

A Man Sent from God.

JOHAN the Baptist was a wonderful man. He was the son of a Jewish high priest named Zacharias. Before this little boy was born, an angel from heaven told Zacharias that his child's name was to be John. When he was born, some neighbours and cousins wished him to be called by the same name as his father. But his parents said he must be called John; for God had told them so.

John was sent by God to do a great work for Him, when he became a man. How strangely he was dressed! he had a raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins. He lived upon locusts and wild honey, and was as bold as a lion.

Nearly all who had preached before, said that Jesus was *coming*; but now John said, "He *is* come; *I have seen Him*; *I am sent to prepare the way before Him. Repent of your sins, and prepare to meet Him.*" See how the people listen!

Every child is sent into the world for something. Like John, you cannot save anybody, but you can tell who can. A little child once said to a man, "I love Jesus; does you?" This question made the man think, and pray that he might do so; and God heard his prayer, and he became a Christian.

Now, that was a little thing for the child to do, but God blessed it to the saving a man. You can do likewise.

Pleasant Gifts.

"Who giveth us richly all things to enjoy."—1 Tim. 6: 17.

THINK a little of God's great kindness to you. How *very* good He is to you! How *can* any body go on all day long, and never see how good he is, and never look up and bless Him? Most especially on bright pleasant days, when He giveth us more even than usual to enjoy! He "giveth." Not one single pleasant thing, not one single bit of enjoyment comes to us but what He giveth. We can not get it, we do not earn it, we do not deserve it; but He *giveth* lovingly, and kindly, and freely. Suppose He stopped giving, what would become of us.

"Richly." So richly, that if you tried to write down

half His gifts to you, your hand would be tired long before you had done. You might easily make a list of the presents given you on your birthday, but you could not make a list of what God gives you every day of your life.

"All things." All the things you really need, and a great many more besides. All the things that will do you good, a great many more than you would ever have thought of. All the things that He can fill your little hands with, and trust you to carry without stumbling and falling. *All things, everything that you have at all!*

"To enjoy." Now, how kind this is! not only "to do us good," but "to enjoy." So you see He means you to be happy with what He gives you, to smile and be glad, not to be dismal and melancholy. If you do not enjoy what He "giveth," that is your own

fault, for He meant you to enjoy it. Look up to Him with a bright smile and thank Him for having given you richly all things to enjoy!



JOHN THE BAPTIST PREACHING.

Two Good Sons.

ANCIENT history records that a certain city was besieged, and at length obliged to surrender. In the city there were two brothers who had in some way obliged the conquering general,

and, in consequence of this, received permission to leave the city before it was set on fire, taking with them as much of their property as each could *carry about his person*. Accordingly the two generous youths appeared at the gates of the city, one of them carrying their father, and the other their mother.

A CUP of water timely brought,
An offered easy chair,
A turning of the window-blind
That all may feel the air.

An early flower unasked bestowed,
A light and cautious tread,
A voice to softest whispers hushed
To spare an aching head,—

Oh, things like these, though *little things*,
The purest love disclose,
As fragrant atoms in the air
Reveal the hidden rose.