

It is more than I can endure" and the boy covered his face with his hands.

For a long time Maurice wrestled with these gloomy thoughts. Then the words came to his mind, "Cast thy burden on the Lord and he shall sustain thee." And with a prayer for help the boy rose with another victory gained over self and sin. The sea looked so tempting that Maurice went down to the boat-house and procured a row-boat, and thought to row quite a distance around the Point. He had not been out half an hour when the wind changed, and heavy clouds began to gather on the horizon. Accustomed to note these danger signals, Maurice immediately rowed to the landing, and after taking the boat back, he sat down to rest a few moments before starting for his long walk home. Fatigued by his exertion he dropped to sleep. He was awakened suddenly by the wind which was blowing quite a gale, and which swept some dead leaves across his face. Hastily striking a match, he discovered to his surprise that it was about eleven o'clock.

He started for home, and walked at a rapid pace. Thinking to shorten the distance a little, he cut across Judge Seabury's orchard, coming around back of the barn. Had he been more intent on what was around him, he might have seen several figures dodging behind the trees and fences on the same premises, but neither party was aware of the other's presence.

Phoebe had left the side door unfastened, and Maurice stole quietly to his bed in the loft, without waking any one.

The next morning, just after breakfast, the Kinmons were surprised by a knock at the door. On opening it, Tom discovered Constable Davis. This man had never honoured Tom with a visit, and what brought him here now was a question which the honest fisherman could not solve.

"Good morning, Mr. Kinmon. Is Maurice Dow in?"

"Yes," replied the fisherman, "but what on earth d'yer want of him?"

"I am sorry to state," replied the officer, "that I have been sent to serve a warrant against the boy, as he is suspected of firing Judge Seabury's barn. I wish to see the boy at once."

Tom was dumbfounded. It took some time for him to grasp so unwelcome a statement. At last he stammered, "There's been a terrible mistake made, a terrible mistake! Maurice is a likely cove, honest an' square in his dealin's. He never fired the Judge's barn. Come, Davis, you're only chaffin'." You don't raly mean ter arrest the lad?"

"I have a warrant to do this very thing," answered Davis, "and what's more, I can't be fooling round here at this rate. Let me see the lad."

The constable was ushered into the room where Mrs. Dow and her adopted son were sitting. They were a little surprised at their visitor's early call, but having clear consciences, neither suspected the man's errand, until in plain language he told his purpose in coming to the Cove. The news came like a shock to both Phoebe and Maurice.

"It is a lie," cried the boy. "I never did the dastardly thing. It is a contrived plan to ruin me."

"Sir, you surely have made a mistake," said Mrs. Dow, with whitening lips.

"Young man," pursued the constable, without heeding Phoebe's remark, "did you ever see these?" taking the handkerchief and harmonica from his pocket.

"Yes, sir, they are mine."

"Can you tell me how they came back of Judge Seabury's barn, caught in his hedge?"

"No, sir."

"You see," said Davis, addressing Mrs. Dow, "we don't arrest folks without some evidence. Judge Seabury found these himself back of his barn this morning, and he desires this matter to be investigated. It now becomes my duty to take this young man with me. If he's innocent, all he's got to do is to tell a straight story."

Mrs. Dow came forward, and taking her Bible, said to Maurice, "Can you place your hand on God's Holy Book, and say, I am innocent?"

"Yes, mother," replied the lad, looking into her face with clear, honest eyes.

"I am satisfied," replied his foster-mother. "Go now, my son, and fear nothing. The truth will appear sooner or later."

Great excitement prevailed in the village when the news went from lip to lip that young Dow was arrested for arson. Some scouted the idea as absurd; others declared that "they had never liked the boy, and had known from the beginning that his bad blood would show itself in time."

Maurice was taken to Squire Brown's

office, and the latter proceeded to question him in the presence of Judge Seabury.

"Well, Dow, where were you last night?"

"I took a walk to Magnolia, sir."

"Did you go by way of the road or across lots?"

"By the highway, sir."

"What time was it when you reached Magnolia?"

"About half-past eight."

"What did you do while there?"

"I walked awhile on the beach, and then took a row-boat and went out a little way."

"What time was it when you came off the water?"

"About ten, I should think."

"What time did you start for home?"

"A little after eleven, sir."

"What were you doing from ten to eleven?"

"I sat down in the boat-house to rest and being tired I dropped to sleep."

"What time did you reach Fairport village?"

"About twelve, sir."

"Did you go home by way of the road, or did you go across lots?"

"I cut across the fields, sir."

"Did you go through Judge Seabury's orchard?"

"I did, sir."

"Can you tell us how these articles came caught in the hedge back of the Judge's barn?" producing the handkerchief with the boy's name marked thereon, and the harmonica.

"No, sir."

