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The Primary Quarterly

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The Small Child

Full of a wild and irrepressible mirth,
Like a young sunbeam to the gladdened earth.

—Caroline E. Norton

Some of Jesus' Friends

IV. A FRIEND WHO FAILED HIM

This was the Roman governor Pilate. When the Jews came, demanding that Jesus should be put to death, Pilate had the power to grant their demand, or, if Jesus had done nothing guilty of death, to refuse it.

Pilate listened to what the accusers said against Jesus, but they could not prove anything against Him. He also himself questioned Jesus as to who He was, and what He had done; and he said, "I find no fault in this Man; I will release Him."

But the Jews cried out, "No, No, Away with Him! Away with Him! Crucify Him, crucify Him"; and Pilate, although he knew that Jesus was a just and holy Man who had done no harm to anyone, gave orders that He should be put to death on the cross.

Why did He do this wrong thing? He was afraid of losing favor with the Jews, if he refused to grant their cruel demand; and so, because of this mean and cowardly fear, he proved a false friend to Jesus.

Something to Live Up To

By Mrs. Marion Cruikshank

"We've got the nicest new boy in our room", said little Jack Benson, "I know you'd like him, Mother, his name is Rex Hunter.

To-day his little brother fell in the school yard. It was right on the asphalt, and he was just going to cry, when Rex sang out, 'Don't cry, old fellow, soldiers' boys have to be brave', and, say, Mum, he stopped right up. Rex is always bragging 'cause his father was in the Boer war—not silly bragging "(hastily)" but he says he can't do anything dishonorable or cowardly 'cause he's a soldier's son."

"And does he act as well as he talks, Jack?"

"I truly think he does, Mother. You know some of the boys, if they like you, don't count all your mistakes when they correct your slate, but Rex makes them mark every one. Oh he's straight, all right."

Mrs. Benson could see by Jack's manner that the conversation was leading up to something further, so was not surprised when he burst out with, "I wish we had a soldier in the family! Haven't we got *anything* to be proud of?"

"Indeed we have, Jack. What's your name?"

"Why, you know, mother, John Graham Benson."

"I read in the paper to-day that Mr. Fisher had left two million dollars to his family. Well, your grandfathers left you more, for it says in the Bible, a good name is better than riches; and John Graham and John Benson were good men, whom everybody trusted and respected; indeed, as far back as we know, our people have been honest and God-fearing. So, if Rex can't do anything cowardly or dishonest, because he's a soldier's son, my boy should be just as careful because of his good name."