

The Two Friends.

A gentleman had a beautiful grey mare, of which he was very fond. It had been his favourite for many years. At last it grew too old to be of much use, but the gentleman would not sell it. In the summer therefore he turned it out into the pleasant fields to graze, and in winter kept it in a comfortable stall in one of his stables.

This grey mare became great friends with a beautiful dog, whose kennel was close to the stable door. In winter, when the mare was taken out for daily exercise by the groom, the dog went too, and in summer they played together in the fields; the mare galloping about and the dog rushing after her, barking and frisking around her in a very excited manner.

But one day the poor dog met with an accident. While running through the woods after his master, who was out shooting, he put his foot into a trap set by some poachers, and in trying to release it, tore off the skin and hurt himself very badly.

Kind friends bathed and bound up the wound, and the dog was kept in his kennel for some days, but as he seemed to dislike the confinement, and whined piteously to be permitted to go out, his chain was at last unfastened and he was allowed his freedom.

Away went the dog on his three sound legs, and holding up the wounded paw, straight to the field where his friend the grey mare was. The meeting between the friends was a pretty sight. The dog held up his bandaged foot for inspection, and the mare tried to get the bandage off, so as to have a closer view of the injury. But the poor dog was not feeling up to a game of play that day; so, after being comforted by his friend, he limped back to his kennel. He soon recovered, and gladly resumed his gambols with the grey mare,—but they were all the closer friends on account of the accident.

Surrender.

An Emperor of Russia was one day informed that an insurrection had broken out in his barracks, part of his troops had mutinied and murdered the officers. The utmost alarm prevailed at court, and people everywhere were excited. The Czar alone remained cool and intrepid. Ordering his horse, and refusing every offer of an escort, alone and unaided he rode down to the barrack-yard.

There a dreadful scene presented itself. On the ground was the evidences of bloodshed and death, while lowering looks met him on all sides. Nothing daunted, however, he dismounted, and advancing into the midst of the mutinous crowd, exclaimed in a tone of authority—

"Soldiers, there is no mercy for any man who does not at once lay down his arms and surrender at discretion to me—his emperor!"

The men, taken by surprise and overawed by his manner and voice, obeyed, falling on their knees; when bending towards them as they knelt, he proclaimed,—

"Soldiers, I pardon you! Henceforth be the best troops I have."

And so they proved. No military discipline could have wrought the change which this act of mercy did, in turning the rebels into faithful soldiers and subjects.

Sin has made us all rebels against God's law. Justice demands punish-

ment. Grace invites us to yield, to surrender to Jesus. He offers us pardon and peace. Once delivered from guilt and its penalty, it is our privilege to serve Him, and seek to show forth His praise who has set us free from condemnation and death. Those love much who have been much forgiven, and the truest, happiest service comes from loving hearts.

Jacob's Well.

Jacob's well is situated close to the city of Samaria, near Mounts Ebal and Gerizim. Nothing but ruins and wild flowers cover its site now. There is a vault or arch, on a level with the ground, over the mouth of the well, which appears to have been built to accommodate travellers. The well itself is about seventy-five feet deep; sometimes there is water in it, sometimes none. It must look very different now to what it did when the Lord of Glory sat on the well, tired with His long walk through the hot sunshine, watching the Samaritan woman drawing refreshing water from its depths.

What wonderful words were spoken at that well! How surprised the woman must have been to hear a weary, thirsty man say, "If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith unto thee, Give Me to drink, thou wouldest have asked of Him, and He would have given thee living water." But she soon found out it was no ordinary man who was talking to her; and soon she not only believed in Him herself, but ran to the city, and brought others to hear the wonderful words that flowed from His lips of springing water that would satisfy heart-thirst.

Will not each young heart come to the feet of the blessed Lord to hear the sweet story, and receive it into their hearts, and so, "like Samaria's daughter, seek and find their all in Him"?

Dinner in State.

Fancy an elephant having a dinner napkin about his neck, and getting his food on a plate, and being served with the most dainty delicacies! In some countries in the world elephants are regarded with great reverence. In Siam and in Burmah a white elephant is looked upon as almost divine, and receives such honours as the inhabitants would pay to their gods. While they live they have a gorgeous stable or house, fitted with gold and silver ornaments, and jewelled harness, and many attendants who watch them waking or sleeping, bathe them, clean them, rub them, brush them, dust them, tickle them, feed them, give them water to drink, bow to them, sing to them, and, generally speaking, behave very ridiculously to them.

And yet after all the elephant is worthy of a good deal of attention, for he is in some respects man's superior. Who ever heard of an elephant getting drunk, or eating too much?—although I fear we have heard of elephants being bad-tempered and vicious; but then it has always transpired that such faults were due to man's unkind treatment. So that really the elephant is a noble animal, worthy of respect for his many mental qualities, his great intelligence, sagacity and prudence, as well as for his great strength and the immense value of the materials which his body yields us.

But for all that, I do not think I would like to wait upon him.

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HAYTER REED, Deputy of the Supt.-General of Indian Affairs, Department of Indian Affairs, Ottawa, January, 1894

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