

### The Water of Life.

**T**HERE is a palm known by the name of the "traveller's tree," which grows in the island of Madagascar, in hot and comparatively waterless regions. It has a very handsome and regular appearance, the large leaves starting out like wings from opposite sides of the trunk, so as to resemble an extended fan. The stalk of each leaf rises immediately above the one below, and forms at its base a large cavity where a considerable quantity of moisture is collected and preserved. The thirsty native has but to raise his spear, and on piercing the thick, firm end of a leaf-stock obtains a welcome and abundant supply of cool, pure, fresh water, even in the hottest and driest seasons of the year.

Christ the Lord is such a tree of life in the midst of earth's arid desert. Thus by the voice of the prophet He cried long ago, "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters;" and in the days of His flesh repeated the gracious invitation, saying, "If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink." The weary traveller on life's way, here may drink abundantly, "without money and without price." In calling us to Jesus, "the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst, come: and whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Well may our cry be that of the awakened woman of Samaria,—“Sir, give me this water;” for has He not declared, “Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.” “Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money, and without price.”

### The Four Trees.

**T**HERE was once an old monk, who was walking through a forest with a little scholar by his side. The old man suddenly stopped and pointed to four plants close at hand. The first was just beginning to peep above the ground; the second had rooted itself pretty well into the earth; the third was a smart shrub, whilst the fourth and last was a full-sized tree. Then

the old man said to his young companion: "Pull up the first."

The boy easily pulled it up with his fingers.

"Now pull up the second."

The youth obeyed, but not so easily.

"And the third."

But the boy had to put forth all his strength, and use both arms before he succeeded in uprooting it.

"And now," said the master, "try your hand on the fourth tree." But lo! the trunk of the tall tree grasped in the arms of the youth scarcely shook its leaves; and the little fellow found it impossible to tear its roots from the earth. Then the wise old monk explained to his pupil the meaning of the four trials.

"This, my son is just what happens to our passions. When they are very young and weak, one may, by a little watchfulness over self, and the help of a little

self-denial, easily tear them up; but if we let them cast their roots deep down into our souls, then no human power can uproot them; the almighty hand of the Creator alone can pluck them out. For this reason, my child, watch well the first movements of your soul, and study by acts of virtue to keep your passions in check."

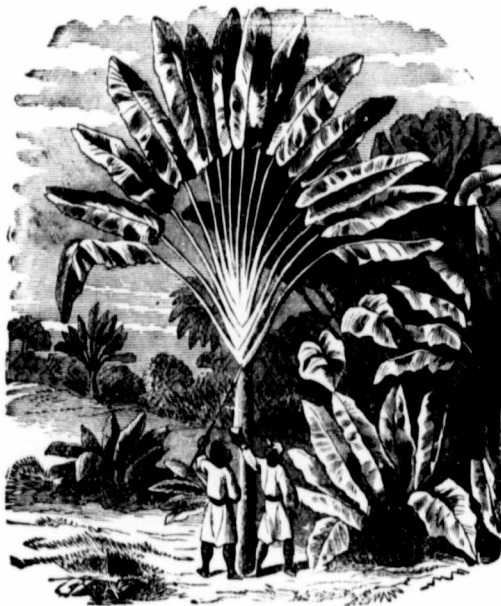
### "Laid Up in my Head."

**D**ANIEL WEBSTER once told a good story in a speech, and was asked where he got it, "I had it laid up in my head for fourteen years, and never got a chance to use it until to-day," said he.

My little friend wants to know what good it will do to learn the "Rule of Three," or to commit a verse of the Bible. The answer is this: "Some time you will need that very thing. Perhaps it may be twenty years before you can make it fit in just the right place, but it will be just in place some time; then if you don't have it, you will be like the hunter who had no ball in his rifle when the bear met him."

"Twenty-five years ago my teacher made me study surveying," said a man who had lately lost his property; "and now I'm glad of it. It is just in place I can get a good situation and a high salary." The Bible is better than that; it will be in place as long as we live.

Search the Scriptures; \* \* \* they are they which testify of Me.—John 5 : 39.



THE TRAVELLER'S TREE.