

give me, too; so I hope the Almighty will remember me in mercy."

For a moment they stood watching Seth as he walked down the road, stopping now and then to gaze up at the reflection that was following him.

"I've had my sup-per-and now—I'll go to bed," the great-grandfather was saying when they entered the kitchen, and as he would not be persuaded that it was day-time Oliver helped him to bed in one of the small rooms off the kitchen. Rather more carefully than usual Patience began to wash the dishes; Paul fed the swallows in his father's old hat in the corner of the settle; the mother stitched and pressed the seams of Paul's coat; Keturah was induced to make preparations for the morrow's baking, and Oliver brought in several rakes to mend, saying apologetically:

"I can always work best when folks is around."

At three o'clock as Oliver was going out with the mended rakes he called them all to the door, and there they saw the outline of the sun, pale and shadowy.

"Arise, shine; for thy light is come!" cried Paul, jumping up and down. "The Bible said so! The Bible said so!"

"Yes, the sun is going on his appointed way," the mother said with great relief, "and it is not as dark as it has been."

But while she spoke the ghostly sun disappeared.

"Never mind," comforted Paul, trying to swallow the queer feeling in his throat, "for we know now that the sun is going right on; and, oh, mother, may we sit up and see the moon?"

"I think you may," promised the mother. "Now come in and begin the samplers that you have been talking about so long."

Delicate little Paul never thought of being ashamed of doing "girl's work," and they were soon delightfully busy in selecting the bright worsted and beginning to mark their names, ages, the date, with the Bible verses they had learned that day. At supper time it was almost as dark as it had been at noon, but as soon as their bread and milk was eaten the children stationed themselves at the window to watch for the moon.

"The moon rises at nine o'clock," announced Keturah, looking up from the almanac.

"Oh!" cried both the children. "You might say your hymns to me," proposed the mother; "that will make the time pass quick."

Turning disappointedly from the window, the children drew their stools beside their mother on the hearth-rug; they repeated all the hymns and Bible verses they knew, ending by kneeling together at their mother's knee to pray the little prayer that their great-grandmother had learned in the far-away English home.

"It is darker than ever," said Paul, running to the window. "And, oh, see the lights!"

A number of people with torches and lanterns were passing on their way to the meeting-house.

"Go with them, Keturah, if you will feel any better," advised the mother.

"I don't want to see nobody that is more afraid than I be, sobbed Keturah.

But, in spite of their anxious, impatient watching, it grew so dark that Oliver could not see his hand before his face when he stepped out of doors at nine o'clock. Earth and sky appeared to be swallowed up in blackness of darkness.

"We shall not see the moon until to-morrow night, children," said the mother; "so go you to bed and I will call you when the sun rises."

The darkness was not frightful at night, for it was often dark at night; so the weary, excited children fell asleep peacefully, sure that God and their mother would take care of them.

The next sound that Patience heard was Paul's voice calling her, and she opened her eyes to find the room full of light. Running to the window she saw the sun rising gloriously from a bed of scarlet and crimson clouds, causing all the dew-drops in grass and shrubs to twinkle like stars. The roosters were crowing, the hens cackling; the sheep were scampering down the lane to the meadow; Oliver was whistling as he watered the oxen, and Keturah was humming a psalm-tune while she heated the oven for baking. Grandsir stood on the door-stone with bared head and a pleased smile on his childish face, and when she met her mother she received from her a rare kiss and the

counsel, "Always trust the Lord, my child."

And now, when another little Paul and Patience coax their grandma for a story, the most wonderful one that she can tell them is about the dark birthday of herself and brother Paul.—*Christian Union.*

THE OCTOPUS.

The octopus is one of the most attractive sights in an aquarium, attractive so far as popular curiosity is concerned, but repulsive in appearance and habits to most beholders. Of the tribe of invertebrate, or boneless animals, to which the octopus belongs, there are various species, some of them of huge size, about which strange stories are told. That they can seize and destroy a man by dragging him under water with their tentacles or arms is well known. A recent and authenticated instance occurred in Australia—at least there is every appearance of its being authentic. Mr. Smale, the Government diver, was attacked by a large octopus, or devil-fish, while at work on the bed of the Moyne river, at Belfast, in the colony of Victoria. He gave this account of the affair: "Having thrust my arm into a hole, I found that it was held by something, and the action of the water was stirring up the loose clay, and therefore I could not see distinctly for a few minutes; but when it did clear away I saw to my horror the arm of a large octopus entwined around mine like a boa constrictor, and just then he fixed some of his suckers on the back of my hand, and the pain was intense. I felt as if my hand was being pulled to pieces, and the more I tried to take it away the greater the pain became. I had the greatest difficulty in keeping my feet down, as the air rushed along the interior of my dress and inflated it; and if my feet had got uppermost I should have soon become insensible, held in such a position; and also, if I had given the signal to be pulled up, the brute would have held on, and the chances would have been that I should have had a broken arm. I had a hammer by me, but could not reach down to use it on the brute. There was a small iron bar about five feet from me, and with my foot I dragged this along, until I could reach it with my left hand. And now the fight commenced, and the more I struck him the tighter he squeezed until my arm got quite benumbed. After a while I found the grip begin to relax a little, but he held on until I had almost cut him to pieces, and then he relaxed his hold from the rock, and I pulled him up. I was completely exhausted, having been in that position for over twenty minutes. I brought the animal up, or rather a part of it. We laid him out, and he measured over eight feet across, and I felt perfectly convinced that this fellow could have held down five or six men."

