

SUNDAY SCHOOL BANNER

for
TEACHERS
AND
YOUNG PEOPLE.

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Scenes on "Jordan's Strand."

THERE came a little child, with sunny hair,
All fearless to the brink of Death's dark river,
And with a sweet confiding in the care
Of Him who is of life the Joy and Giver ;
And, as upon the waves she left our sight,
We heard her say : " My Saviour makes them
bright."

Next came a youth, with bearing most serene,
Nor turned a single backward look of sadness ;
But, as he left each gay and flowery scene,
Smiling declared : " My soul is thrilled with
gladness !

What earth deems bright, for ever I resign,
Joyful but this to know, that Christ is mine."

An aged mourner, trembling, tottered by,
And paused a moment by the swelling river,
Then glided on beneath the shadowy sky,
Singing : " Christ Jesus is my strength for ever,
Upon His arm my feeble soul I lean ;
My glance meets His, without a cloud between."

And scarce her last triumphant note had died,
Ere hastened on a man of wealth and learning,
Who cast at once his bright renown aside,

These only words unto his friends returning :
" Christ for my Wisdom thankfully I own,
And as ' a little child ' I seek His throne."

Then saw I this : that whether guileless child,
Or youth, or age, or genius, won salvation,
Each self-renouncing came ; on each God smiled ;

Each found the love of Christ rich compensation
For loss of friends, earth's pleasures, and renown ;
Each entered heaven, and " by His side sat down."

Our Question Box.

Query.—Should we pray to God continually for a particular object, or should one earnest prayer for that suffice, and we then pass on to something else ?

Answer.—The latter is the view of a contemporary, but it never can be ours. First, because it is against nature. We cannot but pray for what we want, and if it be not granted at once, we cannot but pour out our hearts to God again. Second, because it is against Scripture. Elijah prayed seven times for rain, and his persistence, so far from being rebuked, was rewarded, and his example is especially commended to praying people by the Apostle James. We are exhorted by our Saviour " always to pray and not to faint," and he cites an example of successful importunate pleading in the case of a certain poor widow and an unjust judge, and argues "*a fortiori*" the certainty of the success of the petitions of God's own elect who cry, not once, but " day and night " unto him.

We once knew of a man not remarkable for his devoutness, who proposed to avoid the necessity of asking a blessing upon every meal by asking it once for all upon his winter's provisions when they were stored in barn or cellar.

If the view of the writer who protests against our " worrying God " be true we can easily despatch our missionary concerts of prayer for the world's conversion. We need never have but one such meeting till the world shall end.—*Baptist Teacher.*