

Children's Work.

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Day Dreams of the Future.

THE DREAMER.

CHAPTER VII.

"Your endurance would fail if I attempt to give you the details of that fearful time. It seemed as though heaven and earth combined to try the human race. Famine, earthquakes, and death did their worst; and yet I and my companion were spared, the absence of the fatal mark protecting us from more danger than its presence could have done. And, after a while, other changes came. For some little time before the withdrawal of the Church from the world, the nation of the Jews, scattered for so many centuries all over the earth, had been finding their way back to their own land, and, after that period, their return had been rapid, and the restoration of Palestine had been miraculously carried on. The soil, which, for some thousands of years had yielded bountifully cultivated by a wooden plough and a bundle of thorns, now, brought under the power of scientific agriculture, blossomed out into phenomenal beauty and fertility, and now became 'The Garden of the Lord.' The inhabitants, instead of being an impoverished race, were many of them millionaires, and money to meet every demand was forthcoming.

Ages of successful traffic with the nations among whom they had sojourned had made them masters of untold wealth; and, now that they had escaped from the power that had kept them from their own land so long, they were prepared to devote it to the restoration of their beloved country. Nothing was spared to make it all they could desire, especially as they were looking with longing to the coming of their promised Messiah. The veil was not yet lifted from their eyes; neither were their troubles over. It was not possible for the world, in the condition it then was, to look on with indifference while one little country was showing signs of such wide national prosperity; and the accumulated wealth awakened the cupidity of the nations of the earth.

With the withdrawal of the Church, as I said before, the restraining, controlling power of the Holy Spirit had been taken away, and now men knew no higher law than their own desires, and became the willing dupes of the great Adversary, who was about to make one more effort for the mastery. He had been held in check up till this time, but, at last, the power was in his

hands for a brief period, and he would rally every force in order to succeed. The only spot on this God-forsaken world over which he had not the mastery was the little country of Palestine, and the happiness and prosperity of an exiled nation, over which he had no power, was the objective point against which his malice was directed. Not that he appeared personally, but worked through the agency of two others, spoken of as the Beast and the false Prophet, and by their means all who had submitted to the 'mark' were forced to take up arms against the Jews. Armies from every nation were drafted and marched against Jerusalem with everything which scientific invention and skill had ever devised for successful warfare. Once was Jerusalem besieged, but never by such a malignant host as now, and never were they as powerless for their own protection. Once more was blood shed like water in the streets. Once more were women and children the victims of their conquerors; while half the inhabitants were either killed or taken prisoners. How the brave hearts sickened with despair at the terrible loss of life; while the loss of their beautiful land, the long desired home of their fathers, was a calamity to try the patience and courage of the bravest.

"But help was swiftly coming, and in a way least expected. Once more had the cry of suffering Israel reached the ear of the God of Israel; and, in his own appointed time and way, He would send to their relief once more none other than His Own Beloved Son, their Messiah. Not, as once He came, poor and despised, but this time 'conquering and to conquer.' Suddenly in the city's utmost extremity there appeared on Mount Olivet an army of ten thousand warriors, clad in white and mounted on white horses, led by their Captain, who was called 'King of Kings and Lord of Lords.' The rebel forces soon became aware of this wonderful army which had appeared so unexpectedly, and prepared to do battle—with what result I will tell you after awhile.

"You will be weary of sitting so long, and, if you will walk with me for a little distance, I will get a draught of water from a spring near by, which you will enjoy, I think."

I thanked and followed him until we reached the spring, of which I drank with great enjoyment. Surely no water ever tasted quite so pure, and cool, and fresh, I thought. It seemed to go through my whole being with such reviving power that I felt quite ready to sit down close by and hear the end of the old man's story.



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"The opposing forces drew nearer together, but before a blow could be struck by the rebel army, death, instantaneous and overwhelming, swept over the army. Captains, officers and privates were all cut off, and no one but the two leaders were left of all this immense rebel force. In all the world's history nothing was ever so awful in its sudden, swift destruction."

"What became of the two leaders?" I asked, as the old man paused over the awful story.

"A different fate awaited them, for which they were reserved, more awful still; they were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. I must leave you to imagine the astonishment and relief of the besieged inhabitants of Jerusalem. One moment beneath the power of innumerable foes, and the next these same foes lying dead at their gates, slain by the breath of Him that led that wonderful white-robed army. Their astonishment and relief turned to unutterable joy when they caught sight of their Deliverer; and it dawned upon them that now, in their sorest need, had their long looked for Messiah come—one in the glory and majesty with which they had always associated

Him, and not as a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and now, once more, arose the cry in the city of Jerusalem, "Hosanna, Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest."

(To be continued.)

Church Directory.

Any congregation of DISCIPLES OF CHRIST that has in its membership ten (10) paid-up subscribers to the DISCIPLE OF CHRIST, may have fees, upon application, a church notice, after the model of those below.

ONTARIO.

HAMILTON.—Church, corner of Cathcart and Wilson Streets.

Lord's Day Services:

Public worship, 11 a. m. and 7 p. m. Sunday-school at 3 p. m. Y. P. S. C. E. at 8:15 p. m.

Prayer-meeting, Wednesday evening at 8. Strangers and visitors to the city are always welcome.

GEO. MUNRO, Minister.

TORONTO.—Cecil Street (near Spadina Ave., W. J. Lhamon, 435 Euclid Ave., Minister.

Services:

Sunday, 11 a. m., 7 p. m.; Sunday School, 3 p. m.; Junior Endeavor, 4.15 p. m.; Senior Endeavor, 8.15 p. m.

Wednesday, Prayer-meeting, 8 p. m.

Friday, Teachers' Meeting, 8 p. m.

All are cordially invited to these services.

ST. THOMAS.—Church, corner of Railway and Elizabeth streets.

Lord's Day Services.

Public worship, 11 a. m. and 7 p. m. Mission Sunday-school, 9.30 a. m., Junior E. Society, 10.20 a. m. Sunday-school, 3 p. m. Wednesday evening Prayer-meeting, 8 p. m. C. E. Society, Friday, 8 p. m.

Strangers welcome to all services.

W. D. CUNNINGHAM, Pastor.

Residence, 43 Mitchell St.

LONDON.—Elizabeth Street Church.

Sunday Services:

10 a. m., Prayer Meeting. 11 a. m., Preaching Service. 2:30 p. m., Sunday-school. p. m., Preaching Service.

Monday, 8 p. m., C. E. Prayer Meeting, Tuesday, 8 p. m., Teachers' Meeting. Thursday, 8 p. m., Prayer Meeting. Saturday, 2:30 p. m., Mission Band.

Seats Free. All Welcome.

GEO. FOWLER, Pastor, Residence, 376 Lyle St.

Agricultural College

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JAMES MILLS, M. A., PRESIDENT. Guelph, July, 1895.

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