

## THE PLAN OF STUDY

FOR THE CHILDREN.

Conducted by Rev. R. Douglas Fraser.

**Topic for Week beginning Aug. 13.**

A GREAT SCOTTISH HYMN-WRITER.

**Horatius Bonar and His Hymns in the Book of Praise.**

The Rev. James Bonar, of Greenock, Scotland, nephew of Dr. Horatius Bonar, the Hymn writer, gives an account in the older people's RECORD of his uncle, and of the many tender and beautiful hymns that he wrote. Please read it, as well as the following article written for your own RECORD.

**Bonar and His Hymns.**

BY REV. J. B. FRASER, M.D., ANNAN, ONT.

Horatius Bonar was born at Edinburgh, more than ninety years ago. He was ordained a minister at Kelso in 1837, and continued there for twenty-eight years, when he was called to the Chalmers' Memorial Church in Edinburgh, where remained to the end of his long life, a few years since.

A visitor to his Church, about twenty years ago, has given us a pen-portrait of him, which only makes us want to know more of such a rare and beautiful soul.

"The first thought on seeing him was, He is just like his hymns,—not great, but tender, sweet and tranquil." His prayer was simple as a child's, his voice was low, quiet, and impressive. His power over his hearers was complete. Even the children looked steadily in his face.

"Once he paused in his sermon and spoke especially to the Sabbath School children, who sat by themselves on one side of the pulpit. I am sure the little ones never heard the Good Shepherd's call more tenderly given. With one of the most winning faces I ever saw, he closed with, 'Whosoever,—that includes you; whosoever will,—does that include you?'"

Wouldn't you like to have seen and heard that gentle, earnest, loving poet-pastor? Perhaps some day our good friend, the Editor, may give us his portrait in the CHILDREN'S RECORD, with something more about him and his hymns. For, though he wrote books, and good books, that have done a great deal of good, it is as a hymn-

writer that he is best known, and no one, for the last 100 years, has written nearly so many really good hymns.

If you search the Book of Praise you will find fifteen of his hymns, and though you may find others as good in it, you will find none better. You may not be able to sing all of them yet, but I am sure, after what you have read, you will want to, and will learn them as soon as you can.

There are only two of the fifteen, among "Hymns for the Young," but many of the others are just as great favorites with the young as those two. The little ones are sometimes as good judges of hymns as those who are older.

I know a bright little girlie, only seven, who, when her father asks her at family worship sometimes, which hymn she would like, nearly always says, "The Sands of Time are Sinking." Of course there's a great deal in it she doesn't understand yet, but she knows enough to like it, and the more she understands of it, the better she'll like it. That is one of the marks of a good hymn; it wears well.

Now, you must look for Bonar's hymns in the Book of Praise. You will find his name at the end of all he wrote. Note them down and see if my count is right—fifteen. The two which are found among "Hymns for the Young" have been great favorites ever since I was a Sabbath School scholar, which is a good while ago.

The first of them, "Rejoice and be glad, the Redeemer hath come," tells the story in song, of the Christ, from His cradle to His coming again in glory, and the chorus is one that thrills every heart that loves Him—

"Sound His praises, tell the story of Him who was slain;  
Sound His praises, tell with gladness, He liveth again."

The second, Hymn 576, is a most beautiful prayer to Him who is the Light of the World. It would do you good to sing it from the heart every day, and the tune is one that will catch your ear, and linger in it. I think it must surely have been made for it. It fits it so perfectly.

Among the other thirteen, you will find several favorites, but there are three that I want you all to learn, without fail, if you don't already know them. If you do, I am sure you will agree with me that they are all well worth learning, and the tunes are very easy.

Hymn 181, "O love that casts out fear," is a prayer for the love of God to fill the heart.