

More than half an hour James had stood there, with the perspiration dripping from his brow, when suddenly his foot slipped, his head reeled, and his father saw with alarm that he was about to fall. Then came his sudden exclamation, "Look up, James; look up, up!"

And James did look up. Almost with the suddenness of an electric flash, he turned his eyes towards the roof; and as he did so, the giddiness passed away, he saw just above him a beam, which he grasped, and he was saved.

James thought of this often afterwards. He remembered it many years, and it became a life-lesson to him.

Five years after, he stood on the verge of another height more dangerous than the first. He had left the farm, and sought the counter. New temptations assailed him; pleasant young men invited him to their resorts, and the red wine glistened before him in the glass. Such were the reports which reached his home, and the father's heart was pained. His prayers ascended, while earnest letters pleaded with the tempted youth. "Look up, James; look up!" the father wrote. "When your foot stands on the slippery verge, look up. Your head will become steady, and you will see Jesus. Grasp Him, and you will be safe."

The young man remembered that narrow escape in his father's barn. Was he really now in so dangerous a condition? Was he really sliding, as he felt his feet going on that scaffold's edge?

Then came a letter from the mother, tender, and full of Jesus. How it struck upon the heart of the son! He knew that all her every-day life had been like that letter, full of Christ. He remembered her prayers, and now she was beseeching him to pray. He had almost forgotten to do that. His evenings had been so full of enticement, and exhausted nature had demanded so much sleep in the morning, that there seemed no time for prayer. Conscience admonished as he read the letters whose words had been winged by prayer, and whose pages were blotted with the tears of the writers.

"Look up, James; look up, up, I say!" He could hear the ring of the words, even as he heard them on that morning in the hot barn. There was a new meaning in them now. He knew there were prayers for him at home, and the Holy Spirit followed him now in his wanderings. He could not doubt it. At length he looked up, and what a flood of light illumined him! He prayed timidly, vaguely at first, then with a clearer light, then with earnestness. He was saved. His Sabbath-breaking companions could persuade him no longer; the evening revel lost its charms; he looked no more upon the "wine when it is red."

Life, light, and love were in his heart, and high up before him he saw an everlasting crown. Whenever he saw any downcast, he bade them "look up;" when any sinned he pointed up; and when temptation assailed, he still looked up. Thus he became a blessing; for wherever he went, he still heard the words, "Look up, James; look up!"

## THE GREAT TEACHER.

READ ST. JOHN xiv. 15—31.



On Sunday, or Pentecost, is one of the most important seasons of the year. It was the day on which the promised gift of the Holy Ghost was bestowed on the disciples.

No doubt the Holy Spirit was given oftentimes before. Holy men of old felt the Spirit's power in teaching, comforting, sanctifying their hearts. But on the day of Pentecost He came down from heaven with a fuller power than had ever been felt before: He came to abide in the hearts of Christ's people. And oh, that the blessing of Pentecost may be given, as it were, over again!

We speak of the Holy Spirit, of His work in the heart, and of His powerful influence in the world; but the natural man, the unenlightened man, understands it not; it is folly to him. He cannot see the Holy Spirit with his bodily eyes, and therefore he does not believe in Him. It is very different, however, with the people of God; "But ye know Him, for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." They understand what the Holy Spirit is; for they have experienced His mighty power within them. And whatever they know of God, or of true holiness, they feel that they owe it all to the gracious Spirit who has bestowed His gifts upon them.

Our Lord further speaks of the Holy Ghost as the great Teacher of His Church. He calls Him "the Spirit of truth," to show the difference between Him and all the false spirits that were in the world; and to show also that He alone is able to keep us from error, and to bring home God's truth to our hearts. And then He declares concerning Him, "He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." The fact is, we know nothing as we ought to know unless the Spirit teaches us. We cannot feel our sins as we ought to feel them, we cannot find pardon and peace in the Saviour, if the Spirit does not enlighten us. "No man," says the apostle, "can say that Jesus is the Lord but by the Holy Ghost." He must take of the things of Christ, and show them to us. He must bring to our recollection, and write upon our hearts, the precious truth of God.

Above all, without the Spirit's teaching we cannot love Christ; and certainly if we do not love Him we cannot obey Him. Our Lord dwells on this in the passage before us. "If ye love Me," He says, "keep My commandments." True love and obedience will always go together. And then a little further on, in the twenty-first verse, He says, "He that hath My commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth