

For the bread of God is He who cometh down from heaven and giveth life unto the world. I am that bread of life." As the outward bread must be labored for, though obtainable everywhere, so Christ, also everywhere accessible, must yet be sought by prayer, meditation, and study of the scriptures, and by the use of regular means of grace. For He is bread, life, happiness to the soul.

Children's Department.

A MISSIONARY LESSON.

PART I.

A grain of corn an infant's hand
May plant upon an inch of land,
Whence twenty stalks may spring, and yield
Enough to stock a little field.

The harvest of that field might then
Be multiplied to ten times ten,
Which sown thrice more, would furnish bread
Wherewith an army might be fed.

PART II.

A penny is a little thing
Which e'en the poor man's child may fling
Into the treasury of Heaven,
And make it worth as much as seven.

As seven! nay, worth its weight in gold,
And that increased a million fold;
For lo! a penny tract, if well
Applied, may save a soul from hell.

That soul can scarce be saved alone,—
It must, it will, its bliss make known;
"Come," it will cry, "and you shall see
What great things God hath done for me."

Hundreds that joyful sound may hear;
Hear with the heart as well as ear;
And these to thousands more proclaim,
Salvation in the "Only Name."

That "Only Name," above, below,
Let Jews, and Turks, and Heathen know;
Till every tongue and tribe shall call
On "Jesus Christ" as Lord of all!

THE MARAVER HERD-BOY.

Above thirty Hindu clergymen are now at work as missionaries to the heathen in the province of Tinnevely in Southern India. Very few of them can speak English or read an English book, but they are well acquainted with their Tamil Bibles, and being "mighty in the Scriptures," they prove very useful.

You will be interested in a brief account of one of them, whose name is Abraham Isaac. The Hindus, when they receive new names at their Baptism, prefer those which occur in Holy Scripture, and often adopt them. In this case it seems that one such name would not suffice, and the name of Abraham and also of his son Isaac were both adopted.

Mr. Isaac, as he is now called, once related to a clergyman in Madras his own history from his childhood, and a very interesting one as it is. His father belonged to the Maravers—the robber or thief caste—a bold and reckless set of men, always ready for any kind of mischief. They are, however, a fine race of people, and are often employed, strange to say, as watchmen, in which service they succeed very well; we presume it is on the principle of setting a thief to catch a thief.

A hideous image of Pulliar—the elephant-headed god, the god of sagacity, the god of the schoolmaster and of the schoolboy—occupied a conspicuous position in his native village, and to this dumb idol at an early age he was duly taught by his parents to present his offerings and to pray.

His father possessed some little property, consisting principally of cattle—cows, buffaloes, and goats: and these the little Maraver boy, as soon as he was able, had daily to conduct to the jungle, that there they might graze. The path to the

jungle which he had to pass along led him every morning by the little church at the time when the native teacher was assembling the converts for service. Boy-like, he must needs watch the proceedings. From morning to morning he would stand at the door for a few minutes, to listen to what was going on within. He became more and more interested. He soon felt a great desire to learn to read; and one day he asked the catechist to teach him. The good man encouraged and helped him. A New Testament was given him in his own language, the Tamil, which became his constant companion in the jungle. Whilst the animals under his care were grazing around, often might he have been seen in some shady place studying his precious book. Thus was the Good Shepherd leading this little lamb into "the green pastures," and "beside the still waters." He was quite charmed by the contents of his Testament. The portion which attracted him most was the Gospel of St. John. He said to himself, as he read it, "Here is a God of wonderful love! but this God of love will judge the world at the last great day: He will be my judge. I cannot bear the thought of being condemned by a God of love!" He so believed God's love in Jesus Christ, as to tremble at the thought of being condemned by Him. This led him to yield himself unto God.

Having experienced the consolations of the Gospel, he became anxious to make that Gospel known to others. In due course the way was opened for him into the Church Missionary Society's Training Institution for Native Teachers, at Palamcotta. There he established a very high character; and when he left it to go to work in the mission, the principal said to a friend in the district to which he went, "Keep you eye upon Isaac: I have never seen more English conscientiousness in any native than in him." The deceit of the natives, alas! is proverbial. They have, by nature, far more pleasure in tell a lie than in speaking the truth; so that a truly conscientious native becomes a very precious character. Such is Abraham Isaac.

The friend from whom we gleaned these particulars once said to a party of men from his village, who knew him well, "If I had 5000 rupees at my disposal, I would trust them all to the hands of Abraham as willingly as to those of my own wife." They remarked, "You might safely do that; nothing would ever induce Abraham to take anything that was not his own." Yet Abraham's caste, be it remembered, is the thief caste! What cannot the grace of God effect!