"Tut, tut, lad! Tell the truth now. It will fare easier with you if you make a clean breast of the whole affair. Things look very suspicious, as you see. If you confess at once, I am sure the Judge will be considerate."

"I have nothing to confess," and Maurice drew himself up proudly. "How these articles of mine came where they were found is a mystery to me. But this I do know, other hands than mine did this wicked deed. I have said all I can, or shall say."

"Do you intend to deny this thing, or are you going to confess?" cried Judge Seabury, in a passion at what he deemed the boy's obstinacy.

"I have told you all I know in regard to the matter," replied Maurice.

"Then the law shall take its course," said the Judge. "I intend to catch the rascal who fired my barn, and make an example of him."

"One month from to-day," said Squire Brown, "the court meets at Salem. I will bind this young man over to that court."

Deacon Ray kindly furnished the necessary bail, and Maurice was dismissed from the presence of these gentlemen; and it was with a heavy heart that he plodded his way home. The case looked dark, and all the circumstances were against him. He felt sure that he was the victim of a plot, but he saw no way to prove this satisfactorily, and thus extricate himself from the difficulty. In this time of sore need the lad found strong friends. Deacon Ray grasped his hand, and said, "My boy, I believe you because you have never told me a lie. Let me see you in your accustomed place in the store."

Mr. Strong also told him to keep up good courage, and time would prove his innocence. The St. George League opened its doors to receive him as of old, and nearly all its members treated him with cordiality. Notwithstanding all this, Maurice grew pale and anxious as the month rapidly slipped away, and no solution was found to the mystery.

During this month of suspense, Tom Kinmon was not idle. He suspected foul play, and he determined, if possible, to ferret out the real culprit, and clear Maurice from suspicion. He talked the matter over with Rob, and after finding out what boys disliked young Dow, he commenced to watch these boys with the sagacity of a detective.

One day, as he was down on the rocks, preparing to cast his line for cunners, he heard the sound of voices. Peering cautiously over a large boulder, he saw Peter and George MacDuff lower down on the rocks, engaged in the same pursuit. To creep nearer the boys, in order that he might listen to their conversation unobserved, was the work of a moment.

"Now, drive ahead, my hearties!" muttered the old fisherman, with one of his silent laughs. "Fraps you'll leak out somethin' 'bout the fire. Anyhow, 'tain't no harm ter listen."

(To be continued.)

The little touch may hurt the most—
A harsh or kind word spoken
May light another's darkened way
Or pierce a spirit broken.

From the Monkey's Point of View.

The ostrich has wings, but he cannot fly.

The horse has only one toe;

Have you noticed the size of the elephant's eyes?

Or the pitch of the rooster's crow?

The fox has a brush, but he does not paint.

And I think it a capital joke

That the goat has horns which he cannot blow.

And a beard that he cannot stroke.

I think this is the quite the funniest world

That over a wight could see.

But the most ridiculous things of all

Are the people who laugh at me!

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF JESUS.

LESSON IV.—OCTOBER 28.

THE PRODIGAL SON.

Luke 15. 11-24. Memory verses, 20-24.

GOLDEN TEXT.

I will arise and go to my father.—Luke 15. 18.

OUTLINE.

1. The Prodigal's Folly, v. 11-16.

2. The Father's Love, v. 17-24.

Time.—Winter of A.D. 29-30.

Place.—Perea.

LESSON HELPS.

11. "And he said"—"If there could be only one page in the Bible I should choose that the single page should contain this parable."—Horace Greeley. "Two sons"—"The two sons undoubtedly represent the two classes whose presence led to the discourse: the scribes and Pharisees (the elder son), and the publicans and sinners (the younger son). Both classes were Jews, nominal members of God's family. All men are represented by these two classes."—Schaff.

12. "The younger"—"The most light minded, and as such the most easily led astray."—Lange. "The portion"—"The elder son had a legal right, on the death of his father, to two portions of the movable property. The younger son was entitled to one-third, but it was impertinent to demand it during the father's lifetime. "Divided unto them"—"But, evidently from the rest of the story, he retained his own authority over the eldest son's share."

13. "Gathered all together"—"The collecting, on man's part, of all his energies and powers, with the deliberate determination of getting, through their help, all the gratification he can out of the world."—Trench. "A far country"—"Forgetfulness of God."—Augustine. "Riotous living"—"The original signifies greatest wastefulness. "Sin wastes the body, wastes the health, wastes the soul."—Taylor.

14. "And when"—"This seems to have happened very soon; the enjoyment of sin is brief."—Riddle. "Mighty famine"—"Famines were as frequent incidents of ancient civilization as railroad accidents are of ours. "Want" "is characteristic of the far country." Excess always leads to suffering. (1) No soul that goes into the far country ever escapes the famine.

