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The Sunbeam.

TORONTO, MARCH 16, 1895.

FOR WHAT WERE THE EYES MADE?

BY DR. J. C. HANAFORD.

"Of course to see with," some child may say. That is true, but there are thousands of children in our large cities, who can seldom, if ever, see but few of the beauties in nature, and all around many of us. They see but little of the beautiful flowers and plants, the luxuriant vines winding around the trees, that they may go up higher than the plants around them, though I do not suppose that they are proud of their high position. They can see but little of the glorious scenes in nature all around country children, while it is quite likely that they seldom, if ever, look up into the spacious heavens to see the sparkling stars, looking down upon us so pleasantly, as if inviting us to come up and visit them! The country children, those on the nice farms, see a great deal to please them, of which those in the cities are deprived.—these evidences that the good Father in heaven provides and cares for his children.

How sad it would be for my little girl friends to be robbed of their sight, to be blind! Not able to see the difference between day and night! How sad to be obliged to seek someone to lead them around at all times, or to grope their way in total darkness, in danger every moment of having some accident befall them! What a blessing to be able to look into the smiling faces of parents, brothers, and sisters, with those of kind friends. What a comfort to be able to read in a beautiful picture book, an interesting piece in a newspaper, or a chapter in the Testament. It seems to

have been intended that our eyes and sight should last us long as we have bodies to be guided by them, and to be provided with food by our labours. To guard them from accidents the eyes are placed in deep sockets of bone, and so protected from blows by bony projections, the cheek-bones, forehead, nose, etc., that a common blow would rarely injure them. Well oiled in their sockets, they move with great ease from the right to the left, up and down, and around in all possible directions, not always being told what to do, as if sight was a part of themselves! When asleep, they turn up as if to get a drink, to a place where a little rill of tears is constantly flowing, which we may regard as their food.

Some creatures, like the common house fly, such as are not able to wear glasses when their sight is imperfect, have hundreds and thousands of eyes, some in different parts of the body to give them sight just where they need it, while they could be blind in a great many eyes and still see something. For example, the timid snail has one on the end of what we may call a long finger, which he runs out of his shell, letting that look all about to see if there is any danger, not daring to come out till he sees that all is right. But we would not exchange our good eyes for all of theirs, being thankful to our Father in heaven that he has thus blessed his children.—*Child's Hour.*

PATIENCE.

EVERY lily in the meadow
Waits in patience for the rain;
Every daisy in the shadow
Waits till sunshine comes again;
Every birdie in its home nest
Waits for God, nor waits in vain.

Dearest Saviour, it is written,
"Be ye patient," in thy Word;
Make me patient as the lily,
Or the daisy, or the bird;
Give me, Lord, thy loving Spirit,
Never by a passion stirred.

EBENEZER.

BY PHENA WALTER.

I WONDER how many children who sing that good old hymn, "Come, thou Fount of every blessing," understand what the author means when he says, "Here I'll raise mine Ebenezer." We are told in the Scriptures to sing with the spirit and with the understanding also. Now, we cannot do this unless we understand the meaning of the words we sing.

Ebenezer is a Hebrew word, and means a "stone of help."

A great many years ago, when God's people were called Israel, and lived in Canaan, they were greatly disturbed from time to time by different tribes of heathen who lived near them.

At one time, when Israel was making a burnt offering, and seeking the Lord for

deliverance from their enemies, the Philistines came near to engage in battle with them; but the Lord thundered with a great thunder, and discomfited the Philistines before Israel. Then Samuel, who was judge over Israel at that time, took a stone, and set it up between Israel and the Philistines, and named it Ebenezer, and said: "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." That is, Samuel set up a stone as a witness between Israel and the Philistines, and in naming it Ebenezer he said: "The Lord is the stone that hath helped us."

In the Scriptures Jesus is called a "stone of stumbling" and a "rock of offence" to those who do not obey him; but to those who love him and keep his commandments Jesus is the "chief corner-stone," and a "rock" to guide his people to the promised home.

So we see, children, Jesus is an Ebenezer, or the Stone who will help us to get victories; therefore, when we are in trial or temptation, let us not forget to raise our "Ebenezer," and in him we shall conquer.—*Youth's Instructor.*

A LITTLE CHRISTIAN.

BY REV. JULIUS BRIGG.

I'M a little Christian
But a few years old,
Jesus is my Shepherd,
I am in his fold.
Do I love my Saviour?
I should think I do,
And I wish that every
One would love him too.

When I wake each morning
I kneel down and pray,
Asking God to help me
All throughout the day.
Then I read my Bible,
'Tis a book I love,
And it helps me onward
To my home above.

If I meet temptation,
Jesus is my shield,
Giving grace to help me,
That I may not yield.
For I know the Christian
Must be free from sin
If the crown of glory
He at last would win.

I'm a little Christian,
Trying all the day
The blest will of Jesus
Always to obey.
Where I see his footprints
There I try to tread,
Seeking by his Spirit
Always to be led.

And when the day is over
Jesus makes me blest,
As I kneel before him
Ere I go to rest.
Do I love my Saviour?
I should think I do,
And I wish that every
One would love him too.