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THE SUNBEAM

ENLARGED SERIES—VOL. VIII.]

TORONTO, FEBRUARY 26, 1887.

[No. 5.

GOING TO MARKET IN BELGIUM.

WHAT is this Belgian woman doing with her team of pigs so neatly harnessed? can they be trained to be useful? are they leading her to market? No, we are able to do a great many clever things, no doubt, but we have not yet learned to conquer pigs. At least we can only be a match for them in one way, and that is what our friend in the picture is doing. She pulls them back as hard as she can, whereupon the pigs make a point of starting forward! If they think you want them to go one way, they resolve instantly to go the other. I have seen things almost as bad elsewhere, have not you? I have been in a nursery, and heard nurse say, "I can't do anything with Miss Lucy to-day, she is so contrary." I have been in a school, and sometimes thought that being told not to do a thing seemed just to put it into a boy's head to go and do it. I am afraid you will be shocked at the comparison, but is not this very like the pig, which, when pulled one way, directly goes the other?

A LITTLE girl who was watching a sunset of crimson, orange, and purple, said, "Is that the power and the glory?"



GOING TO MARKET IN BELGIUM.

DISHONOURING HIS FATHER.

HARRY asked his father one evening if he could go to see Mr. Brookes about some rabbits. He received permission, but instead of going in to talk with Mr. Brookes, he met some bad boys, whom his father had forbidden him to go with, and walked down with them to the meadow.

There they laid plans to rob Mr. Brookes' melon-patch that night. Harry had never stolen anything before, and did not want to help the boys in such work, but as they laughed at him, and called him a coward, he consented to join them in their wicked plot.

Mr. Brookes had set a watch over his melons, because some had been stolen the night before, and so the boys were caught in the act and arrested and fined.

Harry's father was shocked and grieved when he found that his son had been in such bad company, and had been led in such wickedness, and when he came into the courthouse to pay the fine, and take his son home, his head bowed in grief and shame, and he looked as if the dishonour had made him ten years older.

Dear children, when you disobey your parents, show them disrespect, or bring dis-

honour, upon them, you are disobeying and dishonouring God; for he has given you parents, and commanded you to love, honour and obey them.

SECRET prayer is a power to the soul that uses it. Cultivate it as a pearl of great price.

EACH CAN DO SOMETHING.

WHAT if the little rain should say,
 "So small a drop as I
 Can ne'er refresh those thirsty fields;
 I'll tarry in the sky?"

What if the shining beam of noon
 Should in its fountain stay,
 Because its single light alone
 Cannot create a day?

Does not each raindrop help to form
 The cool, refreshing shower,
 And every ray of light to warm
 And beautify the flower?

Then let each child its influence give,
 O Lord, to truth and thee;
 So shall its power by all be felt,
 However small it be.

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The Sunbeam.

TORONTO, FEBRUARY 26, 1887.

LIGHT ABOVE THE CLOUDS.

WHEN a cloud comes between us and the sun, it robs us for a time of the enjoyment of the sun's beams. The cloud does not prevent the sun from shining; it merely hinders our enjoyment of it. Exactly so is it when we allow trials and sorrows, difficulties and perplexities, to hide from our souls the bright beams of our Father's countenance, which ever shine with changeless lustre in the face of Jesus Christ. There is no difficulty too great for our God; yea, the greater the difficulty the more room there is for him to act in his proper character as the God of all power and grace. It is the privilege of faith to find God behind the cloud in all his faithfulness, love, and power.

HEAVEN NOT BURNED.

BY MRS. J. GREENE.

SOUTHAMPTON is one of the oldest villages in Ontario. At about 3 o'clock a fire broke out. The wind was blowing a gale off Lake Huron, which seemed to increase as wildly the flames fed on wooden buildings that had been so long standing. In a house just across the street from where the fire first started lay a little sufferer, Emma, who for a time before her illness had become very quiet and thoughtful. She was four years and five months old. With a quilt wrapped around her she was carried to a place of safety—again she was removed to her grandma's, where she was tenderly cared for, but the strain was too great for her weak form, and she sank rapidly.

