

Beacons.

‘Take heed to yourselves’ (Mark 13 : 9.)



LIGHTHOUSES are to guide—Beacons speak of danger. Voyager to an Eternal home ! God has set up warning beacons along the headlands of life.

Their language is, “Keep off !”
“ Beware !”
Write ‘beware’ on everything !
—on thy heart,

on thy thoughts, on thy words, on thy actions. Mary foes are watching for thy destruction. Tamper not with sin—venture not

on doubtful ground—walk not on the edge of the precipice ; avoid sources and scenes of temptation—evil haunts and evil associates—the world, the

flesh, and the Devil.

Sailing along life’s sea, look to these among other Beacons which God has placed for thy guidance and safety :

“ Consider thyself, lest thou also be tempted.”

“ Abstain from all appearance of evil.”

“ Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

“ Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation.”

“ This I say, brethren, The time is short.”

“ How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation ? ”

The Origin of the Bible Society.

MARY JONES was the daughter of a poor weaver living in a humble dwelling at the foot of Cader Idris. She was born in 1782, and early in life began to learn her father’s trade. She attended a Sabbath-school, and was soon distinguished for her readiness to learn and repeat large portions of the word of God. As yet, although there had been many editions of the Welsh Bible published, it was an exception to see a copy in a poor man’s house in Wales. The nearest Bible was two miles distant from Mary Jones’ house. She had permission to read it as often as she chose. Meanwhile she carefully set aside all her pence, determined if possible to buy a Bible of her own.

“ After years of saving she succeeded in making up the sum necessary to buy a copy of the Welsh Bible. She ascertained that Bala was the nearest town in which a copy might be got : and it was twenty-five

miles away. But, nothing daunted, the girl set off, and walked all the way footbare, carrying her boots in a bag in order to put them on just before entering Bala. She arrived at Bala late in the evening—too late to see Mr. Charles, from whom the Bible was to be had. In the morning she went to Mr. Charles, and he was touched by her simple story. He said, ‘ I am sorry that you have come all the way to obtain a Bible, seeing I have no copy to give you. All the Bibles I received from London have been sold months since, excepting one or two I have promised to keep for friends. Mary Jones wept bitterly. The disappointment was too much for her. Mr. Charles could not withstand her tears, and he at last gave her one of the promised Bibles. Mary placed the Bible in her bag and bade good-by to the kind Mr. Charles, feeling grateful to him for letting her have what she considered the greatest of treasures. Her visit to Mr. Charles left a lasting impression on both. Often afterward did Mr. Charles refer to that touching incident to convince his English friends of the intense craving of the Welsh nation for the word of life. In December 1802, Mr. Charles laid before the Committee of the Religious Tract Society the pressing needs of Wales, and related the story of Mary Jones. The story awakened sympathy in every breast, and it was then resolved not only to have a Bible Society for Wales but for the whole world.

“ Mary Jones’ Bible is now in the Library of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and on her tomb at Brynerwg is an inscription stating that her journey to Bala in 1802 led to the establishment of the British and Foreign Bible Society.”

Sitting Still.

THERE are two ways of telling a child to be still. One is to say to the child that is restless and naughty, “ Now you go there and sit down, and sit still ; the other is, “ Come here, darling, and sit down by your mother, I want to tell you something.” I think this is the way God speaks to us. He don’t stop at “ be still,” but says, “ Be still and know that I am God ; that which makes you so restless and uneasy I can accomplish because I am God.” Mark in the Twenty-third Psalm the close connection between the “ still waters” and “ He leadeth me.” The waters are still when our will is yielded to the divine will, and never without.

Do you say, “ How shall I get this spirit ? ” Come and sit down, *sit still*, and look at your divine Lord and Master ; and as you sit still and look into His dear face, you will be changed into the same spirit. Take no anxious thought for the morrow, because He careth for thee.

“ What though thou rulest not,
Yet heaven and earth and hell
Proclaim—God sitteth on the throne,
And doeth all things well.”