

them together, and took them to a place of safety and shelter." "How kind of him, was it not; to take the tender and feeble creatures in his arms till they revived?"

"Oh yes," cried Agnes, "and I told him I thought it very good of him to take so much care of them; and he said he liked the little lambs, and there was no one to take care of them, if he did not." "Agnes," said her mother, "you have heard of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who came down from heaven to save sinners; you have heard how great and glorious he was before he came to our world; and you know that Jesus calls himself a shepherd. His people, those who love and serve him, he calls his sheep; and the young and tender, such as you are, he calls his lambs."

"O, mamma," said Agnes, "I know why he calls little children like me lambs; because we are young, ignorant, and feeble, like them, and we go to others to protect us."

"Yes, Agnes dear," said Mrs. Douglas, "you are not only ignorant, but, like the feeble lamb, you are helpless, and can do but little for your own safety and protection. You are exposed to many dangers that you know nothing of; there are many disorders to which your infant years are liable, and a thousand accidents to which your tender frames are exposed. How happy, amidst all the weakness and danger, to reflect that your kind Shepherd has promised to gather you in his arms, and carry you in his bosom! When you go home, my dear child, get your Bible, and read the 11th verse of the 40th of Isaiah, where you will find a sweet text."

"Mamma," said Agnes, "you say that Jesus Christ will protect me from danger; but do not you and papa do that for me and Herbert?"

"We protect you, Agnes," said her mother, "and your dear brother, and do as much as we are able for you; but Jesus, your kind Shepherd, can do every thing for you; he can supply all your need. In sickness, he can save

you; and, in death, deliver you. Yes, dear Agnes, he can make you happy in this world, and happy for ever."

"O mamma, I wish I was a better child, and then Christ would call me one of his lambs."

"You must not only wish to be a better child," replied her mother, "but you must ask our blessed Saviour to create in you a new heart, and renew a right spirit within you. You have daily instruction in the concern of your body and soul; but your compassionate Shepherd has promised that he will feed his flock: he will feed you with the sincere milk of his word, that you may grow thereby."

"That was the text I learned yesterday, dear mamma," said Agnes, "from 1 Pet. ii. 2."

"Yes, my dear; now tell me the text you learned to-day."

"Oh, that was from Matt. vii. 7: 'Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.' But, dear mamma, what am I to ask?"

"Ask," said her mother, "above all things, his favor, which is life; and his loving-kindness, which is better than life. Ask him to teach you more of himself, of his greatness and goodness, that you may love him more, and serve him better."

"Dear mamma," said Agnes, "will you give me a little prayer that I may say to the Lord my Shepherd?"

"Yes, my dear, I will," replied her mother, "when we go home, write down a little prayer, that you can learn and say every day. Now, dear, as we have gone far enough for to-day, we will return, and you can run on again, and gather some more of these pretty flowers."

A short time after they arrived at home, Mrs. Douglas gave Agnes the following little prayer to learn.

"Blessed Jesus, I desire to be one of the lambs that thou wilt gather in thy arms, and carry in thy bosom. I am ignorant, but I come to thee that I may be taught; I am weak and helpless, but I flee to thy outstretched arms for safe-