15. "Joined himself"—"The word means glued himself. He "stuck" against the citizen's will. "To feed swine"—"Jews so loathed pigs that they never mentioned them, but always called them "those other things." Swineherds were accursed; but the prodigal had no other resource.

16. "Would fain"—"Desired, but did not dare to. "Husks"—"Carob pods. Cattle like them, but they are unfit for human food. "The swine did eat"—"He who would not feed on the bread of angels petitions in hunger for husks of swine."—Trench. "No man gave"—"Satan cares not to alleviate the distresses of his victims."

17. "He came to himself"—"The first step in his repentance is to wake as out of an evil dream, and to be conscious of his better nature."—Ellcott. (2) Sin is a dream; repentance is the awakening. "Hired servants"—"In ancient times the hired servant was far worse off than the slave, for the slave was always sure of his food, his clothing, his lodging, his attendance when sick; whereas the hired servant had simply his day's wages, and when these were paid he went off to his hovel, and there was an end of all care for him."—Sadler. "To spare"—"Literally, abound in loaves. "I perish"—"I have played the fool; I see it now, and I

will hasten to confess it."—Cowley.

"The prodigal is moved by hunger, in the first instance. Any motive that actually leads the soul to repentance suffices, no matter what it is."

18. "I will arise and go"—"Remorse avails nothing without practical repentance. "I have sinned"—"A man must be awake to tell his dream; and the acknowledgment of our faults is a proof of a right mind."—Seneca. "Against heaven"—"Against the divine authority of God as the Creator, and against the law of right in nature."—Whedon.

19. "No more worthy"—"The prodigal makes no excuse for his sin, but acknowledges his unworthiness."—Schaff.

20. "He arose, and came"—"A despondent, shiftless son of despair, intent on a miserable journey. "A great way off"—"From the home of peace. "Saw him"—"Knew him, as with a father's eye, before the servants had recognized him."—Whedon. "Had compassion"—"The divine tenderness is infinite. "Fell on his neck"—"An oriental custom. "And kissed him"—"In full reconciliation. "God pardons like a mother, who classes the past into everlasting forgetfulness."—Beecher.

21. "The son said"—"He begins the mournful statement he had memorized, but is cut short by his father's demonstrative affection. His father's love smothered his words."—Whedon. "Against heaven"—"This includes and surpasses all other guilt."—Farrar.

22. "The best robe"—"Eastern robes" are as easily transferable as are ladies' shawls with us.—Cuyler. "A ring"—"Worn only by freemen."—Schaff. A token of sonship. "Shoes"—"Slaves went barefoot."—Vincent. "The sense of the whole verse is: God will restore the penitent, and give him, out of love, all that is necessary to mark him as a son."—Schaff.

23. "The fatted calf"—"Literally, the well-known fatted calf. "Reserved, by the father's hospitality, for some special occasion, as the delicacy of the season."—Whedon.

24. "Dead"—"Sin is death. "Alive"—"Holiness in life. "Merry"—"The feast indicates the joy of a forgiving God over a forgiven man, and the joy of a forgiven man in a forgiving God."—Arnot. (3) If you are such a prodigal, return to the Father's house and his welcome.

HOME READINGS.

M. The Prodigal Son.—Luke 15. 11-24.

Tu. Lost and found.—Luke 15. 25-32.

W. The world unsatisfying.—Eccles. 2. 1-11.

Th. The way of transgressors.—Prov. 15. 1-15.

F. Learning by adversity.—2 Chron. 33. 13.

S. Returning and weeping.—Jer. 50. 1-7.

Su. Return!—Hos. 14.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. The Prodigal's Folly, v. 11-16.

What does the younger son leaving his father's house typify?

Where did he go?

How did he spend his time and money?

What was the result of his folly?

When trouble came did he find his worldly companions helpful?

Do worldly pleasures ever satisfy?

What work was the prodigal forced to do?

Why was this specially distasteful to a Jew?

2. The Father's Love, v. 17-24.

What decision did the son make? Golden Text.

In what spirit did he return?

What does his return typify?

When did the father see his penitent son?

How did he receive him?

What lesson do you draw from his "running to meet him"?

What did the shoes and ring signify?

What further honour was shown him?

What kind of forgiveness was this?

Is loving mercy or just punishment the attitude of God to us?

If it was not for his mercy could any of us stand before him?

Is it possible for the human heart to forgive to the uttermost?

Although forgiven, was the prodigal punished?

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

Where in this lesson do we learn—

1. That wickedness leads to want?

2. That the truly penitent soul forsakes sin?

3. That God welcomes the returning wanderer?

"What is your definition of the word 'fad'?" "A fad," said Miss Cayenne, candidly, "is something which somebody else enjoys and I don't."