

## CHAPTER IV.

The rain was beating furiously against the dingy panes of a desolate upper room, where, on a bundle of straw, lay our little Willie. Very white and still he lay, so white and still that, but for the fluttering breath, you could have fancied he were dead.

Can that be Bobby—bright, brave Bobby, that is crouching beside him, so haggard and worn and weary-looking? Ay, great sorrow has come to Bobby since last we saw him, happy and rejoicing in the love of his Saviour. That very night his much loved little brother was taken ill, and for a week Bobby has scarcely left him day or night, but has watched beside him in the cold desolate room into which the frightened landlady hurried him on the first appearance of his illness. 'And be thankful for this,' she said, in her rough but not unkindly way; 'if the other lodgers knew it was fever they'd leave me, every man Jack of them, and what would I do for a living then, I'd like to know? By rights he ought to be in the hospital, only you're that set on him I don't like to part you.'

And Bobby was thankful, very, very thankful. But, oh, what a week that had been! Bobby scarcely knew how he had lived through it, and just now things had got to their blackest.

The kind minister had taken their address and had given them a little money, but the last penny was spent and there was nothing for poor Willie, poor weak Willie!

'Oh, what shall I do? what shall I do?' The words came with a groan from poor Bobby, as he sat with his head bowed in his hands.

'Bobby, darling,'—the white lids had lifted, and Willie was looking at him with a face of tender love—'Bobby, darling,' said the patient gentle voice that Bobby loved so well, 'you are not forgetting the Friend, are you? It'll be all right soon, Bobby, just hold on a little longer. I think He wants to be quite sure we trust in Him.'

The look of sorrow departed for a moment from Bobby's face, as he answered.

'Why, Willie, I do believe I was forgetting! just as if it isn't all right when He knows all about it! I love you, oh, so much, Willie! but Jesus loves you best.'

'Yes, Bobby, He loves me best, and He loves you best, darling.'

'But, oh, Willie, there's no money left, and no food, and I ought to go and get some; but how can I leave you here alone, and you so weak and ill?'

'I shan't be alone, Bobby; Jesus will be with me.'

Willie's voice was faint and low, and his eyes were closing as though he wished to sleep.

'He's sinking for want o' food, that's what he is.' The tears were streaming down Bobby's cheeks as he whispered this in an agony between his set lips. Sinking down on his knees, he uttered a few wild beseeching words of prayer, and then, after one long look and kiss, he hurried from the room.

'Perhaps I'll never see you again alive, Willie, darling, but Jesus loves you, Jesus loves you!' he said; and, oh, what a comfort the words brought!

[To be continued.]

## CONTEMPORARY CHURCH OPINION.

Church Bells, London, Eng., says:—

In more than one parish in London open-air processions and services took place on Good Friday with surpliced choir and veiled cross. It was a strange sight suddenly to turn round a street and find oneself face to face with a group, not of the traditional open-air preacher, with his half dozen assistants in black frock coats and tall hats, but of clergy from some neighboring church, with their choir all in cassocks and surplices. The value of such services of these depends no doubt much upon the character of the district in which they are held; neither the English climate nor the English character, perhaps, allowing us to suppose that they could ever become anything like general. The day, however, is past in which any serious clergyman imagines that he has fulfilled his duty by simply holding the regular services in church; and he does not refuse to avail himself of any new end, as it were, more pronounced and aggressive methods of appealing to his people which may suggest themselves, having a commission, as he remembers, to go out into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in. The practices of some dissenting bodies and of the Salvation Army have now for a long while past shown that open air processions and services may be productive of other results than mere street excitement or ridicule or riot; and the Church of England gives proof of her vitality when she no longer looks upon these more or less irregular methods of those outside her with the supercilious indifference or disdain of bygone years, but learns from them, it may be, some practical hint for enlarging her own sphere of usefulness and winning on the lives and loyalty of the English people.

## BIRTH.

At the Rectory, Smith's Falls, on April 26, the wife of the Rev. Dean Nesbitt, of a daughter. 49-2

## BAPTISM.

On Easter Eve, at the Parish Church of St John, Cornwallis, N.S., by the Rector Fred. J. H. Axford, Adults, Levi Eaton, and Mary Ann Eliza, wife of James Ed. Grass.  
In Christ Church, Albion Mines, N.S., on Palm Sunday, March 30th, 1890, Stella Allison, daughter of Herbert A. and Sophie M. Hensley.

## DIED.

DARE-SPIKE.—At Trinity Church, Pierre, South Dakota, on Wednesday, April 8th, by Rev. A. B. Hill, Theodore A. Dare to Eliza R., youngest daughter of Rev. H. M. Spike, Rector of Musquash, New Brunswick.

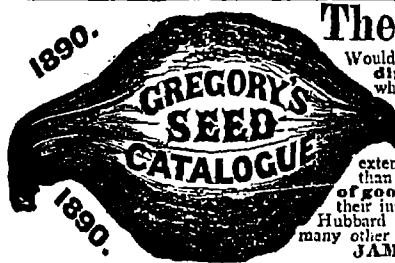
JOHNSON.—On Easter Monday morning at 5:15, aged nearly seven months, Mary Gertrude, daughter of Rev. G. Johnson, Rector of All Saints' Church, Dunam, and Alice E. B. Seely, his wife.

"Lost awhile, our treasured love,  
Gained for ever safe above."  
MACDONALD.—At Platon, on Monday, the 31st March, Alexander Cameron, the infant child of Charles D. and Sophie MacDonald.

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