

LAURA'S RED LETTER DAY.

"In the morning sow thy seed."

BY AUNT MAY.



IT was a happy day when old Benjamin Frost gave Laura her kitten—a day never to be forgotten, even if she lived to be ever so old. For months and months she had visited the old man, carrying him flowers and picture books, and talking to him in her pretty childish way, because she thought how miserable he must be in his lonely comfortless cottage, and because—well, because she had read of Jesus and his disciples going about and doing good, and from her little loving heart she longed to be like them. She used to sometimes wish there were more miserable people about; but there was only Benny that she knew of, and she often wished too that his face would grow bright, as she fancied those other faces must have done when the Saviour drew near; but then she was only a little girl, and a naughty one sometimes, like all the rest of the little girls who live in this naughty, yet lovely world of ours. Once she told a lie, and—but there, I need not tell you of her faults; for little Laura tried to be good, and you may be quite sure that God loved her in spite of all, and so, dear little reader, we will forget the dark side and love her too.

But about the kitten! Well, one morning when it was spring time and quite frosty and cold, as it often is at that time of the year, and when Laura was sleepy and did not want to get up, her mother called her to carry something to the other end of the village for a sick child's breakfast. She didn't want to go, this little girl of ours; but a good thought came, "It is God's work," and so she put on a very brave heart and dressed and set out on her errand.

Coming back, she met her father and a gentleman friend, and it was so nice—would you believe it, they had come to meet her. Then as they passed Benny's house, the old man came out, and making his very best bow, asked if she would please to accept of the kitten she had almost worshipped, and thought Benny was so very cross and particular about. She must come in and fetch it, so Benjamin said, and oh, did she not skip lightly over the threshold, her father and his friend following. They were all glad to see her joy, and pussy nestled in her arms as though very glad to find a haven of rest.

Benny mumbled something in reply to Laura's thanks, and then hobbled away; but the little girl had gained a point. Gruff old Benjamin, and gentle little Laura were on equal terms at last, each had conferred a favour on the other. The kitten drew them together, for was it not Benny's, and did not Laura love it?

By and by, when Laura has done with this life, I think that Benny will be the first to welcome her at the golden gates; for he is dead now, and oh, he passed away so happily, and it was Laura's bearing with all his crabbed ways, and, above all, her pretty acceptance of his one present which opened his heart, the heart with which no one to love, was growing harder and harder every day.

"Then scatter seeds of kindness, then scatter seeds of kindness,

Then scatter seeds of kindness, for our reaping by-and-by."

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

- (1) *The British Workman*. 1876 Vol. 1s 6d.
- (2) *The Band of Hope Review*. 1877 Vol. 1s.
- (3) *The Infant's Magazine*. 1877 Vol. 1s 6d.
- (4) *The Friendly Visitor*. 1877 Vol. 1s 6d.
- (5) *The Family Friend*. 1877 Vol. 1s 6d.
- (6) *The Children's Friend*. 1877 Vol. 1s 6d.
- (7) *Heathen England*. By Rev. W. Booth. 1s.
- [London: S. W. Partridge and Co.]
- (8) *Notes on Genesis*. By Rev. J. Inglis. 3s 6d.
- (9) *The Old Tales of Chivalry*. By Ascot R. Hope.
- [London: Gall and Inglis]
- (10) *Sir Titus Salt, Baronet: His Life and His Lessons*. By Rev. B. Galsmarie. 6s.
- (11) *Homeward Bound*. By Annie Gray. 1s.
- [London: Hodder and Stoughton]
- (12) *Diana*. By the Author of "The Wide, Wide World". 5s 6d.
- (13) *The Life of William Brock, D.D.* By Rev. C. M. Barrell. 6s.
- [London: Nisbet and Co.]
- (14) *Sicily*. 1877 Vol. 2s 6d.
- (15) *Golden Hours*. 1877 Vol. 7s 6d.
- [London: W. Paul.]
- (16) *Our Sunday School Question Pinned*. By J. M. Green. 6d.
- [London: J. F. and W. G. G.]
- (17) *Mental Scenes and Pictures from the Bible*. By Rev. H. S. and Mrs. Wareham. 1s 6d.
- (18) *Grandpa's Missionary Stories*. By William Campbell. 1s 6d.
- [London: Book Society.]

FOREMOST among the providers of sound, wholesome religious literature for young and old, stands the well-known firm of Partridge and Co. Their serials are beyond praise, and it is only necessary to remind our readers of their existence, and more especially as to their volume form. The "British Workman" (1), that staunch advocate of temperance; the "Band of Hope Review" (2), the object of which is fully expressed in its title; the "Infant's Magazine" (3), full of illustrations for "the wee ones"; the "Friendly Visitor" (4), welcomed in many a cottage home; the "Family Friend" (5), a similar, but more ambitious periodical; and the "Children's Friend" (6), a delightful companion for our girls and boys. All these volumes are so bright and cheery, both inside and out, that we are loth to make any invidious distinction, but would advise our readers to buy the whole set, and present each volume to the friend or relation for whom it was most suitable.

Mr. Booth, an earnest, devoted worker for God among the lower classes, has written a terribly thrilling and vivid account of his wonderful experiences (7), and we should like every Christian to read it.

A *Popular Commentary on Genesis* is undoubtedly an acquisition, and Mr. Inglis has, without question, given us this (8). Lucid, impartial, and comparatively exhaustive, these notes will be found of great use to the studious reader. The value of the work is greatly enhanced by the incorporation of a large number of illustrative quotations from a variety of authors.

We seem to live our boyhood's days over again while reading Ascot Hope's "Tales of Chivalry." Legends they are, and in great part fables, but there is the true ring of nobility in them, and many a lesson may be learnt from the perusal of this exceedingly interesting volume.

The name of Titus Salt is as a household word in the north of England, and his fame has reached all round the world. His biography (10) is very welcome, and as we read the story of his dogged perseverance, upright dealing, Christian zeal, and princely philanthropy, we can but wish that every young