

Children's Corner.

A MISSIONARY CALL.

Friends, oh, friends! the King is coming!
Go ye out through every place,
And prepare the way before Him,
Make it straight before His face.

In the desert make a highway,
In the city clear the street,
And, "Behold, the King is coming!"
Say to every one you meet

Over Himalayan mountain,
Far through Afric's desert sand,
Bear ye on the royal standard;
Cry aloud, "He is at hand."

"Tell it out" to "China's millions,"
Spread the news through fair Japan;
Tarry not, but speed the message,
Send it on from man to man.

Send it o'er the lone Pacific,
To her thousand lovely isles;
There proclaim the joyful tidings,
Where eternal summer smiles.

Where the cold north wind is blowing,
O'er Siberia's frozen waste,
With the story of salvation
Let the standard-bearer haste.

"Tell the news to every creature,"
Was the Saviour's last command;
Then, wherever men are dying,
Let the preacher take his stand.

Through the ranks of Christian sleepers,
Let ten thousand voices cry—
"Wake and watch;" the Bridegroom cometh,
Up and work; for He is nigh.

See ye not the fields are whitening
To the harvest of the Lord?
Rouse ye! rouse ye! time is flying;
Scatter wide the Gospel word.

Let it gird the earth's wide circle;
And, wherever man hath trod,
To the conquest of the nations,
March, O mighty host of God!

SIN LIKE A CLOUD.

I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions,
and, as a cloud, thy sins.—Isa. xlii. 22.

HOW is sin like a cloud? Because—1st,
Clouds rise from the earth. The heat of
the sun causes vapours to rise from the earth's
surface. Those vapours, rising to the higher and

colder regions of the atmosphere, are condensed
into clouds. When you see a cloud floating along
the sky, you see something which has risen from
the earth. Even so, sin is from us. It does not
come down from God to us. It rises up from us
into the light of His countenance. He is holy, we
are sinful. There is only one thing we can call
our own, and that, alas, is our sin.

2. Clouds hide the sun from us. Sin, like a
dark cloud, comes between us and God. "Your
iniquities have separated between you and your
God, and your sins have hid His face from you"
(Isa. lix. 2). The boy or the girl whose soul is
under the shadow of unpardoned sin cannot know
true happiness. "There is no peace, saith my
God, to the wicked" (Isa. lvii. 21).

3. From the dark thunder-cloud the lightning
leaps forth, causing destruction and death. Even
so, sin, if unforgiven, will bring misery and death
on the sinner in this world and in the next. "Be
sure your sin will find you out" (Num. xxxii. 23).

4. No human power can scatter the clouds, or
blot them out; God alone can do that. If you
were to hear a man say, as he looked up to the
cloudy sky, "I will dispel those clouds, and they
shall no longer hide the sun from us," you would
think he was not in his right mind. God, who
makes the sun to shine, and the vapours to rise,
and the winds to blow, He only can remove the
clouds from the face of the sky. Even so, God
alone can blot out sin; man cannot. If our sin
is not blotted out, it will be like a dark cloud
between us and Him for ever and ever. But
God is a God that pardoneth sin. "He delighteth
in mercy." Jesus died for sinners. His blood
can cleanse us from all sin. Are you asking God
to pardon you for the sake of His dear Son? If
your sin has been washed away in the blood of
Jesus, God is saying to you, "I have blotted out,
as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud,
thy sins." On a summer morning, when the sun
was climbing the eastern sky, you have seen a white
cloud resting on a mountain top. An hour or two
afterward you looked for the cloud, but it was
gone. Perhaps you looked all over the sky for it,
but it was not to be found. There was not a
cloud in all the sky. What had become of the cloud?
It had quite disappeared, it had been blotted out.
This is what God will do with your sin, if you will
lay it on Jesus. It shall never more be found.
"Their sins and their iniquities will I remember
no more" (Heb. viii. 12).