

walked together in the lonely field. And the sorrow of their heart did cause them to love each other still the more. And in their sorrow and love they made a vow. And I, "Ezel," heard their sorrowful talk, and silently listened to their holy covenant.

The tall young man, dark and strong, I found, was a noble and valiant prince, the son of our great king. And his ruddy friend was the young hero who had been a shepherd-boy, and who had won renown through all the land by slaying huge Goliath. All our hills and valleys rang with his name and praise for a long time after that famous victory. And his voice was rich and sweet even in sorrow,

The sorrow which that day made them both so sad was because of the great King's bitter anger, against the bright-haired shepherd-lad. And the prince made a holy vow with his friend, whom he loved as his own soul. He told him that he would brave his great father's anger, and, would, at all risks, save his friend. "Go thou home to Bethlehem; and see thy father and thy mother, and all thy brothers and sisters," said the noble prince; "and then come back swiftly after three days, to this spot, and hide thyself near the stone Ezel."

And the prince promised his dear friend that he would let him know whether the great king would seek to slay him or not. And I, "Ezel," was to see the sign.

This was to be the sign: On the third day the young prince would bring his bow and arrows into the field to practice shooting. And a little boy would come with him to run and pick up the arrows after they had been shot away. And if the great king was kind-hearted towards the famous shepherd-youth, then the prince would shoot his arrows on this side of me, the Ezel-stone. But if the poor king was mad with passion, and wished to slay his son's dear friend, then the prince would shoot his arrows on the other side of me, "Ezel."

And near me where I stood was a dark cave, with wild thorns and brambles growing all about it.

And, lo! the nimble shepherd-hero ran swiftly home to Bethlehem; and after three days he came as swiftly back, and straightway hid himself in the cave.

And the noble prince went slowly

home to the great king; but scarcely did he speak to any. His heart was sad for his dearly loved friend. And after three days he knew that his father's heart was mad with anger, against the bright-eyed slayer of Goliath.

And I, "Ezel," stood waiting for the arrows and the sign:

Then, early in the morning, slowly came the noble prince into the field; and a little lad was with him. And he said to the boy: 'Run, find out now the arrows which I shoot.' And he bent his bow, and the arrow came whizzing through the air and fell on the other side of me, "Ezel." And then the prince shot another arrow, and after that one more, All three of them fell on the other side of me. So the lad came and found the arrows. And the noble prince cried out to his little boy: "Make speed; haste; stay not." And then he sent away the little boy, and told him to run back home as fast as ever he could. And that little boy did not know that there was a poor, sorrowful hero in the cave.

And as soon as the lad was quite gone, the bright-haired young man arose out of his hiding-place, and bowed three times before the noble prince. And then they fell upon one another's neck and kissed each other, and wept much; for they knew now, that they must part, and leave each other for perhaps a great while.

And they blessed each other. And when they parted, and one went forth past me to go away he knew not where, and the other went past me to go back to the poor mad king, I, "Ezel," hard stone as I was, could have wept to see how they loved each other, and had to part. — 'Sunday-School Scholar's Treasure.'

What a Bean Ate.

Tommy is eating his dinner. Where did his dinner come from? Out of the ground. His bread was once wheat in the field; the meat and milk were once grass; the vegetables grew in the garden.

And how did the wheat and grass and peas and beans grow ripe and large? By eating. They also had their dinner. The plants took their food from the ground. On the large roots of all plants are little fine rootlets, or fibres, like threads. On the tips of these fine roots are

little suckers, or mouths, and down in the ground these little mouths are eating and drinking all the time.

What you call dirt — the earth that the plants grow in—has in it a great deal of mineral stuff, and the wee particles of mineral, are sucked up into the plant with the water from the ground. Up the stem of the plant this water climbs in little pipes until it gets to the leaves. Every leaf is a nice little kitchen, or chemist's shop, where the sun is the chemist, and the light and heat change the mineral stuff into plant stuff. What was once earth and water is changed in a wonderful way into sugar and starch and many other good things, which serve as food for Tommy and other people. After the sap or liquid mounts up into the leaves and is changed, it must travel about the plant to build up or make larger pipes or cells. This is the way plants grow.—'Rays of Light.'

The Trial Season.

Not only here
The rich result of all our God doth teach
His scholars, slow at best, until we reach
A nobler sphere;
Then, not till then, our training is complete,
And the true life begins for which he made us meet.

Bold thought, flash on
Into the far depths of eternity,
When time shall be a faint star memory
So long, long gone!
Only not lost to our immortal sight,
Because it ever bears redemption's quenchless light.

Look on to this
Through all perplexities of grief and strife,
To this, thy true maturity of life,
Thy coming bliss.
That such high gifts thy future dower may be,
And for such service high thy God prepareth thee.

What though to-day
Thou canst not trace at all the hidden reason
For his strange dealings through the trial season,
Trust and obey.
—Frances R. Havergal.