

Children's Work.

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Jimmie State, and the Little Bird's Prophecy.

CHAPTER I.
THE PROPHECY.

"Mother, mother! Come here, quick!"

"Well, child, what now?"

"Hark to that little bird."

"It makes a pretty enough noise, I s'pose," said Mrs. State, indifferently.

"But, hark to what it says, mother; it says words."

"Well, what does it say?"

"It says," and Jimmie sang in comical imitation of the bird, "you'll be a rich man yet, Jimmie—yes sir-ee-ee, yes sir-ee."

Mrs. State laughed harshly, discordantly. "If you ever are a rich man, you'll be the first of the States that ever was, for a shiftless set I never seen nor heard tell of."

"I'll bet you now I will be." As Jimmie was naturally cheery and hopeful, his mother's pessimism regarding his future did not trouble him.

"Well, well, child; come in and wash your face; dinner's near ready."

Jimmie poured a little, a very little, water into an old rusty wash-basin, dabbled his hands in it, smeared them once or twice over his face and dried himself. An old flour bag, too worn for its original purpose, cut in two, did duty, unhemmed, as the family towels.

Jimmie had finished dropping the potatoes that morning, which, let me tell you, is sandy work; his ablutions, therefore, were scarcely satisfactory; however, we may surely overlook what his mother was not fastidious enough to find fault with.

Mrs. State scarcely spoke the truth when she said her husband and his people were shiftless. They tried hard, and tried honestly, but misfortune seemed to follow close on their steps—cows and horses died, sheep wandered far astray and were taken in by some unscrupulous farmer and branded as his own. Their barns were wrecked by wind and storm. Jimmie's father was a worn, discouraged man, old before his time, with the uneasy yoke of unbelief upon his shoulders; his burden was greater than he could bear.

After dinner, Jimmie, whose work was done for the present, sat down on a log in the chip-yard and wondered. He would be rich, yes, indeed; it was no trouble to decide that, nor that as he was ten years old he had better begin at once to lay the foundation of his future riches. How to begin, was the question. He gazed at the dingy little shanty, and said aloud, "I wish to goodness the lightning had a struck the old house 'stead of the barn, then we'd had to had a new one." This was not to the point, however, and did not settle the question.

Finally he jumped up and pattered down the road to the nearest house—the Anderson's place. When Mrs. State went to church she used to borrow a shawl from Mrs. Anderson, but as she did not take the best care of the shawl, Mrs. Anderson, a short time before our story opened, had civilly but firmly refused to lend it again, therefore there was what Mrs. State called "feeling" between the families—that is, Mrs. State herself felt annoyed and mortified.

Jimmie presented himself at Mrs. Anderson's door with his most sunny smile, walked in and sat down without invitation and without removing his hat.

"Well now, Mrs. Anderson," said he, "I should think you'd would want a boy round once in a while to do chores."

"I often do, Jimmie, that's a fact," said Mrs. Anderson, "but my boys are all grown up and away but one, and he has too much to do to help me much."

"If you'll pay me some, Mrs. Anderson, what you think I'm worth, I'll help you every minute I can get," said Jimmie, eagerly.

"What will you do with the money?" asked Mrs. Anderson, looking over her glasses.

"Lots of things. I mean to be a rich man yet, Mrs. Anderson—yes, sirc. I'll buy my mother a shawl of her own as soon as I get enough," he added with a roguish twinkle in his honest grey eyes.

"That's right, Jimmie; think of your mother first and you'll do," said Mrs. Anderson, approvingly. "What can you do?"

"I can milk. I'm real handy with cows 'n I can churn too, 'n split wood, 'n hoe 'n peel taters, and wash dishes, 'n feed the eggs, 'n bring in the hens." Jimmie breathlessly concluded the list of his accomplishments with a glaring transposition of words.

Mrs. Anderson smiled. "Do they need you at home this afternoon?"

"No ma'am; I done the last o' the taters this morning."

"Very well then, I have a churning on this afternoon; you can do that for me. I'll go over and see your father and mother, and if they approve, we'll try a week and see how we get along."

(To be continued.)

Young People's Work.

