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MYTHOLOGY—SHORT STORIES FOR THE YOUNG.

BY MRS. ELMINA D. SLENKER.

No. 1—*Saturn or Cronus.*

Saturn is the Father of "the Gods." He is the oldest of a long line of ancient divinities. He was a mythical king of Italy, and by the Romans was identified with the Greek god Cronus, (or Kronus) just as the Hindoo god or Saviour Krishna, seems to be identified with the Christian Saviour Christ.

Saturn was a son of Terra, the Goddess of Earth, and of Uranus (Heaven). Earth in this case was the wife of her own son and became the mother of twelve children by him. These twelve were called The Titans. It would, in this age, be thought to be an awful sin for such near relatives to marry, but among the Ionian Greeks where the women seldom saw the men, such marriages were very common, and so also were they among the old Bible Patriarchs. Abraham, for example, married his half sister Sarah, and Isaac, Jacob and others were wedded to own, or first cousins, which relationship, according to physicians and physiologists, is as near in blood, and often nearer, than that of half brothers and sisters.

Saturn married his sister Rhea, another of the mighty race of Titans, and they had three sons and three daughters. Of these children Jupiter was the youngest. Heaven and Earth, the parents of Saturn, told him that the fates had decreed that he should be deprived of his kingdom by one of his sons, and to avert this he devoured his children as fast as they were born; but his wife Rhea, not liking the idea of remaining childless, consulted with her parents as to how she might save the life of the unborn

Jupiter. Earth told him that as soon as the babe was born she should wrap up a stone in linen and give that to Saturn, that he might swallow it thinking it to be his child. She did so and the plot proved to be successful, for, God as he was, he never noticed the difference, but just gulped the bundle right down; while the infant was secretly conveyed to Crete, and there in a cave, was reared by the Nymphs. When he grew up he married Metis (Prudence), and she administered a draught to Saturn which caused him to cast up the stone and his children, who being Gods, were immortal and indigestible. The rest of the Titans, who had allowed Saturn to rule his Father's kingdom, provided he did not bring up any male children, now hearing he had done so, dethroned and imprisoned him and his wife Rhea, but "as soon as Jupiter was grown he flew to deliver his father and replace him upon his throne, but Saturn unmindful of this, conspired against him, and Jupiter banished him from his throne, and the father fled to Italy." Janus, the Italian King, received him kindly and hospitably; and even shared his throne with him. Saturn busied himself in civilizing the rude inhabitants of Italy, and teaching them arts, science and agricultural, and his government was so mild, kind and beneficent, that his reign was called "The golden age," because of the happiness, peace and prosperity which filled the land. Saturn, like our Jehovah, is generally pictured as an old man bent through age and infirmity. "In his right hand he holds a scythe with a serpent which bites its own tail, an emblem of Time and of the revolution of the year. In his left hand he has a child which he raises up as if instantly to devour it." It is said a temple was built to Saturn on the Capitoline hill by Tatius, King of the Salines, and on his Statues were generally hung fetters in memory of the chains he wore when imprisoned by Jupiter, consequently all slaves that obtained their liberty generally dedicated their fetters to Saturn.

"During the Saturnalia these chains were taken from the statues to show the freedom and independence which mankind enjoyed during the Golden age." In Rome the treasury was in his temple to show that agriculture was the source of all wealth. His statue was hollow and filled with oil "probably to denote the fertility of Latium in olives." Latium is a town in Italy, where