

A Leper Cured.

AS Jesus went about doing good, multitudes followed Him. Yonder is a leper—a man afflicted with spots and sores, whom no man would try to cure. He is obliged to leave his house and family, and live alone, no one will come near him; and he must not go near others, lest they also catch the disease. He hears of Jesus—wants to get close to Him. At last he succeeds. "O sir!" he cries, pray heal me: Thou canst if Thou wilt." Jesus in kindness and mercy did not keep him at a distance. He was not afraid of the dreadful disease, but went near to the man and touched him whom nobody would approach, and said, "I not only can but will heal thee; be thou clean:" and the spots, the white marks and the sores, all went away.

Was he really cured? Yes, but he was to be examined, and not to talk about it till the priest said, "Thou art clean." How kind and thoughtful Jesus was!

Sin is the worst leprosy—it is all over us. No man can cure it.

"None but Jesus
Can do helpless sinners good."

Approved.

THE road to success is not an easy one. Hard struggles have to be fought, difficulties overcome, and much patience is required before the desired end can be attained. Thus it was with a youth who afterwards became a famous artist. He was blessed with a good and kind mother, who helped and encouraged him to persevere at his work. Her smile attached him to the pursuit on which he had entered; her approval was the reward for which he looked.

One of his first attempts at painting he brought to his mother. He himself was disappointed with it, and was unwilling to persevere, declaring that no one would ever give him anything for his work. The mother took the picture, and bending down fondly kissed her boy, saying she gave him *that* for it.

"That kiss made me a painter," was a favorite saying of his during his after-life. Whenever his determination gave way he thought of that loving parent, and it stimulated him to further exertion.

Which of you would like to hear the Master say, "Well done!" by-and-by? Oh, seek His approval, live for Him, work for Him *now*. Give yourselves up to Him, and He will make you what you ought to be, and show you what you can do. Let the love of

Christ reign in your hearts, and life will be bright and service easy. Then your feeble work will not be in vain; the Saviour's smile will be your sweet reward.

"Study to show thyself approved unto God." though written long ago to Timothy, may well be taken as a motto by every young disciple of the Lord Jesus.

What Love Did.

SOME children were playing one day among the ruins of an old castle, running here and there, and peeping into every nook. At last one of them, a little girl, who had climbed higher than the rest, lost her balance and fell from one of the windows. She certainly would have been dashed to pieces had not her dress caught in a bush which grew from the side of the castle. There she hung between

life and death, while the terrified children gathered overhead. What were they to do? Before they could get assistance she would have fallen. Her brother, a brave, strong lad of fifteen, called out to her to hold on and he would save her. Then throwing off his jacket he began to descend the side, resting his feet where a stone had fallen, and making use of every precaution. The children saw him reach her, and then, with her arms round his neck and holding her tightly with

one hand, he ascended. They held their breath with fear, for the weight he bore was nearly too much. However, step by step, he struggled on until he reached the top in safety.

What led this boy to this daring deed? LOVE. The life of his sister was as dear to him as his own. What a strong motive love is! Love brought the Lord Jesus down from heaven to live a poor life on earth and die a cruel death at last. This He did to save us in His arms from death and sin.

"One there is above all others;
Oh, how He loves!"

WHEN the Breton mariner puts to sea, his prayer is—"Keep me, my God; my boat is small, and Thy ocean is so wide." Does not this beautiful prayer truly express the condition of each of us?

Dear children, remember that God is ready and willing to watch over and guard you during the voyage of life. Will you not put yourself in His keeping?



JESUS HEALING THE LEPER.