

"Well," said the prudent superintendent, "take this matter to God in prayer, come back to your class next Sabbath and if you are still in the same mind then I will let you go." She went home and presented her difficulty to the Lord in prayer. That night she dreamed she was dead, and had been transported to the golden gate of heaven where she stood knocking for admittance. Presently the gate swung open and she found herself confronted by a shining angel, to whom she said,—*"I never had any doubt that when I died I should go straight to heaven, but I did not expect to be admitted by so brilliant an angel as you are. I am utterly unworthy of so high an honour."* "And whom do you take me to be," said the angelic gate-keeper. "You are doubtless Gabriel," was the reply. "Then you do not know me?" "No, only by what I have read of you in the Scriptures." "Look at me again," said the shining one; "I am not Gabriel, I am Lizzy whom you knew so well in the Sunday-school. You were the first who taught me to love the Saviour and it is now my privilege to conduct you to Him." She awoke out of her dream thankful to God for this answer to her prayer. She took her accustomed place the following Sabbath in her class, and that was the last that was heard of her resignation.

### Martin Luther.

**I**N a few weeks all the Churches of the Reformation, and especially the Church in Germany, will be engaged in commemorating the birth of MARTIN LUTHER. Four hundred years ago the great Reformer was born in poverty and obscurity. By wondrous ways the Lord led him to a knowledge of the Gospel, and prepared him to be the leader in the movement by means of which the shackles of mediaevalism were effectually broken. He was "the monk that shook the world." How diligently he toiled; how bravely he contended for the truth against principalities and powers; how he placed the Bible in the hands of the common people; how eloquently and learnedly he expounded Scripture both by tongue and pen; how sweetly he sang divine songs that can never die,—all this, and much else will be told and retold during the coming weeks. Well may the memory of Martin Luther be fondly cherished and highly honoured. God has abundantly blest the seeds which he sowed in storm and darkness, as well as in sunshine. See the magnificent harvest now waving luxuriantly over Europe and America,—a harvest the seed of which was freely scattered by Martin Luther. Luther was born at Eisleben on the 18th Nov. 1483. When twenty-eight years of age he was sent on business to Rome. He was then a man of great learn-

ing and of varied experience, and a devout inquirer after the way of salvation. His faith in Rome was unabated. He went to the capital of Christendom filled with ardent expectation as to the holy lives of those whom he should see, and the special sacredness of God's Vicar, the Pope. When he came in sight of the city he knelt and cried, "I greet thee, holy Rome, thrice holy, from the blood of the martyrs which has been shed in thee!" Need we tell how bitterly he was disappointed? He found priests and people faithless, scoffing, greedy, treacherous and lawless. The Pope was more a pagan than a Christian. The great city reeked with moral corruption and with violence. "Luther had come to the Holy City (as he called it when far away in Germany) to find some sure way of working out his salvation; and, strange to say, he did find Christ. For it was in Rome, in the midst of all its corruption and blasphemy, that it suddenly came to him that the way of salvation was to go to Christ and leave all to Him, that pardon comes freely from God, and begins the Christian life, and is not painfully won at the end of it." The light that shone into his soul was in due time faithfully and powerfully proclaimed by him, and great was the multitude of those who heard and obeyed and re-echoed the strain. It was in 1521 that before the Emperor and two hundred princes he boldly declared. "It is as clear as day that both Pope and Councils have often erred. My conscience must submit to the Word of God; to act against conscience is unholy and dangerous; and therefore I cannot and will not retract. Here I stand. I can do naught else. God help me, Amen."—Luther was put under the ban of the Empire, and condemned as an outlaw. All the great powers, lay and ecclesiastical, from Emperor and Pope downwards,—were arranged against him, but God was on his side. What Germany is to-day is largely owing to the work of Martin Luther. All Christendom owes thanks to God for the good gift of such a man at such a time,—Carlyle rightly speaks of Luther's confession before the Diet of Worms as the greatest moment in modern history: "English Puritanism, England and its parliament, Americas, and vast work these two centuries; French Revolution, Europe and its work everywhere at present: the germ of it all lay there: had Luther in that moment done other, it had been otherwise." The coming celebration will afford a fitting time for our ministers and people to call the attention of the young to the glorious Reformation and the principle on which it is founded,—to the vital doctrines preached by Luther and his associates,—to the still nobler and purer work achieved by Calvin and Knox,—and specially to the work of reformation around us and within our reach inviting our earnest personal aid.