



OUR BABY.

OUR baby boy sat on the floor,
His big blue eyes were full of wonder;

For he had never seen before
That baby in the mirror door—
What kept the two, so near, asunder?

He leaned toward the golden head
The mirror border framed within,
Until twin cheeks, like roses red,
Lay side by side, then softly said:
“I can’t get out; can you come in?”

JESUS’ NAME.

ALITTLE girl, with golden head,
Asked me to read a minute,
“A pretty story,” as she said,
“For Jesus’ name was in it.”

The pleasant task was soon complete,
But long I pondered o’er it,
That Jesus’ name should be so sweet
That e’en a child should love it.

Oh! sweetest story ever told!
What tongue would dare begin it,
If it were riven of its gold,
And Jesus’ name not in it?

CHRIST’S CHILDHOOD.

“Thy holy child Jesus.”—Acts iv. 30.

IF I asked, “How old are you?” you would all give me an exact answer. “Six;” “Seven and a half;” “Just turned eight.” Now you have thought of God’s “holy child Jesus” as a little baby, and as twelve years old in the temple, but did you ever think of Him as being *exactly* your own age? that He was once really just as old as you are this very day? He knows what it is to be six, eight and nine years old, or whatever you may be. God’s word has only told us this one thing about those years, that He was a *holy* child.

What is “holy?” It is everything that is perfectly beautiful and good and lovable, without anything to spoil it. This is just what He was when He was your age. He was gentle and brave, and considerate and unselfish, noble and truthful, obedient and loving, kind and forgiving,—everything you ever admired or loved in any one else was all found together in Him, and all this not only outside but inside, for He was “holy.”

Why did He live all these holy child-years on earth instead of staying in heaven till it was time to come and die for you? One reason was, that He might leave you a beautiful example, so that you might wish to be like Him, and ask for the Holy Spirit to make you like Him. But the other was even more gracious and wonderful—it was “that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.” That is, that all this goodness and holiness might be reckoned to you, because you had not any of your own, and that God might smile on you *for His sake*, just as if you had been perfectly obedient, and truthful, and unselfish, and good, and give you Jesus Christ’s reward, which you never deserved at all, but which He deserved for you.

He took your sins and gives you His righteousness; He took your punishment