

contains the whole gospel, and is one of the most precious texts in the Bible. Now, do you know what it means?

A little boy and his sister ran away from home, though their father had told them to stay there. As they had always lived in a town, they were glad when they found themselves in the country. The fields were full of red and white clover, the butterflies were flying about, and the birds were singing on the trees. The children thought it was very pleasant to have their liberty, and they ran about till it began to grow dark; they then felt tired and hungry, and soon wished that they had not left their father's house. They walked a long way, but could not find the right road. Sitting down under a tree, they thought of the nice bed in which they slept in their happy home, and began to weep. You see how sad it is to disobey an earthly father. These children were LOST.

There was a merchant, who put all his goods into a large ship, and went to trade with them in a distant part of the world. It was a bright day when the ship left the shore, and many other calm and sunny days passed away; but one night the wind blew loud, and the waves rolled high. At last the ship struck against a rock in the midst of the sea, and sunk into the deep. The merchant, with all his goods, was LOST.

We pity the little children and the merchant; but the loss referred to in the easy text is greater than the loss of health, or of money, or even of life. It is the loss of the SOUL! for to lose the soul is to lose the favour of God, and happiness, and heaven.

We are like the little boy and his sister: we have gone astray from our heavenly Father. We think it is very pleasant to have our own way, and to go where we like, and to do as we please. But if we go on in the ways of sin, after a while death will come; then, like the children when it grew dark, we shall be full of fear, and lie down in sorrow, and that for ever. Now look again at the easy text.

It tells us of Jesus, who is the Son of man as well as the Son of God. He came to seek and to save the lost; and he came to save us; for we are all lost. If a shepherd were to lose one of his sheep, he might send some one to find it. But if he lost a child that he loved, he would go himself, and seek it. So Jesus did not send an angel; he came himself to save us. He pitied us in our lost state, and in his love he came from heaven, pointed out the way for us to return to God.

Jesus is still seeking the lost; he is still calling on poor sinners to be saved. Every time we read the easy text, it is as though he spoke to us. He speaks to us now. When he calls will you turn away your heart from him? or will you answer, "Lord Jesus, save me, or I perish?"

Marine Population.

THE mighty ocean teems with life. Every tropical reef is described as bristling with corals; budding with sponges, and swarming with crustacea, echimi, and testacea, while almost every tide-washed rock is carpeted with fuci, and studded coralines, actiniae, and mollusca. There are innumerable forms in the seas of the warmer zones, which have scarcely begun to attract the attention of the naturalists; and there are parasitic animals without number, three or four of which are sometimes appropriated to one genus; as to the Belenæ, for example. Even though we concede, therefore, that the geographical range of marine species is more extensive in general than that of the terrestrial (the temperature of the sea, being more uniform, and the land impeding less the migrations of the oceanic than the oceanic those of the terrestrial), yet we think it most probable that the aquatic species far exceed in number the inhabitants of the land. Without insisting on this point, we may safely assume, that, exclusive of microscopic beings, there are between one and two millions of species now inhabiting the terraqueous globe; so that if only one of these were to become extinct annually, and one new were to be every year called into being, more than a million of years would be required to bring about a complete revolution in organ life.