

## Macarius.

BY BARBARA HEATON

The early Fathers, in their childlike way  
This pleasant story tell,  
Of good Macarius, who with praise and  
prayer  
Dwelt in a desert cell.

One midnight, while in penance hard to  
bear,  
He watched the hours away,  
A wondrous Presence filled the little room!  
He heard an Angel say:

"Dost thou, then, think the scourge is dear  
to God?

That goodness dwells with thee?  
Sandal thy feet and go unto the town;  
Two women thou wilt see

"Mending some fisher's nets upon the sands.  
Lo! in God's holy sight,  
They are as far above thee as the day  
is clearer than the night."

Obedient to the word, at early dawn  
He found the women there;  
Eunice, and Paula, silently at work,  
Mending their nets with care.

He bent before them: "Women, well  
beloved  
Of God in all your ways,  
Tell to His servant, what thing you have  
done,  
To win an Angel's praise?"

Half fearing and amazed, they humbly  
said:

"Father, no suits are we;  
Two loving and obedient wives,  
Beside this lonely sea;

"Two tender mothers, who, with busy hands,  
Toil through the happy day;  
Two blessed women, who on Christ's dear  
love,  
In every hour can stay."

"Amen! But with what offering or vow,  
Do you His presence seek?"  
"We strive to think no evil. For His sake  
No angry word we speak."

Macarius bent his head, and nevermore  
Turned back into his cell,  
To pass the nights beneath the heavy  
scourge,  
Or fasting prayers to tell.

But in some loving toil for other's good,  
Through busy, happy days,  
Humbly and patiently he strove  
To win the nobler praise.

NEW YORK CITY.

## The Prodigal's Return.

"A CERTAIN man had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there he wasted his substance with riotous living. And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his field to feed swine. And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat; and no man gave unto him. And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough to spare, and I perish with hunger. *I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son; make me as one of thy hired servants.* And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

"And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.

"But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoo on his feet; and bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it, and let us eat, and be merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost and is found."—*Words of Jesus.*

## THE LOVE OF THE FATHER.

Jesus knew that some of us would fall so low that both to the world and to ourselves, our case would seem hopeless. Therefore, in this Parable of The Prodigal Son, He disclosed the great loving heart of God the Father. The son had wasted all with harlots and drunkards. Hungry, naked, cold, weary, almost dying, he turned his face toward home. Justice would bolt the door against him; and he knew it. But perhaps mercy would give him a servant's place. But no! When he was yet a great way off his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck and kissed him. Hardly would he wait to hear his sad tale, for he was impatient to clothe him with royal robes, to put a ring on his hand, and cover his soiled, bleeding feet. The pet calf was none too good for his son, and music should banish the last trace of sadness from his heart.

My brother—my sister! have you fallen? Does the world spurn you? God the Father loves you. Satan bids you doubt it, but he was a liar from the beginning. Shake off your fears! You are sons and daughters of a King! Sure enough, you are in a far country. Sure enough, you are living on swine's husks. In your father's house there is plenty for you. As sure as God's word is true, if you "will arise and go to your Father," when you "are yet a great way off," He will "run to meet you."  
H. W. A.

## Waymarks; or, Counsel and Encouragement for Penitent Seekers of Salvation.

BY THE REV. E. H. DEWART, D.D.

"Set thee up Waymarks."—Jer. xxxi. 21.

## PART I.

It is an important and critical point in the history of every life, when the soul awakens from its guilty sleep, and becomes conscious of the grandeur and interest of its spiritual destiny, and sees by the light of God's Word the sad evidences of ingratitude, enmity against God, and selfish folly, which blot and darken the past life; when guilty fear overshadows the conscience and shrouds the future, and the disquieted spirit, anxiously and despondingly seeks for relief and deliverance. To those who feel this burden of conscious condemnation, and sincerely desire to obtain an assurance of pardon and adoption, this tract is addressed; with a hope, that at such a time, a few plain words of warning and encouragement may be read with special interest and advantage.

## I. RESOLVE TO FULLY RENOUNCE EVERY SIN.

Many seek forgiveness with much apparent earnestness, and yet cling to some enlaving idol, some sinful habit, or some feeling of enmity and bitterness against some one, who they think has wronged them, which keeps them from attaining the blessing sought. "If ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me."

Many who have a name to belong to Christ, make no progress, for the same reason; they wish to enjoy the advantages of religion, and still retain some of their pleasant and profitable sins. But this cannot be. "Ye cannot serve God and Mammon." "If thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee." You must choose whom you will serve. The heart must be fully surrendered to Christ before He will dwell in you the hope of glory. Any unholy attachment persisted in will keep you in darkness and condemnation. We must lay aside every weight, and the sin that doth so easily beset us, in order to run with patience the race that is set before us. The Saviour's words are very emphatic: "And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after Me, he cannot be My disciple." Hence all need to pray fervently:—

"The dearest idol I have known,  
Whatever that idol be,  
Help me to tear it from Thy throne,  
And worship only Thee."