FOR CHRIST AND THE CHURCH.

C. E. Notes.

Oct. 8.—*Faith in Christ. What is it?*—Rom. iii. 22, Eph. iii. 17-21.

"Faith is the assurance of things hoped for; the proving or test of things not seen." This is the definition of faith given by the inspired pen of the author of the Epistle to the Hebrews. None better has ever appeared. In Romans, the third chapter, the apostle, in proving that all are under sin, both Jew and Greek, proves that there is redemption only in Jesus Christ. The righteousness of God does not come through the law, but "through faith in Jesus Christ."

Faith in Jesus Christ leads us to accept Him as (1) Our Saviour. "Without faith it is impossible to be well-pleasing unto Him; for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that seek after Him." We come to God through faith in His well-beloved Son, of whom God said, "hear ye Him." We believe that as our Saviour, He is able and willing to cleanse us from the most terrible guilt and dread result of sin. What a glorious and sublime message was that of the angels of God to man! "I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people, for there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

2. As Lord, He is to dwell in our hearts through faith. We are to "sanctify in our hearts Christ as Lord." As our Master, we are eager and willing to obey Him. His will is supreme and faith in Him leads us to conform our will to His. Says Johnson, "One of the best practical definitions of faith that I have seen is the reply ascribed to a little child who was asked, 'What is faith?' The answer was: 'Doing God's will and asking no question.'"

3. To perfect trust in Him. We have accepted Jesus as our Saviour and have enthroned Him in our hearts as Lord, and as a result we have perfect confidence in Him. We "know in whom we have believed." We know that we shall live with Him in glory.

Burdock
BLOOD
BITTERS

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Everything we carry to Him in prayer. In our hours of festivity He is with us, and when sorrow fills our hearts we draw consolation from His loving promises.

"Faith in Jesus Christ is the silken cord that binds us to the loving, sympathetic Jesus." "Any belief, then, that does not terminate in our personal confidence in Jesus as the Christ, and to induce trustful submission to Him, is not faith unfeigned, but a dead faith, and cannot save the soul"—A. CAMPBELL.

OCT. 15.—*The hope that maketh not ashamed.*—Rom. v. 1-5, Phil. i. 20-27.

"Hope," says Webster, "is a desire of some good accompanied with at least a slight expectation of obtaining it, or a belief that it is obtainable." Hope, then, is made up of desire and reasonable expectation that that desire will be satisfied. We hope for something we have not, as says Paul in Rom. viii. 24, 25: "For by hope were we saved; but hope, that is seen is not hope, for who hopeth for that which he seeth? But if we hope for that which we see not, then do we with patience wait for it." What is the hope of the Christian? It is not only in this life, for "if in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most pitiable." But it extends beyond this life, beyond the grave, even to heaven, where reigneth the King eternal, immortal and invisible. "We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, having heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which ye have towards all the saints; because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven." As Christians, we have hope of a glorious resurrection of the dead and an inheritance among the saints. This hope putteth not to shame because it is based upon the promise of an immutable God. "And hope putteth not to shame because the love of God hath been shed abroad in our hearts through the Holy Spirit which was given unto us."

1. Our hope is based upon God's wondrous love. "We love Him because He first loved us." We know that God so loved us that He gave us His well-beloved Son and the promise of the Holy Spirit to dwell in our hearts as a comforter, giving us such assurance of the realization of our hope that it maketh not ashamed.

2. Our hope is based upon Christ dying for the ungodly. This reveals to us the depth of Divine love, that instead of punishing us, as we deserved, God should send His Son to save us and to die for us.

Never has the universe beheld such a sublime expression of loving forbearance as when the Son of God, hanging upon the cross, suffering the most extreme agony, prayed for His murderers: "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."

We have a sure foundation for our hope; and hope based upon such wonderful, sublime, glorious faith, "putteth not to shame."

"But now hath it been manifested to His saints, to whom God was pleased to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you the hope of glory."

"We have a blessed hope in Christ which shall never fail. How can it fail, since it is based upon the promise of God? His love shown in Christ is a pledge of the fulfilment of our highest hopes."—JOHNSON.

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