

## "THE LORD OF THE HARVEST."

BY LUCY RANDOLPH FLEMING.

"I suppose," said Mrs. Palmer, "that you have all at some time seen a field of grain ready for the harvest."

"We did," exclaimed Hal eagerly, "this summer at Uncle James' farm."

"And it was beautiful," said Edith, "when the wind blew over it, and all the yellow wheat waved back and forth."

"When I saw one," said Ned, "I liked best to see the reaper cutting those waves so smoothly."

"And do you not think," said Mrs. Palmer, "after that grain was ripened, it would have been a great pity to leave it in the fields, to fall to the ground and waste?"

"Why, of course!" exclaimed all the children.

"Our text this month is about a harvest field waiting for reapers. 'Then saith He unto His disciples, the harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few.'

"In the Gospel of Matthew, ninth chapter, thirty-seventh verse," read Alice.

"And in Luke, tenth chapter, second verse," said Edith.

"John's Gospel, fourth chapter and thirty-fifth verse, reads, 'Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields, for they are white already to harvest,'" added Frank.

"What do you think Jesus meant by the fields, the plenteous harvest?"

There was a little silence, then Edith said,

"Is not the field the world, and the harvest, people ready for the gospel?"

"Yes. And when we hear from time to time of those places—some nearer us than others where men, women and children are waiting, some eagerly, anxiously waiting, for teachers and preachers to bring the word of God, they are indeed like great harvest fields ready for reaping."

"Our country for prayer this month is South America," said Lula. "Do you think, Mrs. Palmer, that the people there are wishing for missionaries, and to be taught?"

"In all places, my child, there are those

who are *not* waiting, who have no wish to be gathered into the garner of the Lord. It is so in Christian lands, and so elsewhere. But we are glad to know that our teachers in various parts of South America can send us encouraging tidings from schools and churches. They tell us that Bibles and tracts are gladly received; that many find joy in Christ, and many are longing to know more clearly of Him. A very interesting story comes to us from Chili. A colporteur received from a woman a fifty-cent piece in payment for a Bible. She had kept the coin for this purpose for seven years, refusing to part with it even when hungry from lack of bread. And this was the first opportunity she had for exchanging the money for her desired treasure. Was not this poor woman hungering for the Bread of Life? But while there are many waiting for the Bible and ready to welcome the truth, the laborers in this great harvest are few. 'We need helpers, we need funds for books, for buildings, for increased work;' this is the word our missionaries send, even with their best news. How can we help in this harvest?"

"It is so far away, mother," said Bessie, "and so big!"

"Yes, dear; but if we read the thirty-eighth verse of the same chapter in which our text is found, we shall see the way to help."

Alice read: "'Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into His harvest.'"

"Now you see the help Jesus gives us. As Bessie says, the harvest field is large; how could we, even with the most willing hearts, the most patient labor, help in the reaping! But our God is the Master and Lord of the harvest. He knows how great it is, and He only can supply the needed laborers. And we must come right to God when we hear how helpers are wanted. Jesus did not say anything about working very hard, or trying of ourselves to find laborers; He simply told His disciples, and He tells us, 'Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth laborers into His harvest.'"