The common octopus usually seen in aquaria, is not so formidable a creature, though voracious and fierce, especially the female when in charge of its young. No other inhabitant of the tank dare approach the corner where it ensconces itself behind a rampart of rough cyster-shells, which it builds for the protection of the ova.

The body of the octopus is oval, or sac-shaped, quite destitute of legs; still, he is better off for arms than a monkey, possessing no less than eight powerful elastic or brachial appendages of unequal length, beautifully arranged like a crown round the mouth. The arms serve for locomotion, and are also the instruments for catching its prey, and feeding. They are a powerful machine—for if we look on the under surface we shall find a number (129 pair to each arm) of cup-shaped suckers. These suckers act like a boy's leather sucker or miniature air-pump. The arms are united at the base by a membrane. In the centre and at the bottom of these tentacles is the mouth, consisting of two horny jaws—resembling the beak of a parrot. They can easily crush the shell of the crustaceans with them. The eyes, which are wonderfully developed, are large and projecting, and the animal is able to enlarge and contract them at will; when the octopus sleeps the eyes are contracted and partly covered by the eyelids. The iris is of a beautiful golden color. A fleshy funnel at the opening of the sac is for respiration.

A near relative of the octopus, the *Sepia officinalis*, makes frequent use of the contents of his inkpouch. The ink is probably used for the purpose of suddenly concealing himself when threatened by an enemy.

The change of color in the octopus is a remarkable property, which it has in common with the chameleon. This is effected through

numerous color-cells, underlying the white surface of the skin, which are again in connection with a nervous system. It is worth recording, that while the octopus and eledone exhibited brighter color when exposed to light, the chameleon becomes dark in sunshine.—*Sunday at Home.*

DOING GOD'S ERRANDS.

Hester was a little girl who was trying to love and serve Jesus. And she showed her love for Jesus by seeking to please Him in all she did. She loved to do errands for her mother, and to have her mother say she was a faithful servant when she did them well.

One day she had been talking with her mother about God. As they got through, she looked up with a bright thought beaming in her eyes, and said:

"Why, mother, then God is sending us on errands all the time! Oh! it is nice to think that I am God's little errand-girl."

"Yes, dear," said her mother; "God has given us all errands to do for Him, and plenty of time to do them in, and a book full of directions to show us how to do them. Every day we can tell him what we are trying to do, and ask Him to help us. And when He calls us home to Himself, we shall have great joy in telling Him what we have been trying to do for Him."

"I like that," said Hester. "It is very pleasant to be allowed to do errands for God."

"One of my errands," said her mother, "is to take care of you."

"And one of mine, dear mother, is to honor and obey you. I think God gives us very pleasant errands to do."

You know that nothing makes us more happy than to do anything for a person that we really love. This is what Jesus meant when He said, "My yoke is easy, and My burden light." This is what the Apostle John meant when he said that "His commandments are not grievous." His people serve Him from love, and that makes everything they do for Him light and pleasant to them.—*Selected.*

"FAST BIND, FAST FIND."

Firmly cling to Thy Cross.
Fast I earthly gain I count but loss;
Fast aviaur, Thou hast died for me,
Fast each me to die to self for Thee.

By the threefold cord divine,
Bind in mercy bind my heart to Thine;
Bind or before Thy Father's throne
Bind in Thy servant's name to own.

Fully in Thy Name I trust,
Fast I earthly staffs but turn to dust;
Fast aviaur, Thou art my sure stay,
Fast I take not Thy Holy Cross away.

Fix my heart on Thy sole love,
Find in hidden treasure, safe above;
Find one can pluck that soul away,
Find dear Lord, that on Thy Cross doth stay.

PRIDE.

