



Devoted to the interests of the Mission Circles and Bands of the Woman's Missionary Society, Methodist Church, Canada.

*THE LITTLE LAD.*

MRS. GEO. A. PAULL.

Beside the tranquil waters  
Of the sea of Galilee,  
Where the mountains' purple shoulders  
Stretch down to meet the sea,  
The eager people gathered  
Upon Batiha's slope  
To listen to the Master,  
His words of love and hope.

"Send them away, dear Master,  
This hungering multitude;  
The evening shadows gather,  
We cannot find them food.  
Two loaves and five small fishes  
A little lad hath brought,  
But for these many thousands  
That childish gift is naught."

"Make them sit down," He answered;  
And then, O happy lad,  
Who gave the loving Saviour  
So freely all he had!  
He took the loaves and fishes  
And blessed and brake the food,  
And lo! the scanty offering  
Fed all the multitude.

Famished and weak and weary,  
Today a multitude  
Long for the Bread of Heaven—  
Ah, who will send them food?  
So small and scant your offering?  
Yes, but the Christ who blessed  
The lad's few loaves and fishes  
Will add to it the rest.

Place in His hand your treasure,  
And thousands you may feed  
Of those who sit in darkness,  
Not knowing of their need.  
To you comes this sweet story,  
Dear little friends, today  
What can you bring to Jesus?  
Give Him your all, I pray.

*THE TRUE CHURCH.*

Continued.

JESUS Himself whom Peter had just confessed to be "The Christ the son of the living God," was the rock upon which Christ's church was to be built, Matt. 16, 18 : 19. Peter (or Petros, which means a stone) was but one of the stones composing the building of which he speaks in his first Epistle, viz; "ye also as lively stones are built up a spiritual house," &c. Poor Peter would have been a sorry foundation for God's holy church, as within a few verses farther on, we find the Saviour thus rebuking him, "Get thee behind me Satan, thou art an offence unto me." And not very long afterwards he denied with oaths and curses, that he ever knew his blessed Master. Most bitterly though, he soon repented, and was forgiven, and after being anointed with the Holy Ghost on the day of Pentecost, became an honored instrument in preaching Christ to the Gentiles, to whom he opened up the new Gospel. Later on he was sent to Cornelius to Cesarea, to show that God had graciously removed all barriers between the Jews and Gentiles, and that in every nation all would receive remission of sins by believing in Jesus. This was no doubt the reason that Christ promised Peter the keys. Amongst the Jewish Rabbis the bestowing of keys was a symbol or figure, to denote authority. They were given to those who had completed the study of the sacred law, to show that they were competent to expound or unlock those laws to the people. In the Acts of the Apostles, Peter is nowhere mentioned as placed over the others, indeed his name is not found after the 15th chap., where James is spoken of as in authority. In 2 Cor. 11 : 28 St. Paul tells of having daily the care of all the churches. Only Roman Catholics give Peter the precedence, but we find nothing of the kind in scripture. St. Peter expressly speaks of himself as only an elder like themselves, and warns them against claiming superiority, as lords over God's heritage.