy these wicked nations. They were not destroyed by a flood, nor by fire from Heaven, like Sodom; but God gave their land to a chosen people, the descendants of a good man He had promised to bless; and they were to go and fight against them, and destroy them, and take possession of their land. The first city they took was very strong, and their enemies fought very hard. But the Lord helped them, and caused the walls of the city to fall down flat before them.

Can you tell me the name of that city?—(Jericho.)

Who fought against Jericho and took it?—(The children of Israel.)

What good man were they descended from?—(Abraham.)

Another place the Israelites came to was Ai; but here, to their surprise, their enemies overcame them. This caused them great trouble. There was a reason why they could not stand before their enemies; and when Joshua, their leader, mourned before the Lord, He told him there was sin in the camp. When Jericho was taken, the children of Israel were commanded to destroy everything except the silver and gold, and the vessels of brass and iron, which were to be dedicated to the Lord. But one among them, Achan, stole a wedge of gold, some silver, and a garment. He took them and buried them under his tent. The eye of God had seen it, though Joshua had not. God knew when the wicked thought entered Achan's mind; God knew how he had listened to the temptation; and how, at last, he took these forbidden things when he thought no one saw him. God saw how he hid them in the earth, thinking he would not be found out. You see he was found out, and punished with death.

Now what do we learn from all this?—That God sees us.

God sees and knows all we do. Can you think of a text which teaches us the same thing?—"Thou God seest me."

Yes; Hagar fled from her mistress, and went into the wilderness. She was wrong in going away, though she had not been kindly treated. And there she was alone, with none to pity or help her. Yet God saw her, and comforted her, and told her to go back to her mistress. So when we are in trouble, with none to pity, God sees and knows all.

Do you know what the Lord said of Nathanael?—"Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile." Guile means deceit.

He was surprised that Jesus knew him, and said, "Whence knowest thou me?" And what did Jesus say?—"When thou wast under the fig-tree, I saw thee."

Most likely Nathanael went to that quiet spot to pray; and there the eye of Jesus had been upon him. He knew his heart, and calls him an Israelite indeed. And so He knows what is in our heart. We can hide no secrets from Him. He knows if our prayers are sincere, if we try to please Him, or if we listen to the temptation to do wrong. When you are tempted, think of these four words, "Thou God seest me."

Read what David says about this. [Ps. cxxxix.

7-12.] What does this teach us?—That God sees us in the dark.

David says that wherever he should go, he could not get away from the presence of God, and that the darkness cannot hide from Him.

God is in heaven, and He is on the earth. He hears the songs of angels, and He hears the simple prayers of the youngest child. I hope you will try and remember this,—that wherever you are, God sees you; whatever you do, God knows it.

"The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good." (Prov. xv. 3.)

### STOP! FOR YOUR SOUL'S SAKE, STOP!

A bold boy, while rambling among the Alps, saw some flowers on the side of a fearful precipice. The guide saw him standing on the dizzy edge, and shouted:

"Come back!"

"Not yet; I see some flowers just below, which I want to get," replied the boy.

"Stop!" responded the guide; "you will be lost."

"I must have the flowers," rejoined the boy.

The guide, with the boy's friends, hurried toward the infatuated boy, as he leaned over the edge of the dreadful gulf. They heard him say, "I almost have them;" and then, "I have them;" but the words were scarcely uttered before he lost his hold, and fell a thousand feet upon the pitiless rocks below. He had given his life for a flower, for a flower that perished with him!

"Shocking!" exclaims my young reader. I am glad to see it so, because it may help you to see your own danger. Are you not seeking, at greater risk, to pluck a flower? What is that desire you cherish for a place in that circle of giddy youth to which you are invited? What is that habit which brings a blush to your cheeks whenever it is hinted at? What is that resolution to enter the charmed ring of forbidden amusements? Are not these things your flowers?

Are not your desires the reachings of your soul over the edge of innocence? Dear youth, take care! The gulf below your flowers is bottomless. It is hell!

