

One day, some one was mentioning in the room, that his disease was of such a nature that he would probably die suddenly. Nathan heard it, and rising up in the bed, clasped his hands together, and repeated the verse,

'Jesus can make a dying bed  
Feel soft as downy pillows are,  
While on his breast I lean my head;  
And breathe my soul out sweetly there.'

And after sitting a few moments in silence, he added another:

'Jesus, my God, I know his name,  
His name is all my trust;  
Nor will he put my soul to shame  
Nor let my hope be lost.'

'Isn't that a good hope, Ma?'

We might open to almost any memoir of early piety, in illustration of this principle. And indeed every one who is familiar with the characteristics of devotional feeling, as they are exemplified in the mind of a child, must have observed the wonderful adaptation of religious truth to our weakness and frailty.

Let parents, therefore, imitate the apostles, and preach to their children a suffering Saviour. Show them God in Christ, reconciling the world to himself. This is the simplicity of the Gospel. Indeed, we can hardly conceive it possible for the affections of a child to cling with ardour to any object, of which it cannot form some definite conception. Tell your child of Christ, who created him; of Christ, who became man, and suffered and died to save him; of Christ, before whose judgment-seat he soon must appear; of Christ, whose praises the Christian will sing in heaven, ages without end. Thus is God, if I may so express it, simplified to the comprehension of the child. The mother who does not often present this Saviour, and dwell upon the story of his sufferings and death, has not yet learnt the simplicity and power of the Gospel. All other motives are feeble, compared with this. You may search the world of fact and of imagination in vain for any motive calculated to produce so deep an impression upon the mind. And every thing in this astonishing occurrence has a tendency to promote humility, and penitence, and love. I dwell the more earnestly upon this point, for it appears to me of primary importance. It is the all-availing instrument which God has given to subdue the power of sin in the heart.

## THE ROLLO PHILOSOPHY.

CHAPTER XL.—JONAS'S LECTURE.

(Continued from p. 12.)

"Were you ever cast away, Jonas," said Rollo, "when you used to go to sea?"

"No," said Jonas; "I did not go to sea a great while."

"Speaking of going to sea, Jonas," said Rollo, "makes me think of water, and of the lecture which you promised to give us. I wish you would give it now."

"Yes," said Jonas, "I promised that, if you would get James to come down to the dam, I would give you a lecture; but this does not seem to be a very good occasion. I can't lecture very well without either the apparatus or an audience."

"I am very sorry our dam was carried away," said Rollo; "for we might have built it up higher, so had it flew over a great deal of land, and make a pond; and then we might have sailed on it, in a boat."

"If you only had a boat to sail in," said Jonas.

"We could have got a box; a long box would do. It is not necessary—is it?—to have the end sharp?"

"No," said Jonas; "but a box would not be tight enough."

"Couldn't I sail a little in a tub?" said Rollo.

"A tub would be tight, at any rate," said Jonas.

"And wouldn't it bear me up?"

"Yes," said Jonas.

"Did you ever see any body sail in a tub?" said Rollo.

"No," replied Jonas, "I never did."

"Then you mean," added Rollo, "that you think it would bear me up?"

"No," said Jonas, "I am sure it would."

"But how can you be sure," said Rollo, "unless you have seen it tried?"

"Because," said Jonas, "I know the principle that it depends upon."

"What is the principle?" said Rollo.

"The principle is," said Jonas, "that if any thing is floating

in the water, it sinks into it low enough to displace its own weight of water."

"I don't understand you very well," said Rollo.

"Well," said Jonas, "I can explain it better by taking a particular thing."

"We will suppose," he continued, "that there is a log of wood floating in the water. As far as it sinks down it displaces the water; that is, it crowds it away."

"Yes," said Rollo.

"And it makes a kind of depression, or pit, in the water."

"I don't exactly understand that," said Rollo.

"Why, suppose the water were to freeze all round the log, and then you were to take the log out."

"You could not get it out; it would stick," interrupted Rollo.

"Why, the sun might shine upon the log, and warm it," said Jonas, "and so melt the ice that touched it, a little, and thus loosen it;—or, at any rate, we may suppose the log taken up. Now, do you not see that there would be a kind of a pit, or depression in the ice, where the log had been?"

"Yes," said Rollo, "just of the shape of the log."

"No," said Jonas, "but just of the shape of that part of the log which was under water."

"Yes," said Rollo, "that is what I mean."

"Well," said Jonas, "now suppose we were to fill up this pit, or depression, in the ice, with water again, exactly full,—then the log will weigh just as much as the water poured in to fill the depression, which the log made by floating. That's the principle."

"But some logs would be heavier than others," said Rollo.

"Then they will settle down just so much the deeper. Everything that floats will always settle down into the water until the cavity that it makes will hold just enough water to weigh as much as the thing does itself."

"That's rather curious," said Rollo.

"Yes," said Jonas, "it is. And you might try the experiment some time in this way. Take a bowl, and fill it full of water,—exactly full. Then put it into a basin which has no water in it. Then put a block of wood very gently down into the water of the bowl."

"That will spill it over," said Rollo.

"Yes," said Jonas, "The bowl was full before, and of course some must go over; but it will be caught in the basin. Now, you see that what is spilt over will be just as much in bulk as the part of the block which is under water."

"In bulk? what do you mean by that?" asked Rollo.

"Why, in size: there will be just as much in quantity; for the bowl is as full after the block is put in as before, excepting the room taken up by part of the block which is under water. Of course what is spilt over will be just as much in bulk as that part of the block."

"Well," said Rollo.

"Well, then," said Jonas, "if you weigh this water, which is spilt over by putting in the block, you will find that it will weigh just as much as the whole block does."

"Exactly?" asked Rollo.

"Yes, exactly, if you perform the experiment carefully."

"How did you know?" asked Rollo.

"I read it in a book which your father lent me," said Jonas. "It said in that book that a floating body displaces its own weight of water. I could not understand it for a long time. I did not know exactly what was meant by displaces."

"And what does it mean?" said Rollo.

"Why, moves it away when it sinks down in it. A ship, for instance, settles down into the water until it makes a depression big enough to hold just as much water as the ship weighs;—masts, sails, rigging, cargo, and all; and when it has settled down as far as that, it will not go any farther."

"Why not?" asked Rollo.

"Because," said Jonas, "then it presses just as heavy on the water under it as the water would, which was before in the place where it floats; and so all will be at rest, just as before. If the ship were to press any heavier upon the water under it than the water would which would be enough to fill up the depression which it makes, then it would sink a little deeper. And if it did not press quite so heavy, then the water under it would buoy it up a little higher. Because, you see, the water under the ship will only be at rest when the ship presses just as heavily upon it as the water did that was in the cavity which the ship makes, before the ship came there."

"Well, then, it follows from what I told you," said Jonas,