



OUR YOUNG PEOPLE



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Saving the Colours.

OUR picture serves to perpetuate a brave act performed during the late war in Africa. After the battle of Isandlana, the colours of the 24th Regiment were missing. What had become of them? Had they fallen into the hands of the enemy? Nay, from that they had been saved through the bravery of Lieut. Melvill. He determined to save them, and he did, but lost his own life in the effort. He was pursued by the Zulus till he came to a broad and rapid river. Into this both horse and rider plunged. Anxiety for the flag made him lose the management of his horse when in the middle of the stream. With his precious burden he drifted down the current to a large rock on which another brave officer had landed. Lieut. Higginson tried to help, but both were washed off. In the struggle with the stream the flag was torn from them, and sank, borne down by its heavy fringe, and they beheld it no more. They reached the shore exhausted, and almost lifeless, yet perchance they felt the sacrifice had not been in vain, for the stream had folded itself lovingly around the treasure; it would rest there, safe from the savage Zulus and from all dishonour which might have come to it. The colours were afterwards recovered, but the brave defenders never knew it, for they were overtaken by the enemy and slain. If you had asked them why they had so acted, they would have said, "We simply did our duty." Let each of our young readers do

his or her duty in the same spirit. But no person can in the fullest sense of the word do his duty, until he has accepted Jesus Christ as his Saviour, for to "Fear God and keep His commandments is the whole duty of man."

Dear young readers, have you enlisted in the army of the great King? If so, are you willing rather to die than see His flag dishonoured. Doubtless had those men lived they would have received the Victoria cross, or some other special distinction from the hands

of their sovereign; but what is that to the approving smile of our gracious King, when He shall one day say to us, "Well done, good and faithful servant: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

Gifts.

MANY a mother says to her little child, "I promise to give you a book with beautiful pictures on your Birthday." The child is very happy at the thought. It longs for the day, because it believes its mother's promise will turn out quite true. The

Birthday comes, and the Book; and a lovely Book it is! Every page has a picture in it! God is like that mother. He has promised countless blessings to all—even to the very youngest—who love and trust Him.

Sometimes, however, a mother has made a promise, and something occurs which renders it impossible for her to fulfil it. No danger of any of God's promises failing. He knows the end from the beginning, so that nothing *can* happen which He did not expect, and nothing can hinder Him, for He is Almighty.