## II. BEWARE OF SEEKING LANGUIDLY, AS IF MERELY SOME SECONDARY INTEREST WERE AT STAKE.

It is no vain thing, it is your life.

You are seeking blessings so important, that, if you fail to secure them, you are forever undone. You are asking light for your darkness, pardon for your guilt, strength for your weakness, healing for your soul's deadly malady, a title to heaven's blessedness, and a fellowship for its holy and immortal fellowship. Let the greatness of the blessings sought impel you to seek with an earnestness proportioned to their inestimable worth. If you are seeking feebly and fitfully, you cannot have rightly estimated the value of the blessings you are asking. You are yet resting in shallow and imperfect views of your guilt and danger, and need to pray earnestly that God would give you true views of yourself. "It is an evil thing, and bitter, that thou hast departed from the Lord thy God." It is against His love and faithfulness you have sinned. It is His mercy you have slighted and neglected. It is His wrath that unforgiven sin will draw down upon your unsheltered head. There is no hope for you but in His mercy. If He does not save you, you must remain forever unsaved and unblest. Cry mightily, therefore, to God for mercy. Though mere earnestness will not save you, you cannot be really sincere, if you are not earnest in your supplications for the blessings of salvation. Christ himself, though not exposed to the dangers that threaten you, in the days of His flesh offered up prayers and supplications, with strong crying and tears, to Him that was able to save Him from death. God's promise to you is, "And ye shall seek Me and find Me, when ye have searched for Me with all your heart." Never relax your earnestness until the Sun of Righteousness arise in your heart, with healing in His wings. Until the day break, and the shadows flee away, continue to plead, *I will not let Thee go unless Thou bless me.*

## III. DO NOT SEEK FOR A SHORT TIME, BECOME DISCOURAGED, AND GIVE UP THE STRUGGLE BEFORE FINDING THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE.

How can such persons be truly sincere? If ever you had reason to be anxious and earnest to secure salvation, that reason still exists with unchanged

force. God is unchangeably holy and just. Sin is unchangeably degrading and ruinous. Mercy and salvation are still unspeakably desirable. It is not safe to yield to discouragement, and sink back into indifference. This last state is worse than the first. Rest not without the joy of salvation. Let your faith and prayers have a definite object, and plead the Divine promises as the ground for your expectation. Keep it clearly before your mind that it is your privilege to have the assurance of God's favour—the witness of the Holy Spirit with your spirit that you are a child of God. "He that believeth in the Son hath the witness in himself." Beware of soothing a disturbed conscience with some reformation in conduct and a stricter attendance to religious duties, while the sentence of condemnation still remains, sternly written against you. There is no need that you should settle down with a false peace. True peace and rest are promised in Christ and may be yours. As Mr. Fletcher says, "Better go on thy way weeping, till thou hast really found the pearl of great price, than to rest in a hasty conceit that thou hast found it, when thou hast not." Let the cry of your heart be,—

"Short of Thy love I would not stop,  
A stranger to the Gospel hope,  
The sense of sin forgiven;  
I would not, Lord, my soul deceive,  
Without the inward witness live,  
That antepast of heaven."

There may be times when the skies seem shrouded with despair, and every star of hope and promise is hidden from your sight. All that you had deemed fixed and sure seems to reel and totter around you. A sense of uncertainty oppresses you. You are ready to doubt everything; and the adversary of your soul taunts you with these very doubts—which he himself suggested—to bring you back into the slavery of despair. Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure. "Cast not away, therefore, your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward." In the darkness God is near, though our unbelief apprehends Him not. Many of God's most honoured servants have passed through a Red Sea of doubt and darkness into the promised rest of faith, where the light of God's countenance scatters the shadows of guilty fear away.

You need not wait to solve to your satisfaction all the perplexing problems of theology, that press upon your awakened mind for solution, before you believe. If you know that you are a poor, guilty sinner, needing salvation; and that Christ is infinitely able and willing to save you, you know all the theology necessary in order to be saved. Salvation by faith is like a puzzle, which, owing to some misconception on our part, may perplex us for awhile; but when it is explained, we wonder why we did not understand it at once.

## IV. GET IT DISTINCTLY FIXED IN YOUR MIND, THAT YOU CANNOT MERIT SALVATION BY YOUR OWN WORKS; THAT IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD, RECEIVED BY FAITH.

For by grace are ye saved, through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God. When the trembling jailer asked,—*"What must I do to be saved?"* Paul answered,—*"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thine house."* And