

Children's Department.

The Royal Hand.

The following little anecdote of our dear Queen I have not seen mentioned in any of the books written about her. It is undoubtedly true, as being contained in the Memoir of Patterson, the Martyr-Bishop.

About fifty years ago there was great excitement at Eton, that famous school where so many sons of wealthy parents have been educated to become statesmen, warriors, and noblemen. The Eton boys on this day, long ago, are half wild with pleasure, and run about shouting and waving their caps, as is the ways with English lads when any great event fills their heart with delight. And a grand event is happening at Eton, the famous school is receiving a visit from a fair young blue-eyed maiden, Victoria, the Queen of the realm! Rush along, boys, beside that low carriage in which is seated the youthful Lady whom you are to serve and obey! Shout, for this lovely Lady is your own rightful Queen! A proud boy is he who shall win a smile from her lips! One excited young Etonian goes too fast in his eagerness to run beside the carriage; his foot slips, he is down! will not the poor fellow be crushed under the wheel! No! the Queen sees his danger; there is no time to stop the carriage, but the young sovereign bends over from her seat, and her quick, firm grasp is upon the boy; the Queen herself has caught him up, but the boy has no time to thank her. Little knows the Royal Lady that her small white hand has rescued a future missionary saint and martyr!

For the boy was Patterson, the son of a learned judge. As one of good family the youth might have passed his life in luxury and ease, staying with those who loved him in his dear native land. But Patterson, when a young man, had the love of Christ in his heart; he had promised to obey his Heavenly King, and he meant to keep that promise. Patterson felt that the Lord was calling him across the wide seas, to preach the Gospel to the heathen.

Judge Patterson dearly loved his son. Would he consent to what might be a lifelong parting from one made to be the staff of his age? To him his son left the decision, for the young clergyman would not go without his parent's consent, his parent's blessing. It was a hard struggle for the poor father, the sacrifice of such a son seemed almost too painful to be made; the Judge could not decide at once. But faith in God, and obedience to His will, triumphed at last. Judge Patterson gave his full consent to his son's going as a missionary to savages in the Pacific. The father and son parted to meet no more upon earth. One sank to rest in his peaceful English home, the other was murdered by those whom he went to bless. We doubt not that Judge Patterson and his martyred son are now united in bliss.

To any whose heart may be stirred to follow in the same path, a thought may be suggested by the anecdote which I have related, which seems to form itself into a parable. We have all, in our very childhood, fallen into the dust of sin, and we have no power of ourselves to rise. If we are now attempting to run the race set before us, if we are now endeavouring to obey our divine Master, it is because He

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