

course, by which the day was lengthened until the victory was completely obtained.

You may read this for yourselves in the book of Joshua, and you may there find how the land was divided among the ten tribes.



"THE HARDEST PART OF THE VERSE."

Among the girls of a district school was one named Lydia, a studious, obedient, serious-minded child. Lydia and the teacher went down the same green lane on their way home, and became well acquainted; and Lydia lost her bashfulness, and used to ask the teacher of many things which she did not quite understand, especially about the Bible verses and stories which the teacher used to read and talk about at the opening of the school. The child's turn of mind interested the lady very much, and she could not help hoping that the Spirit of God was teaching her the way of truth and duty. She sat in school beside Elsie Graham, a poor lame child, who was often absent from school, and was quite backward in her studies. Lydia was very kind to Elsie, and used to help her about her lessons; indeed, Lydia was a great friend to all the neglected children in the school. If any one fell down, she was sure to run and pick her up; if any one cried over a hard lesson, she was by her side, trying to help her out of her perplexities. The teacher often thought, if any body was mindful of the precept, "Weep with them that weep," it was Lydia.

It happened, one day, that Elsie Graham got to the head of her class, above Lydia. It was the first time, and she was very happy. At recess the girls cried out, "Elsie Graham has got up to the head!" and all flocked around her, except Lydia, who kept her seat, with her hand over her eyes, and her eyes on her book. The rest of the

day the teacher saw that she looked very sober, and staid at her desk.

When school was done, she overtook Lydia trudging slowly home, with her dinner-pail on her arm, and she asked the little girl if she did not feel well.

"Yes, ma'am, I feel very well," answered Lydia. "I thought something seemed to be the matter with you," said the teacher.

Tears came into her eyes; but after a little kind talk from the teacher, Lydia said, in rather a hesitating manner, "You see I don't feel glad Elsie has got up to the head, and I know I ought to; for you know the verse you read to us, and what you said, 'Rejoice with those that rejoice.' O, *that's the hardest part of the verse;*" and the child looked down, seeming quite ashamed.

Poor Lydia! And is this true? Are there boys who, provoked by the praises bestowed upon a school-fellow, ever meanly try to lessen his merits? Are little girls ever sorry if others have what they have not? Do children ever seek to undervalue what is pleasing to their brothers and sisters? Is not this breaking the blessed Bible rule, to "rejoice with them that rejoice?"

And how is it with children of a larger growth? Does jealousy never breed hard thoughts against those more favoured than ourselves? Does envy never seek to disparage the merits of a friend? Are we not sometimes too pleased to hear our neighbour's evil spoken of? And is not all this breaking the blessed bible rule, to "rejoice with them that rejoice?"

Many, perhaps, feel so without considering, as Lydia did, how opposed such feelings are to the temper of the Gospel; and, in fact, this brings forcibly out the *necessity* and the *beauty* of the one grand regulating principle of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is *love*, "*good-will*," as the angels sung to the shepherds. It is this prin-