If you pluck your flowers, you will fall, and perish with them in that fearful realm of darkness and death. Seek them no longer, therefore, but stop! for your soul's sake, stop!

### THE BOY WHO PRAYED OVER HIS LESSON.

"There," said a little boy, "I have committed my lesson sooner than ever; I believe that it does good to pray over my books."

He was asked what he meant by his exclamation.

"Well, when I came home from school, and looked over my lesson, I found how difficult it was. At first I said it cannot be committed in so short a time as I have; but then I remembered what my Sunday-school teacher had told me about Daniel and his three companions, so I thought that if prayer aided them, it might help me; and I prayed over my lesson, asked God to help me to make my memory retentive, and I learned my lesson in half the time."

This little boy adopted an excellent method; and if he continues to look to God for a blessing on his studies he will not ask in vain. And why not ask divine aid in one's studies as well as in anything else? Study is not easy work, and we need God to help us. Our minds are under his control, and he can make the memory retentive, and enable us to do more work in one hour than we would otherwise do in two hours.

If some boys would pray more and complain less over their books I am certain that they would make better progress, find study easier work, and make much better recitations. If you have never prayed over your lessons, my young friend, try it, and learn its virtue.—Selected.

### FOR SATURDAY NIGHT.

Joshua ii. 5.

Chafed and worn with wordly care,  
Sweetly, Lord, my heart prepare;  
Bid this inward tempest cease;  
Jesus, come, and whisper peace!  
Hush the whirlwind of my will,  
With Thyself my spirit fill;  
End in calm this busy week,  
Let the Sabbath gently break!

Sever, Lord, these earthly ties,  
Fain, my soul to thee would rise;  
Disentangle me from time,  
Lift me to a purer clime;  
Let me cast away my load,  
Let me now draw nigh to God;  
Gently, loving Jesus speak,  
End in calm this busy week!

Draw the curtain of repose  
While my weary eyelids close;  
Seal my spirit while I rest,  
Give me dreamings pure and blest!  
Raise me with a cheerful heart;  
Holy Ghost, Thyself impart!  
Then the Sabbath day will be  
Heaven brought down to earth and me.

### "OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABIES."

When Mr. Whitefield was preaching in New England, a lady became a subject of Divine grace, and her spirit was peculiarly drawn out in prayer for others. She could persuade no one to pray with her but her little daughter, about ten years of age. After a time, it pleased God to touch the heart of the child, and give her the hope of salvation. In a transport of holy joy she then exclaimed, "O, mother, if all the world knew this! I wish I could tell everybody. Pray, mother, let me run to some of the neighbours, and tell them that they may be happy, and love my Saviour!"

"Ah, my child," said the mother, "that would be useless; for I suppose that, were you to tell your experience, there is not one within many miles who would not laugh at you, and say it was all a delusion."

"O, mother," replied the little girl, "I think they would believe me. I must go over to the shoemaker, and tell him. He will believe me."

She ran over, and found him at work in his shop. She began by telling him that he must die, and he was a sinner; and that she too was a sinner, but that her blessed Saviour had heard her mother's prayers, and had forgiven her all her sins; and that now she was so happy, she did not know how to tell it.

The shoemaker was struck with surprise, and his tears fell down like rain. He threw aside his work; and, by prayer and supplication, sought mercy. The neighbourhood was awakened, and within a few months, more than fifty persons were brought to the knowledge of Jesus, and rejoiced in the power of His grace.

### A WISE ANSWER.

A little boy in an infant class one day said to his teacher, "Our little baby's dead!"

After speaking about it for a few minutes, the teacher asked the scholar, "Would you like to die?" He replied, "Not yet."

The teacher thought he wished to live till he was grown up or become a man; but the child was thinking of something else, for when asked what he meant by saying "Not yet," he said, "Not till I have a new heart." Perhaps some older scholars could not have given a better answer.—Biblical Treasury.