On one occasion, a large girls' school, about seventy in number, who were well taught, were manifesting a spirit which was far from becoming. Their master was dismissed, and they were committed to the charge of Mr. Isaac. In a short time the painful symptoms vanished; and after a while, when his services were required elsewhere, the whole school presented an earnest petition that he might still be their teacher, because he explained the Scriptures to them so clearly, and in such an affectionate manner.

In December, 1859, he was admitted to holy orders, by the Bishop of Madras, with eleven other natives. A congregation of at least 1100 worshippers assembled in the church of Panesilie on this interesting occasion.

As a preacher, Mr. Isaac is highly esteemed. We have seen one of his sermons, beautifully written, and have been assured by one who could read Tamil, that its contents were such as any faithful minister in England would be happy to preach: not that he uses any manuscript when addressing the people, but he writes sermons in order to improve in composition, and that his statements of Divine truth may be more accurate and clear.

With regard to Mrs. Isaac, we are assured that she also is a true Christian, and very zealous in her Master's service. Rachel—for that is her name—was once a rude and wild-looking girl, but now "the meekness of wisdom" appears in her countenance, and she is quite lady-like in her manners. A large class of native women meet her regularly for instruction, by whom her services are highly valued.

Such native teachers prove very valuable helpers in all our missions. It is God who must prepare them for His service. "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest" to send forth a multitude of such "labourers into His harvest."

DICTIONARY OF THE BIBLE.

ALL SAINTS' DAY.—The observance of this festival began about 610, A. D. At first, May 1st was observed; in 834, A. D., this was changed to Nov. 1st. On this holy day, we keep in loving memory, all are dear dead; the Church's saintly dead the world over.

ALMS.—Our gifts for the needy. No one should attend public service without carrying an Alms, if he can afford it. One-tenth of all our means is what each Christian (man or woman, boy or girl) should strive to give for Christian benevolence.

APOSTLE.—Messenger; *i. e.* official messenger. Besides the twelve called by our Lord to the office of Apostle, many others are mentioned in the New Testament—31, in all. Bishops are the Apostles of the present day.

ANDREW'S DAY (ST.)—St. Andrew was brother of St. Peter, a disciple of St. John the Baptizer; preached in Scythia, etc., and was the first whom our Lord called to be His disciple. The festival of St. Andrew regulates the time of the beginning of Advent.

ANGEL.—One sent; *i. e.* on divine errands. In Revelations it is the same as Apostle, which also signifies one sent, or Bishop, the name by which after the death of the original Twelve, their successors in office were called.

AMIALE ("Are Thy dwellings.")—Lovely, lovable. Many words in the Prayer Book are used in an old sense.

ANSWERED.—Does not always mean *replied*. To answer was to begin a conversation, as well as to continue one in reply.—*Young Churchman.*

—Therwall thought it very unfair to influence a child's mind by inculcating any opinions before it should come to years of discretion, and be able to choose for itself. I showed him my garden, and told him it was my botanical garden. "How so?" said he; it is covered with weeds. "O," I replied, "that is because it has not come its age of discretion and choice. The weeds have taken the liberty to grow, and I thought it unfair to prejudice the soil toward roses and strawberries.—[Colderidge.]

MARRIAGE.

At Christ's Church, Scarborough, on the 21st inst., by the Rev. C. R. Bell, rector, Mr. James Henry Johnson of Scarborough, to Miss Alicia Laskey of Pickering.

DIED.

March 16.—At Lunenburg, Hon. John Creighton, President of the Legislative Council of Nova Scotia. Aged 84 years. Mr. Creighton's grand father is the first named in the Lunenburg Grant—he came from Glastonbury to Nova Scotia 1749.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES.—At that focus of evangelicalism, the Islington Clerical meeting, it is interesting to note the Rev. J. J. Gos maintaining the primitiveness and necessity of the Ministry as against the Plymouth Brethren; Prebendary Cadman, quoting with approbation Mr. Stowell's saying, "Thank God I am a Christian, and also that I am a Churchman;" the Rev. E. Batty commending the Rev. B. Maitland's book on prophecy, which so scandalized Lord Shaftesbury.—*Church Bells.*

TRURO.—On Friday evening, March 5th, the church people had a conversazione, which deducted \$55 from their debt. The reading of the "Bells" by an American, and a Scotch song by "Sawbones, jr.," were the chief attractions.

On Friday, Mr. Poole, of Halifax, has kindly volunteered to give us an exhibition of the Telephone. Arrangements are being made at present to have the wires connected with the telegraph office. Much credit is due to Mr. L. B. Archibald, who is doing everything in his power to make the affair a success. The exhibition is for the good of St. James's Church of this town.

—I pray thee, O God, that I may be beautified within.—[Socrates.]