

"REMEMBER NOW THY CREATOR IN THE DAYS OF THY YOUTH."



# OUR YOUNG PEOPLE



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## The Little Shoeblocks.

A FEW weeks ago we told our young readers a little about Lord Shaftesbury and his noble work in behalf of the poor and suffering. One noble movement with which his name is connected was the establishment of Ragged Schools. He had to labour for a great many years before he saw the good work fairly entered upon. In 1848 he pleaded the cause of poor little ragged children in Parliament until he stirred the people up to take an interest in them, and in a short time he and those who were working with him had got hold of 10,000 children in the Ragged Union Schools, and when he was

making a speech in 1883, he said:—"For thirty-nine years I have been President of this grand institution,



"THAT'S OUR LORD SHAFTESBURY."

in London. A little boy belonging to the Ragged School Shoeblock Brigade, and a younger companion

and I have not missed one anniversary." After dwelling on the necessity for the work, he added, "Did we not, during the balmy days of the ragged schools, pick up from the streets some 300,000 boys and girls, all of whom, if they had not been taken up, would have been found before long among the dangerous classes?" This army of children became good and industrious citizens, entering into trade and domestic service in England and the colonies. The Ragged School Union acknowledged their indebtedness to their President by presenting him with his portrait on his eightieth birthday in 1881.

Our picture represents a scene witnessed by a gentleman

were looking at the pictures in a window. One of the pictures was a portrait of Earl Shaftesbury. As soon as the little shoeblack saw it, he said to his companion, "Look there. *That's our Lord Shaftesbury.*" You see he felt grateful for what had been done, and he looked upon Lord Shaftesbury as his own.

Dear children, when you think of Jesus, do you feel grateful for what He has done, and do you say, "That is *my* Jesus"? He did more for you than the Earl did for that little boy. The Earl made speeches—spent money—worked hard, to rescue the little boys; but Jesus died for you. Oh, how you should love Him.

### Our Young People's Berean Circle.

WE have received answers to our study on "The Titles of Jesus," but all thus far received have mistakes in them. As we print this paper before the date fixed for closing the competition, we shall publish the name of the successful boy or girl in our next number.

### Bible Acrostic.

ONE who chose rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin. What Jesus invites us to take.  
 The place where a patriarch wrestled with a man.  
 A title given by a ruler of the Jews to Jesus.  
 One chastised because he restrained not his sons.  
 A church not found perfect before God.  
 A youth who was defrauded by his brother.  
 A great captain, but grievously afflicted.  
 One to whom Joshua gave Hebron.  
 A prophet of very early days.  
 Where the tabernacle was long pitched.  
 For whose sake John was put into prison?  
 Where the Israelites suffered their first defeat in the promised land.  
 What John beautifully says God is.  
 Mountains to which Solomon sent for timber.  
 One who led a valiant three hundred.  
 One who was faithful in a wicked king's household.  
 What Jesus links with prayer.  
 A seer mentioned in Chronicles, also by Ezra and Nehemiah.  
 A tender word spoken by Jesus to a little girl.  
 A river mentioned only by Moses and Daniel.  
 A man to whom one of the Gospels was written.  
 One of the eight persons saved from the flood.  
 A brook famous for its grapes.  
 A memorable name given by one who judged Israel, to a stone commemorating a great victory.

We offer a prize to the first boy or girl, under 12 years of age, sending us a correct answer to the above acrostic. The answer must be accompanied by a note from parent or teacher, stating that the texts have been found without help.

### The Cross.

Blest they who seek,  
 While in their youth,  
 With spirit meek,  
 The way of truth.

To them the Sacred Scriptures now display  
 Christ as the only true and living Way;  
 His precious blood on Calvary was given  
 To make them heirs of endless bliss in heaven.  
 And e'en on earth the child of God can trace  
 The glorious blessings of his Saviour's grace.

For them He bore  
 His Father's frown;  
 For them He wore  
 The thorny crown;  
 Nailed to the cross,  
 Endured its pain,  
 That His life's loss  
 Might be their gain.  
 Then haste to choose  
 That better part,  
 Nor ever dare refuse  
 The Lord your heart;  
 Lest He declare  
 "I know you not,"  
 And deep despair  
 Forever be your lot.

Now look to Jesus who on Calvary died  
 And trust on Him alone who there was crucified.

"HOW can you do the most good?" asked a lady of a little girl. "By being MYSELF just as good a girl as I can be."

### Jesus and Zaccheus.—Luke 19.

JESUS  
 Journeying to  
 Jerusalem, halted at  
 Jericho.  
 Entered house of Zaccheus, who  
 eagerly received Him, and  
 entertained Him joyfully.  
 Seeking Jesus, and  
 serving Jesus, Zaccheus was  
 Satisfied by Jesus.  
 Unreasonable Jews  
 unable to  
 Understand Jesus. Why?  
 Son of man, who  
 sought and saved the  
 Son of Abraham.

JESUS—SEEKS AND  
 SAVES  
 SINNERS  
 TILL.

## A Man Sent from God.

**J**OHN the Baptist was a wonderful man. He was the son of a Jewish high priest named Zacharias. Before this little boy was born, an angel from heaven told Zacharias that his child's name was to be John. When he was born, some neighbours and cousins wished him to be called by the same name as his father. But his parents said he must be called John; for God had told them so.

John was sent by God to do a great work for Him, when he became a man. How strangely he was dressed! he had a raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins. He lived upon locusts and wild honey, and was as bold as a lion.

Nearly all who had preached before, said that Jesus was *coming*; but now John said, "He *is* come; *I have seen Him*; *I am sent to prepare the way before Him. Repent of your sins, and prepare to meet Him.*" See how the people listen!