One day she said to her ma, "I want to go home."

Her ma answered, our home is burned, we cannot go back there. But visions of a brighter home had already dawned upon her mind; she replied, "Heaven place not burned." A few days after she left us for the company of the blood-washed in the home above.

"There to welcome, Jesus waits,
 Gives the crown his followers win,
 Lift your heads, ye golden gates,
 And let the children in."

ROBBY'S FIDELITY.

WHEN Matthew Hale Smith was in Edinburgh, Scotland, he visited the old Greyfriars' Burying-ground, a sort of Potter's Field, where strangers are buried. There he saw a little shepherd's dog lying on the grave of his master. It seems that five years before a stranger had died on the streets of Edinburgh, and been buried at the city's expense in Greyfriars'. There was nothing about him to indicate who he was or where he belonged. While the burial services were being performed, a little dog was seen standing at the gate, watching the movements of the party. When the services closed the little dog walked up to the grave and laid down upon it. He was found there the next morning by the sexton. He was taken to a baker's shop, and some crackers given to him for his breakfast. A kind butcher gave him his dinner. He returned immediately to the grave. One dark and stormy night the sexton, out of compassion, shut him up in the vestry. He was found the next morning on the grave of his master, having carried away the entire window-sash to secure his freedom. For five years, as the hour of eight was chimed out daily, Bobby

started for the baker's. At noon he visited the butcher's. On Sundays, though the heavy chimes of Greyfriars' rang, Bobby never stirred from the grave. Eight and twelve pealed out as usual from the old ivy-clad tower, but the dog never left the church-yard. He never mistook seven for eight, nor eleven for twelve. He knew when Sunday came; he never mistook Saturday for Sunday. He knew his kind friends, the butcher and the baker, closed their stores on the Lord's Day. On Saturday he laid apart a portion of his breakfast and a portion of his dinner for Sunday use. He dug a little cupboard under a neighbouring tombstone, where he hid his food. Strangers visiting Edinburgh called for Bobby. The Lord Mayor gave him a gold collar with his name engraved on it. A fund was provided by the citizens, lest the kindness of the butcher and baker should give out. The little dog has an annuity for life, and can never be in want.

If little children would only love their Saviour as this little dog loved his master how much good they could do in the world.

THE SACRIFICE OF ISAAC.

(See next page.)

As you read your lesson for March 6th you must remember that Abraham lived many long years ago, and that he lived very near to many heathen people who had strange and dreadful customs. For this reason God's command to Abraham may not have seemed as dreadful as it does to us now. But it surely must have seemed very hard and must have puzzled Abraham a good deal. He does not seem to have told any one about it, but just got ready and gone on his journey very quietly. What a sad two days' journey that must have been to Abraham! Leaving the servants at the foot of the mountain, he went, with Isaac by his side, up the mountain to a quiet place. There he built an altar and prepared everything for sacrifice. He laid Isaac on the wood and raised the knife to slay him. But "The Friend of God" had been tried enough. He was commanded to stop and was shown a ram to be offered in Isaac's stead. Thus he was taught to believe in God, and he called the place Jehovah-jireh, which means: "The Lord will provide."

"MOTHER," said a little boy, "I waked up thanking God." That is waking up beautifully. A child waking up so will never come down-stairs cross, or find fault with his breakfast.

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THE SACRIFICE OF ISAAC.

IF I WERE YOU.

WHAT would I do if I were you?
First thing I'd make a rule
To put my hat and books in place
When I come home from school.

What would I do if I were you?
I wouldn't pout and cry
Because I couldn't have my way
About a piece of pie.

What would I do if I were you?
I'd speak a pleasant word
To this and that one in the house,
And not be sour as curd;

And when a body asked my help,
I'd try to do a favour,
So that I should not always have
A disobliging flavour.

If I were you, my little friend,
I'd try to be so good
That my example all around
Might follow if they could.

I'd go to Jesus now and give
To him my naughty heart,
Ask him to make it new and pure,
And his own love impart.

