

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

be good, and He'll let you come to that beautiful home, too; and mamma, and Alice can come.'

There was a glad smile on the dying child's face that soon faded out into lines of pain; but all at once, just at the last, her face brightened up with a strange unearthly brightness, and she cried out joyfully,

'O mamma look, look! the room is full of angels. Papa, don't you see them? They are all about you.'

There was a hush in the room, for the gates of heaven were thrown open to let the pure spirit pass through. Only the body of little Gracie was left—the real Gracie had gone to live with Jesus and the angels.

The father never opened the saloon. The bar-room shutters have never been taken down.

The saloon-keeper has not only signed the pledge but has become a Christian, and expects to follow his Gracie to heaven after awhile.—*Vermont Christian Register.*

GOSPEL STUDIES.

BY JUDGE YOUNG, LL. D.

(41.) JESUS BETRAYED AND TAKEN:
Mark 14 : 43-52.

See Matt. 26 : 4 ; Luke 22 : 4 ; John 18 : 3 ; and also No. 36.

While Christ was warning His disciples in the garden that he was about to be betrayed, Judas, the traitor—one of the twelve with a great multitude armed with swords and staves, betrayed his Master with a kiss!

How diabolically treacherous!

Let us look for a moment on the death and future state of Judas Iscariot; there is a great diversity of opinion on these points among learned commentators. Some doubted that he hanged himself; if he did there could be little hope in his death.

In Acts 1 : 18, Peter gives a short account of his death. In 2 Chron., 21 : 18-19, see a singular death of Jehoram; and in Acts 12 : 23, Herod's death was probably of the same kind. Now, while it must be admitted that Judas was a very bad man, and that the betrayal of his Master was inexcusable, yet his conduct afterwards has some alleviations. 1st.

It is possible that he did not think that Jesus could be hurt by the Jews; as he knew that Christ had power to deliver himself. 2nd. When he saw the consequences of his crime, he repented : Matt. 27 : 3. 3rd. He proved this by going openly to the Jewish rulers, confessing his guilt, asserting the innocence of Christ and returning the money. His feelings, through oppressive grief, caused his death.

Again, Judas might have acted a worse part. 1st. In persisting in his wickedness. 2nd. In slandering the character of our Lord, and then on the testimony of one of his disciples, Christ would have been condemned as a malefactor; and 3rd. By continuing in his evil way, he might have raised such a persecution as to have destroyed the infant church, if possible.

As Judas did none of these things, can there be hope in his death? If God's mercy and pardon could be extended to the murderers of our Lord, why not to His betrayer? We must leave it to God. See, however, Matt. 26 : 24 ; Acts 1 : 25 ;

So soon as Jesus was known by the kiss given by Judas He was arrested. Christ then speaks a few words of quiet rebuke; and although he might have summoned legions of Angels to His aid, yet He meekly surrendered himself to His foes.

Our Lord was led and hurried away to Annas first, and afterwards to Caiaphas, the High Priest for that year.

Before He left the garden Christ performed His last miracle by healing the ear of Malchus, a servant of the High Priest, which Peter, in his zeal, had cut off with a sword.

The friends of Jesus all forsook Him and fled, after His arrest.

Peter, it is true, followed him afar off, and when challenged, denied his Master.

JESUS BEFORE THE COUNCIL : Mark 14 : 53. See Matt. 26 : 59 75 ; Luke 22 : 66.

From Gethsemane Jesus was taken to the house of the crafty Annas, and from thence after a hurried consultation, He was brought to the palace of Caiaphas, the High Priest, where the great Sanhedrin, or Jewish council were convened. An infuriated mob surrounded our Lord, who was standing quite calm after his