

Burning, yet not Burned.

WE read in Exodus 2: 11 to 14, that Moses found an Egyptian cruelly treating a Hebrew, and in taking the part of the Israelite, he killed the Egyptian; then, lest the king should kill him, he fled from Egypt to Midian, where he sometime after married the daughter of Jethro. He kept the flocks of his father-in-law, and lived there very quietly for about forty years.

One day, Moses left the sheep for a little while, to look at something very strange and very bright. It was a fire: a bush in the field was burning—it kept on burning. The angel of the Lord, or God Himself, was in the flames of fire in that bush; but Moses knew it not. Moses said to himself, I will go close to this bush on fire, and see why it is not burnt; why the branches and leaves are not all destroyed; why the fire does not go out.

As he went near to it, a voice came out of the fire, which said, "Moses, Moses!" and he answered, "Here am I." He was told to take his shoes from off his feet, for the ground was holy—God was there. No wonder that Moses hid his face and was afraid. God told him He would send him back to Egypt to deliver the Israelites. Moses was afraid to go, but God promised to go with him and help him; and then all his fears were gone. Remember, dear children, that just as God was with Moses so will He be with you, and will bless you so long as you are doing His commands.

The Young Child.

"The Young Child and His Mother."—Matt. 2: 14.

THE Young Child!" So He is called at least nine times in this chapter. The name teaches us—

1. That Jesus *began life at the very beginning*. He did not come into the world at first endowed with the powers of manhood. In that case there might be a great gulf between you and Him. But He came a helpless babe, requiring to have everything done for Him. Mary had to put Him in His baby dress, and to feed Him at her breast; and Joseph had to snatch

Him away to Egypt, in order to save Him from the wicked king who sought the young Child's life. He needed food, clothing, protection, training—just like any other child. Thus,

2. Jesus *understands you*. He can enter into all your feelings and knows your ways. He was sinless indeed. But He lived and grew among little boys and girls like you, and He knew their temptations, their troubles, their difficulties, as well as their joys: and He can feel for them. He is not a Saviour only for grown up people; but he is a Saviour—a Friend—a Brother—to the "young children." And you, on your part, are to remember, that

3. You may copy Jesus, and *begin to copy Him now*. You are not to wait till you are bigger, and say, "Ah, when I am a grown man or woman, then I'll try and be like Christ; then I'll love God, and go about continually doing good." No, no; begin now! The Young Child Jesus "hallowed childhood by passing through it," that your childhood might be holy. "He grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him." That is His childhood. And when He grew a little older, He did not, as boys sometimes are apt to do, try to throw off his parents' authority. Even after exciting the



wonder of the doctors in the temple, He went down to Nazareth with His parents, and was subject to them. "And He increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man."

Now, that is in the Bible just for you. Some of us are past childhood and youth: and our opportunity for being like Christ in these is over, leaving the record of our failures in the great book of God's remembrance. We may long to bring lost opportunity back, but cannot. An eminent servant of Christ, whose youth was spent in folly, used to sigh, "O Lord, too late I loved Thee." But youth is still yours. Yield yourselves to God. Grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. May it be yours to increase in wisdom, as well as in stature, with the years, and ever to grow in favour with God and all good men. And may He give you at length the full enjoyment of that ripe, yet never old and never ending life which the saints have with Him in glory. Amen.