THE IRISH BOY'S VICTORY.

IN the northern part of Ireland there lived a good clergyman who was an earnest worker for Christ. Sabbath after Sabbath he preached of the love of Jesus to perishing sinners. He told how He left His home in glory, led a life of toil and sorrow, died a death of woe, rose again triumphant, and ascended up on high, having "led captivity captive," how for those who believe in Him the sting of death is taken away, for with "His right hand and His holy arm He hath gotten Him the victory."

As the preacher spoke thus, his gaze rested on a ragged boy sitting beneath the pulpit. On his pinched face was a look of extreme interest, and he appeared eagerly drinking in the good news. Directly the service was over the clergyman hurried down but he was too late, the young listener had disappeared and every inquiry failed to discover his name or dwelling.

At length one evening an old man called on the clergyman with a request that he would come to see a poor dying lad.

"He has asked for you, sir," said the messenger; "and he do be talking so strange, sure none of us can understand him at all." The clergyman went with the man. On a bed of death he found the boy he had so wished to meet. Raising himself with a last effort, the little fellow exclaimed:

"With His right hand and His holy arm
He hath gotten Himself the victory."
He never spoke on earth agam.
Reader, what is this victory to you?—
Christian Press.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

B.C. 1872.] LESSON X. [March 6.

ABRAHAM OFFERING ISAAC.

Gen. 22, 1-13. Commit to memory vs. 10 13.

GOLDEN TEXT.

God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt-offering. *Gen. 22, 8.*

OUTLINE.

1. Offered.
2. Delivered

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

Who was Abraham's only and well-beloved son? Isaac.

What did God tell Abraham to do with Isaac? To kill him for a burnt-offering.

Where was Abraham to go and offer Isaac for a burnt-offering? To a mountain in the land of Moriah.

What did Abraham do? He hastened to obey God's command.

How did he show his faith in God? By doing all that God told him to do.

Who stayed his hand when he was about to slay Isaac? God's angel.

What had God provided for the burnt-offering? A ram, caught in the bushes.

Why had he told Abraham to offer up Isaac? To prove his faith.

How did God reward Abraham's faith? With great blessing and honour.

When can God bless us greatly? When we have great faith in him.

What is the GOLDEN TEXT?

Who is the Lamb of God? Jesus, his only begotten Son.

Why is he so called? He was slain as an offering for our sins.

Why did not God spare him? "That whosoever believeth on him might not perish, but have everlasting life."

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

Abraham offered God his most precious treasure.

Do you ever deny yourself now to please him?

Is there anything he asks you to do that you will not?

Have you given him what he wants most, your heart?

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The Lamb of God.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

Who made you? God.

Who is God? God is our Father in heaven.

B.C. 1760.] LESSON XI. [March 13

JACOB AT BETHEL.

Gen. 28, 10-22. Commit to memory vs. 15-17.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Surely the Lord is in this place. *Gen. 28, 16.*

OUTLINE.

1. The Vision.
2. The Vow.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

How did Jacob journey toward Haran? On foot and alone.

Where did he sleep at night? On the ground with a stone for his pillow.

What did he see as he slept? A ladder reaching up to heaven.

Who were on the ladder? Angels, going back and forth.

Who stood above it? The Lord God.

Whom did he declare himself to be? The God of Abraham and of Isaac.

What did he tell Jacob? That he should possess the land.

What great promise did he give him? "In thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed."

What other promise did God make? "I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places."

What did Jacob say when he awoke? (Repeat the GOLDEN TEXT.)

What did he call the place? The gate of heaven and the house of God.

What vow did he make? That he would love and obey the Lord.

What did Jacob set up for a memorial? (God? The stone which he had used for pillow.)

What did he name the place? Bethel, or the house of God.

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

The God of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob is YOUR God.

He will be with you at all times to be with you.

And in all places to safely keep you.

Will you not make a vow to love and serve him?

"Blessed are they which put their trust in thee."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Consecration

CATECHISM QUESTION.

What is God? God is a Spirit, One that always was and always will be.