

LITTLE FOLKS

Perishable.

On a barrel of goods I recently observed the word at the head of this article. It showed the need of its being forwarded with haste. That single word suggested much more than was intended. I thought that with propriety it might be inscribed on all earthly things. It might be written on the riches of the world.

None of these are durable. They perish with the using. They are un-

ly walking in his palace, and saying—

‘Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honor of my majesty?’

And while he yet speaks there falls upon his ear a voice from heaven, saying—

‘O King Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; the kingdom is departed from thee.’

And the same hour was the thing

works that are therein shall be burned up. And well does he go on to say—

‘Seeing that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness.’—‘Friendly Greetings.’

The Sunbeam.

Once a sunbeam found its way into a house. In it came through an opening in the blind. Now, you will hardly guess what so sorely puzzled little Willie, who was in the room at the time the sunbeam entered.

Wherever the stream of light caused by the sunbeam went, there little Willie saw a thin line like smoke. Willie was much puzzled. Then his mother explained the nature of it to him, and told him it was dust.

‘Dust!’ he cried. ‘Then how is it that the other parts of the room, where the sunbeam does not shine, are not also full of dust?’

Then his mother told him that it was the same all over the room, although he could not see it; and, indeed, that it is the same everywhere all over the world, in a greater or less degree.

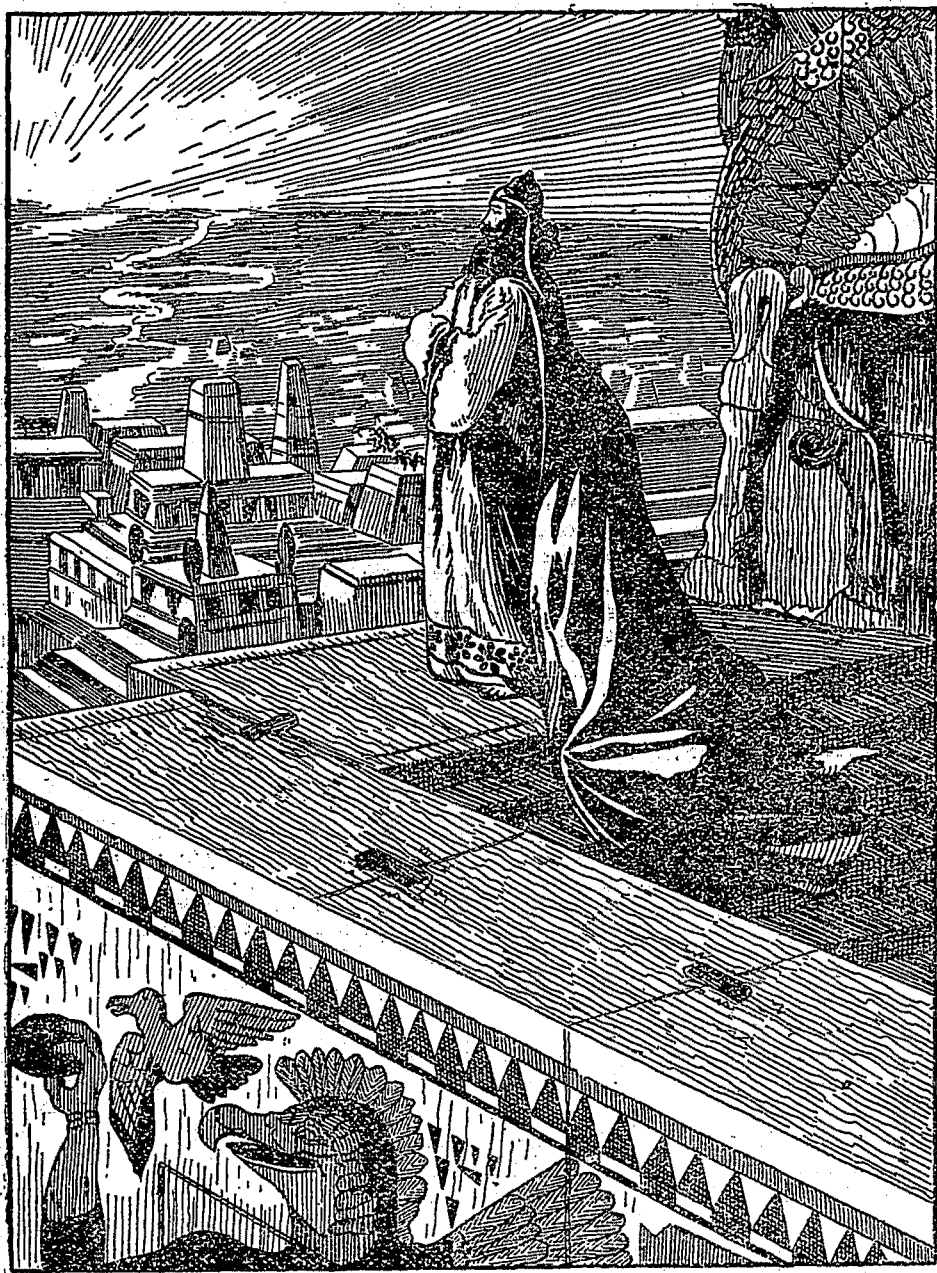
In the evening, after the sun had done shining for that day, Willie begged his father to tell him more about the dust.

So his father told Willie that, although he could not see it, yet the dust was in the room still, and that the reason he saw it before was because the little stream of light which shone into the comparatively dark room made all things clear to the eye where the sunbeam fell. Then Willie’s father told him that the sunbeam is God’s light, which is so pure and bright that it detects the dust in any room, no matter how clean the room may be.

But God has also a light to show the dust of sin in our hearts. That light is the Word of God. When the Holy Spirit of God makes this light shine into our hearts, we find that they are ‘deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked.’

God gave us this light to show us these things, and God’s light makes our sins plain to us. We may try to shut out the light, and succeed for a while.

Sometimes, by trying to keep the room, as it were, very clean—that is, by trying to be good—people fancy there is no dust flying about,



“IS NOT THIS GREAT BABYLON, THAT I HAVE BUILT?”

certain possessions. The fire and the flood may destroy them. The moth and the rust may corrupt them. Thieves may break through and steal them. They may suddenly make themselves wings and fly away.

It might be written on the honors of the world. None of these are enduring. None of them are secure to their possessors. Those who occupy the highest seats of power and fame are not sure of them for a day. Now we see Nebuchadnezzar proud-

fulfilled upon him. His glory was turned to shame.

And so as regards the pleasures of the world. How short-lived are all of these! They are but for a brief season. And so of the fashions of the world. How changing; and how soon do they pass away! And so our bodies, how frail and crumbling! How soon do they return to the dust, of which they are!

And so of the world itself. Peter warns us of a time, rapidly approaching, when the earth and the