

OUR STORY THIS WEEK.

A FABLE SHOWING THAT SIN DOES NOT HELP ONE.

ONCE there was a woodman at work near a river, cutting down a tree. He swung the axe high over his shoulder to give a good blow, when suddenly the top of his axe flew off, and was lost in the river. It was made of steel and was heavy, and sank deep in the water.

The poor man did not know what to do, he had lost his axe, and could no longer work. He thought of his little boy and girl at home, and of his wife. They would have no food to eat and no clothes to wear, unless he could work, and he had no money to buy a new axe. He felt so badly that he sat down by the river and looked very unhappy. As he sat there, there came up out of the river a beautiful lady who said: "My poor man, what is the matter?" "Oh," he said, "I have lost my axe in the river, and I can't work anymore, and what will my poor children do for food?" "Never mind," said the lady, "for I will get your axe for you," and she sank deep down into the river. Soon she came up again, and brought in her hands a gold axe. "There my good man," she said, "is this your axe?" "Oh, no," he said, "mine was a strong steel one."

Then the lady went down into the water again, and this time she brought up a silver axe. "Here," she said, "is this your axe?" "Oh, no," he said, "mine was a strong steel axe, I don't want any but my own." And the lady said, "You shall have your own," and this time she went down into the water, and brought up the steel axe, and she gave it to the woodman, who thanked her and was very glad.

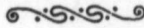
The lady said "You are an honest man, you would only take what belonged to you, but I will give you the gold axe, and the silver axe, and you can get money for them for your children."

The next day the woodman took the gold axe, and the silver axe, into the city to a jeweler, who gave him a great deal of money for them, they were such pure gold, and pure silver.

Then the woodman was able to build a good warm house, and to get shoes and clothes for his children, and to send them to school.

A dishonest woodman hears of this, and thinks he will get a gold axe. He is lazy and does not like to work, but he goes to the river and chops at the trees, and loses his axe purposely in the river. Then he sits down and the fairy comes. When she brings up the gold axe, and asks if it is his, he says "Yes, that is my axe." "Oh, no," the lady says, "You are not speaking the truth," and she disappears in the river carrying the gold axe with her.

So the dishonest woodman loses his own axe and the gold axe, and has no axe to work with. Sin brings its punishment.



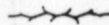
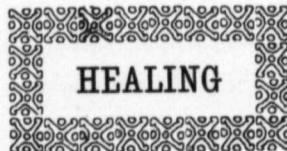
OUR QUESTIONS THIS WEEK.

1. What did the woman who followed Jesus want?
2. What was the matter with her daughter?
3. Who else did Jesus heal?
4. If we have sinful hearts, how can they be cured?



WE ARE LEARNING
ABOUT
JESUS OUR

**LOVING
LORD**



OUR PRAYER THIS WEEK.

Oh Lord! cleanse my heart from all sin sickness.