Every child is sent into the world for something. Like John, you cannot save anybody, but you can tell who can. A little child once said to a man, "I love Jesus; does you?" This question made the man think, and pray that he might do so; and God heard his prayer, and he became a Christian.

Now, that was a little thing for the child to do, but God blessed it to the saving a man. You can do likewise.

## Pleasant Gifts.

"Who giveth us richly all things to enjoy."—1 Tim. 6: 17.

**T**HINK a little of God's great kindness to you. How *very* good He is to you! How *can* any body go on all day long, and never see how good he is, and never look up and bless Him? Most especially on bright pleasant days, when He giveth us more even than usual to enjoy! He "giveth." Not one single pleasant thing, not one single bit of enjoyment comes to us but what He giveth. We can not get it, we do not earn it, we do not deserve it; but He *giveth* lovingly, and kindly, and freely. Suppose He stopped giving, what would become of us.

"Richly." So richly, that if you tried to write down

half His gifts to you, your hand would be tired long before you had done. You might easily make a list of the presents given you on your birthday, but you could not make a list of what God gives you every day of your life.

"All things." All the things you really need, and a great many more besides. All the things that will do you good, a great many more than you would ever have thought of. All the things that He can fill your little hands with, and trust you to carry without stumbling and falling. *All things, everything that you have at all!*

"To enjoy." Now, how kind this is! not only "to do us good," but "to enjoy." So you see He means you to be happy with what He gives you, to smile and be glad, not to be dismal and melancholy. If you do not enjoy what He "giveth," that is your own

fault, for He meant you to enjoy it. Look up to Him with a bright smile and thank Him for having given you richly all things to enjoy!



JOHN THE BAPTIST PREACHING.

## Two Good Sons.

**A**NCIENT history records that a certain city was besieged, and at length obliged to surrender. In the city there were two brothers who had in some way obliged the conquering general,

and, in consequence of this, received permission to leave the city before it was set on fire, taking with them as much of their property as each could *carry about his person*. Accordingly the two generous youths appeared at the gates of the city, one of them carrying their father, and the other their mother.

**A** CUP of water timely brought,  
An offered easy chair,  
A turning of the window-blind  
That all may feel the air.

An early flower unasked bestowed,  
A light and cautious tread,  
A voice to softest whispers hushed  
To spare an aching head,—

Oh, things like these, though *little things*,  
The purest love disclose,  
As fragrant atoms in the air  
Reveal the hidden rose.

## Notes on the S. S. Lessons.

### The Fiery Furnace.

Daniel 3: 16-28

**T**HERE was a king in Babylon, and this king had a great image made. The king desired all the lords, and judges, and captains in his kingdom to come to the plain.

Then a man cried out with a loud voice, "As soon as the music begins to be played, then everybody is to bow down to the golden image that the king has set up; and if any one does not bow down, he shall be thrown immediately into a burning fiery furnace."

So all the people fell down and worshiped the golden image. Did I say that *all* the people bowed down? *Almost* all—all but three, and these were Jews.

When the king was told this, he was in a great passion, and said, "When you hear the music again, will you bow down and worship the image? for if you will not, you shall be cast into a burning, fiery furnace, and your God cannot deliver you out of it." But they said, "We will not worship the image, and our God is able to take care of us."

Then the king was in a greater passion than before, and told strong soldiers to cast the Jews into the flames. The strong soldiers took hold of them and cast them into the fire, but the flames were so fierce that they caught hold of the soldiers and burnt them up.

What became of the poor Jews? The king was much surprised to see them walking about in the fire, not only alive but *loose!* But there was one thing which surprised the king still more. There were *four* men walking in the fire. And he said, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and one of them is like the Son of God." Was He the Son of God? Oh, yes; for the Son of God loves us. God the father had sent down His Son to save the three young Jews. How happy they were in the midst of the fire! They felt no pain. Now, the king saw that the God of the Jews could save them, and he called the three Jews by their names: "Ye servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here." And they came out—yes they walked out. Then the king began to praise their God, and said, "There is no God who can deliver people like the God of the Jews."

Remember dear children we have still the same God. He is able to deliver you and take care of you.

### The Handwriting on the Wall.

Daniel 5: 1-12 and 25-28.

**B**ELSHAZZAR, the king of the Chaldeans, was a very wicked man. One night he gave a great feast. He invited a thousand lords to the feast, and a great many ladies also. Suddenly a wicked thought came into Belshazzar's mind. He remembered the gold and silver cups that his grandfather had brought from Jerusalem. He thought he should like to drink wine out of them. They were in the idol's temple adorning that horrible place. Belshazzar knew that he was doing wickedly. In the midst of his merry-making the king was dreadfully frightened, for suddenly a man's hand came into sight above the candlestick and began to write upon the plaster of the wall

of the king's palace. The king saw the part of the hand that wrote. Then he was much troubled. He sent for his wise men, but they could not read what the hand had written. But nobody could be found to read the writing. At last the Queen said, "There is a good man in the city who is very clever, and who loves and serves God. His name is Daniel. He will be able to read the writing." So Daniel was sent for, and the king asked Daniel to make known the writing on

the wall, and promised him a robe of scarlet and a chain of gold if he could tell him. Daniel, full of truth, and faithful to his God, told Belshazzar that he had not humbled himself before God. Still, he would tell him what the words meant.

What were the awful words on the wall? Daniel read them: "MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN." And this is what they meant—"MENE: God hath numbered thy Kingdom and finished it. TEKEL: Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. UPHARSIN, or PERES: Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians." That very night Belshazzar's city was taken by the Medes, and he himself slain.

Dear children, Pride is sin, and God will punish it, but He promises a blessing to the humble.



THE FIERY FURNACE.

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