

"Nobody Ever Told Me."

PASSING near an encampment of gipsies, I went in amongst them. After buying some of the skewers they were making, I learned one of their number was ill, and begged to be allowed to see him. The father asked—"Did you want to talk about religion to him?"

"No." "What then?" "About Christ."

"Oh! then you may go; only if you talk religion, I'll set the dog on to you."

In the tent I found a lad alone, and in bed, evi-

dently in the far end of the last stage of consumption. His eyes were closed, and he looked as one already dead. Very slowly in his ear I repeated the Scripture, "God so loved the world, that he gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." I repeated it five times without any apparent response; he did not seem to hear even with the outward ear. On repeating it the sixth time, he opened his eyes and smiled. To my delight he whispered—"And I never thanked Him! but *nobody ever told me!* I 'turn him many thanks—only a poor gipsy chap! I see! I see! I thank Him kindly!"

He closed his eyes with an expression of intense satisfaction. As I knelt beside him I thanked God. The lips moved again. I caught "that's it." There were more words, but I could not hear them.

My fellow-sinner, it was apparently the first time this dear boy ever heard of God's salvation, and with unquestioning faith he took God at His word, and with his dying lips thanked Him that He so loved the world as to give His Son for him, a "poor gipsy chap." God is satisfied with the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

This poor lad was also satisfied, and this mutual satisfaction was instant and everlasting salvation.

If you have not with your heart said amen to God's way of saving lost sinners, you are on the extreme verge of that death which God calls "eternal." But the "grace of God that bringeth salvation" is brought down to you—to your very level to-day. Will you pause and take it, and "return Him many thanks?"

My fellow-believer! may God forbid that any one within your reach or mine should ever have occasion to say, with regard to these everlasting realities, the awful words, "NOBODY EVER TOLD ME!"

THE GOSPEL ALPHABET. No. 9.



I am the way, the truth, the life.—John xiv. 6.
I am the Good Shepherd, and know my sheep.—John x. 14.
I am the resurrection and the life.—John xi. 25.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 "I am this dark world's Light:
 Look unto Me, thy morn shall rise,
 And all thy day be bright."

I looked to Jesus and I found
 In Him my Star, my Sun;
 And in that Light of life I'll walk
 Till travelling days are done.

I am the Bread of Life.—John vi. 35.
I am He that liveth and was dead.—Rev. i. 18
I am the bright and morning star.—Rev. xxii. 16.

What Faith Is.

READING in her Greek Testament one day in the second and third chapters of the Gospel of John, a young lady came to the word "*believeth*," in chapter iii. 15.

"Surely that word occurred in the previous chapter," she said to herself; and looking back to John ii. 24, she saw that the word "*commit-himself-unto*" was the same in the original as the word "believe."

Thus God showed her that "believing" meant simply committing herself, with all her *unbelief* and sin to Jesus;

then her soul rested on the strength and love of her Saviour.

It is this simple "committing of ourselves" to Jesus that our great enemy tries to persuade us is difficult. The very words "faith" and "believing" are so familiar that they seem almost to have lost their first simple meaning, and to some minds seem words of vague import.

But the Lord Jesus would not offer a dim uncertain way of salvation to poor dying ones, so He says in His abounding love, "I am the way." "I, Jesus, the living, loving Saviour, am the way; commit yourselves to Me, and you are safe for eternity!"