

SUNBEAM

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AT THE SEA-SIDE.

In the hot summer months a good many persons go to the country or to the sea-side for the good of their health. The little fellow in the picture seems to be having a good time of it. It is such rare fun to dig in the sand and to make harbors and docks for a tiny toy fleet, and then go sailing in the fishers' boats and paddle in the water and lie upon the sand. But for those who cannot go to the sea I think it is even better to roll in the clover, and ride on the hay cart and gather flowers in the meadows. God has made this world very beautiful both by sea and land.

HIS OBEDIENCE.

Stephen Girard, the famous Philadelphia philanthropist, was a very rich and very eccentric old man. He had a nephew whom he had told to come to him when he was twenty-one years old, and perhaps he might then do something for him. Years went by, and one day a young man walked into Mr. Girard's office, and when the old gentleman looked up from his ledger he saw his nephew standing before him.

"How old are you?" inquired Girard.

"Twenty-one, sir."

"And I promised that if you would come to me I might do something for you?"

"Yes, sir," replied the nephew.

"Well, go make me a barrel."

This was an astonishing command. To make a barrel the young man would have to learn the trade of a cooper. To learn

the trade properly, so that he could make a thoroughly good barrel, would require a long time. Bidding Mr. Girard "Good day," the young man left the office, the incident has it, and engaged himself as an apprentice to a cooper. A year or

"Well, go into my office."

The young man went into the office and there had a long talk with his uncle. Mr. Girard was so well satisfied that he at once gave him money to start in business. He had told him to make the

barrel in order to learn whether he was willing to work, and whether, if he were willing, he could learn to work; also to learn if he had any false pride about him. When he was satisfied on all these points, he was ready to place the young man in a high place of usefulness.

Now, so it is when Jesus calls us. If we obey the first call, we show that we love him and are willing to give up everything for him. Then he at once gives us something to do for him. It may be a very small task, and it usually is. If we discharge that duty faithfully, then he calls us to something higher.

HEAVEN BEGUN.

It was said of an old Puritan that heaven was in him before he was in heaven. That is necessary for us all; we must have heaven in us before we can get to heaven. If we do not get to heaven before we

die, we shall never get there afterwards. An old Scotchman was asked whether he expected to go to heaven. "Why, man, I live there," was his quaint reply. Let us all live in those spiritual things which are the essential features of heaven.

Bare to be honest, good and sincere.



AT THE SEA-SIDE.

more went by; and then the merchant saw the young man coming toward his office trundling a wheelbarrow, on which lay a fine barrel.

"Here's the barrel, uncle," he quickly said.

"Did you make it yourself?"

"Yes, sir."

"Without help from any one?"

"Yes, sir."