

enjoying his favor, that I might never taste the bitter pains of eternal death."

This example shows that our young friends do not need to go far, in order to become missionaries. They need only go to their companions, and speak seriously to them about the things of eternity. If the children, for whose benefit this is prepared, could all be induced to follow the example of little James Brooks, how happy would be the result! We should then be able to count on the labors of fifty thousand juvenile home missionaries in our church; and the next generation would be able to speak from a happier experience than we, of "times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord."—*The Teacher's Offering.*

### The Power of Prayer.

Some years ago some Moravian missionaries sailed from London to the island of St Thomas, where they were going to labor among the slaves. The name of the ship in which they sailed was the "Britannia." At first the voyage was pleasant and prosperous, and in their hearts, as well as with their voices, the missionaries would often thank God for his goodness to them.

But one day a great danger threatened them. A pirate-ship was distinguished far off, but bearing down towards them. Now pirates are at sea what robbers are on land, but even more terrible, because there is seldom any help near. They cruise about in their light-built, swift-sailing vessels, seldom going on land, but making it their whole business to rob other ships. And on their ill-gotten spoils they live. Generally they murder as well as rob. Sometimes they lay a plank over the ship's side, blindfold the eyes of the unfortunate crew and passengers, and compel them to walk thus along the plank, till, without knowing it, they reach the end, and then they fall into the sea and are drowned. No wonder that the sight of a pirate vessel was a very alarming one to the people in the "Britannia."

It came on, nearer and nearer—and what could those who saw it do—all alone there—in the wide ocean? Each did what he thought wisest and best. The captain judged it best to put the ship into a state of defence; so he arranged his men and prepared to resist as well as he could. The sailors, whatever they thought best, had no choice but to obey the captain. But the missionaries thought it best

to pray, and they went down into the cabin, and there, heedless of what was going on on deck, they poured out their souls in earnest prayer to God, remembering, no doubt, His promises and the words, "If God be for us, who can be against us?" Rom. viii. 31.—The pirate-ship approached till it came within gun-shot of the "Britannia," and then, from the cannon ranged along its deck, began to pour out a heavy fire. And there were grappling hooks, on board, or strong hooks fixed on long ropes, ready to throw into the "Britannia" and hold her fast, while the pirates should board her and do their work of destruction. It seemed that there was little chance of escape from such an enemy. But the captain, whose heart was sinking at the fearful prospect before him, did not know what powerful helpers he had below, in the few peaceable missionaries whose fervent prayers were then ascending through the noise of the fight to heaven.

The moment the pirates tried to throw their grappling irons across to the other ship, their own was tossed violently, and the men who held the ropes were thrown with force into the sea. Vexed by this disaster, the pirate-captain sent others, who shared the same fate. Seeing he could not succeed in this manner, he resolved to fire at the "Britannia," till she sank with repeated blows. But this effort strangely failed also, for the balls missed their aim and fell into the sea. The smoke of the frequent charges was very dense, and hung about the vessel for some minutes, hiding them from each other's view. At last a sudden gust of wind cleared it away, and to the amazement of the pirate-captain, the "Britannia" was seen at a distance, with all her sail spread to the wind, speeding swiftly away from the attack, and they were forced, in great anger, to abandon their cruel purpose. Thus wonderfully had God appeared and saved the vessel in answer to prayer. The missionaries' prayers had been greatly honoured, but they were to have a further fruit still.

Five years afterwards, during which the missionaries had been diligently preaching the gospel at St Thomas, they and the other missionaries on the island agreed to meet together to celebrate the anniversary of their deliverance from the pirates, and to thank God for his other mercies. As they sat together, word was brought that a stranger wished to speak to them, and at their permission a tall man entered, with fine bold features, and a pleasant expression of face. The missionaries wondered, and one asked what was the stranger's business with them. "First answer me one question," said he, "Are you the men who came to this island five years ago in the English ship 'Britannia?'" "We are," replied the missionary who had spoken—"And you were attacked upon the sea by pirates?" "Exactly; but why are these