Prov. xxviii. 25: "He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife; but he that putteth his trust in the Lord shall be made fat."

Isaiah ii. 12: "For the day of the Lord of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low."

Mal. iv. 1, 3: "Behold the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave neither root nor branch. And he shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts."

James iv. 5, 6: "Do you think that the Scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble."—*The Christian.*

ARE YOU SAFE?

Two little girls were playing with their dolls in the corner of the nursery, and singing as they played:

"Safe in the arms of Jesus,
Safe on his gentle breast,
There by his love o'er-shaded,
Sweetly my soul shall rest."

Mother was busy writing, only stopping

now and then to listen to the little ones' talk, unobserved by them.

"Sissy, how do you know you are safe?" asked Nellie, the younger of the two.

"Because I am holding Jesus with both my two hands—tight!" promptly replied Sissy.

"Ah! that's not safe," said the other child. "Suppose Satan came along, and cut your two hands off!"

Little Sissy looked very troubled for a few moments, dropped poor dolly, and thought deeply. Suddenly her face shone with joy, and she cried out, "Oh! I forgot! I forgot! Jesus is holding me with His two hands, and Satan can't cut His hands off, so I am safe!"

Question Corner.—No. 9.

Answers to these questions should be sent in as soon as possible and addressed EDITOR NORTHERN MESSENGER. It is not necessary to write out the question, give merely the number of the question and the answer. In writing letters always give clearly the name of the place where you live and the initials of the province in which it is situated.

BIBLE QUESTIONS.

97. Where is the prophecy ascribing five different names to Christ, and what are the names?
98. From the top of what mountain did Moses view the promised land and where is the mountain situated?
99. What is the principal bay on the west coast of Palestine, and what mountain may be seen from it?
100. For what is this mountain noted?
101. On what mountain was Solomon's temple built?
102. In what connection is this mountain first mentioned in the Bible?
103. Where did the Angel of the Lord appear to Moses in the burning bush?
104. What was the name of the month in which the Passover was kept, and to which of our months does it correspond?
105. To whom did Christ utter the words, "Blessed are they that have not seen and have believed?"
106. To whom did Christ say, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world;" where was he at the time, and was it before or after his resurrection?
107. What other disciple besides Peter saw Christ alone after his resurrection?
108. Who, attended only by his armor-bearer, attacked the garrison of the Philistines?

ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUESTIONS IN NO. 7.

73. Pharaoh, king of Egypt. Gen. xl. 1, 22.
74. The butler. Gen. xl. 20, 21.
75. For names see Gen. xiv. 1, 2. Lot Abraham's nephew was carried away captive and was rescued by Abraham. Gen. xiv. 12, 16.
76. Melchisedec. He is mentioned in the seventh chapter of Hebrews. Gen. xiv. 18, 19.
77. Saul. 1 Sam. x. 23.
78. Samuel. 1 Sam. viii.
79. Saul, David, Solomon and Rehoboam.
80. Eglon, Ehud. Judges iii. 14, 26.
81. Cushan-rishathaim, king of Mesopotamia. Judges iii. 7, 9.
82. Agag, king of the Amalekites. 1 Sam. xv. 32, 33.
83. In the presence of Achish, king of Gath. 1 Sam. xxi. 12, 15.
84. Herod the Great; hoping thereby to destroy the infant Jesus. Matt. ii. 16.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC.

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CORRECT ANSWERS RECEIVED.

To No. 7.—Carrie S. Hatfield, 12; David McGee, 12; James A. Donaldson, 11 ac; Sadie Doupe, 11; Martha Hastings, 11; Cora M. McIntire, 11; Frederick J. Priest, 11; Clara Suck, 11; Andrew Paterson, 11; Aggie Murdoch, 10; Isabella S. Barr, 10; James Wainright, 5.
To No. 6.—David M. McGee, 12; James Dudley, 12; William Fairchild, 12; Maggie Sutherland, 12; Herbert Davidson, 12; Maud Armstrong, 12; Kate Mills, 12; Edward Clark, 12; Edward B. Craig, 12; William B. McKechnie, 12; William A. Piper, 12; Phebe A. Gertrude, 12; Robert W. Murkar, 12; Carrie Edmunds, 12; Archd. Cairns, 12; Milton Hall, 12; A. Paterson, 12; George Jarrett, 11; Jennie Baillie Russell, 11; Cora M. McIntire, 11; T. Sturrock, 11; Agnes McDonald, 11; Willie H. Simmons, 10; Florence E. Wetherby, 10; Annie Pattison, 10; Minnie Fotheringham, 9; John B. Milford, 9; John Braithwaite, 6.