

should long after greater completeness and consistency of Christian character, and how much we are bound to value and cling to that precious saying—"If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous."

WHO IS THE HAPPIEST GIRL?

BY REV. J. C. RYLE.

Dear children,—would you like to know who was the happiest child I ever saw?—Listen to me and I will tell you.

The happiest child I ever saw was a little girl whom I once met travelling in a railway carriage. We both were going on a journey to London, and we travelled a great many miles together. She was only eight years old, and she was quite blind. She had never been able to see at all. She had never seen the sun, and the stars, and the sky, and the grass, and the flowers, and the trees, and the buds—and all those pleasant things which you see every day of your lives,—but she was quite happy.

She was by herself, poor little thing. She had no friends or relations to take care of her on the journey, and be good to her; but she was quite happy and content. She said when she got into the carriage, "Tell me how many people there are in the carriage. I am quite blind and can see nothing!" A gentleman asked her if she was not afraid. "No," she said, "I am not frightened. I have travelled before, and I trust in God, and people are always very good to me."

But I soon found out the reason why she was so happy;—and what do you think it was? She loved Jesus Christ, and Jesus Christ loved her;—she had sought Jesus Christ, and she had found Him.

I began to talk to her about the Bible, and I soon saw she knew a great deal of it. She went to a school where the mistress used to read the Bible to her; and she was a good girl, and remembered what her mistress had read.

Dear children, you cannot think how many things in the Bible this poor little blind girl knew. I only wish that every grown up person in England knew as much as she did. But I must try and tell you some of them.

She talked to me about sin; how it first came into the world, when Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit; and it was to be seen everywhere, now. "Oh," she said, "there are no really good people. The very best people in the world have many sins every day, and I am sure we all of us waste a great deal of time, if we do nothing else wrong. Oh! we all are sinners, there is nobody who has not sinned a great many times."

And then she talked about Jesus Christ. She told me about the agony in the garden of Gethsemane—about His sweating drops of blood—about the soldiers nailing Him to the Cross—about the spear piercing his side, and blood and water coming out. "Oh!" she said, "how very good it was of him to die for us, and such a cruel death! how good he was to suffer so for our sins!"

And she talked about wicked people. She told me she was afraid there were a great many in the world, and it made her unhappy to see how many of her school-fellows and acquaintances went on. "But," she said, "I know the reason why they are so wicked; it is because they do not try to be good,—they do not ask Jesus to make them good."

I asked her what part of the Bible she liked best. She told me she liked all the history of Jesus Christ, but the chapters she was most fond of were the last three chapters of the book of Revelation. I had a Bible with me, and I took it out and read these chapters to her as we went along.

When I had done she began to talk about heaven. "Think," she said, "how nice it will be to be there! There will be no more sorrow

nor crying, nor tears. And then Jesus Christ will be there, for it says, 'The Lamb is the light thereof,' and we shall always be with Him; and besides this, there shall be no night there; they will need no candles nor light of the sun.'

Dear children, just think of this poor little blind girl. Think of her taking pleasure in talking of Jesus Christ. Think of her rejoicing in the account of heaven, where there shall be no sorrow nor night.

I have not seen her since. She went to her own home in London, and I do not know whether she is alive or not; but I hope she is, and I have no doubt Jesus Christ has taken good care of her.

Dear children, are you as happy and cheerful as she was?

You are not blind, you have eyes and can run about and see everything, and go where you like, and read as much as you please to yourselves. But are you as happy as this poor little blind girl?

Oh! if you wish to be happy in this world, remember my advice to-day, do as this little blind girl did,—Love Jesus Christ, and He will love you—seek Him early and you shall find Him."—*Ex. Paper.*

THE LIFE-BOAT'S LAST TURN.

BY LILLET W. G. RHIND, R. N.

"It's the last turn she'll make," said William to his friend, as they stood on the cliff watching the life-boat, as she was bringing to the shore part of the crew and passengers of the wrecked vessel. "It's her last turn, for the storm has so increased, that ere they reach the wreck again, she will have gone to pieces." Now what the life-boat is to the stranded vessel, such is the gospel of salvation to poor lost man. It is his only remedy—there is no other—self-salvation in both cases is out of the question! And also, what the LAST BOAT is to the stranded vessel, which in a few minutes will be in pieces, such is the gospel, when preached at the end of the world. See how the sailors are tugging at the oar, if possible to reach the vessel *once more*—if possible to save some. Such surely is the ministry set forth by "the angel flying through the midst of the heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to all nations;" for the word is—and O how full of earnestness!—"Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of judgment is come." And how is God to be feared?—how glorified? By believing "the everlasting gospel"—the unchanging gospel—the gospel of the first day of grace (Gen. iii. 15; iv. 4)—the gospel of the last day (Rev. xiv. 6-8). For salvation is only to be found through faith in the atoning blood of Him who was God and man in one person (John i. 14); the Christ of God (Matt. xvi. 16); the Saviour of the world (John i. 23; Acts iv. 12). "For Christ also hath suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God" (1 Pet. iii. 18).

"Man the life-boat; man the life-boat;
Hearts of oak your succour lend;
See the shattered vessel staggers;
Quick, oh quick assistance send.

See the ark of refuge launching,
See her hardy crew prepare
For the dangerous work of mercy;
Gallant British hearts are there.

Now the fragile boat is hanging
On the billow's feathery height;
Now 'midst fearful depths descending,
While we wutter at the sight.

Courage! courage! she's in safety,
See again her buoyant form,
By His gracious hand uplifted,
Who controls the raging storm.

With her precious cargo freighted,
Now the life-boat nears the shore;

Parents, brethren, friends embracing
Those they thought to see no more.

Blessings on the dauntless spirits,
Dangers thus who nobly brave,
Ready life and limb to venture,
So they may a brother save.

Christian! pause and deeply ponder,
Is there nothing you can do?
The sinking ship, the storm, the life-boat,
Have they not a voice for you?

There's a storm, a fearful tempest,
Souls are sinking in despair;
There's a shore of blessed refuge,
Try, O try to guide them there!

O! remember Him who saved you,
Whose right hand deliverance wrought;
Who from depths of guilt and anguish
You to peace and safety brought.

'Tis His voice who cheers you onward
'He that winneth souls is wise';
Launch the gospel's blessed life-boat,
Venture all to win a prize."

—*British Messenger.*

HENRIANA.

It is pleasant to think how many there are, to whom Christ becomes a savour of life unto life but it is sad to think how many more there are to whom He is a savour of death unto death.

In the midst of our greatest delights in this world, it is good for us to know that bonds and afflictions abide us.

Devotion is an exercise in which we ought to be constant; other duties are in season now and then, but we must pray always.

It is pleasant to see aged Christians abounding in acts of devotion; taking more and more pleasure in them, and feeling more and more need of them, the nearer they draw to heaven.

Those, who are diligent and faithful in improving the light and means they have, shall have greater discoveries made to them.

Those, who have themselves got an acquaintance with Christ, should do all they can to make others acquainted with him.

Some, who in the morning are grasping at a crown, in the evening are begging for their lives.

Those that would keep the charge of the Lord their God, must put on resolution.

We never let fall the promise till we let fall the precept.

In order to our constancy in religion, nothing is more necessary than caution and circumspection.

Time never wears out the guilt of any sin, especially of murder.

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