

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



OUR
YOUNG PEOPLE'S
MISSION UNION



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No. 2.

Bubbles.

"**D**O look! do look! Eddie and I are playing soap bubbles! See there!"
And he dips into the frothy basin his

long white pipe, and blows through it into the calm, still air—what? Don't you know? The most exquisite shining balls, one after another, like the finest, silkiest, most delicate gossamer, truly in form and beauty perfect. Of course, I stand, and look, and admire. Who would not?

"Lovely indeed, Charley."

But no sooner do I say the words than they burst into—nothing!

Perhaps you have seen Sir Noel Paton's picture, "The Pursuit of Pleasure." There you watch men and women, young and old, learned and unlearned, of every rank and clime, eagerly pursuing the fairy form of Pleasure, around whom float innumerable shining bubbles, exactly like Charley and Eddie's. But not a single hand can ever reach and grasp them! No, not one!



Now, in the old book of Ecclesiastes, more directly than in any other book of the Bible, we are taught that on all things here below—riches, honours, possessions, friendships even—is solemnly stamped, VANITY. Can you tell me how many times that little three-syllabled word is repeated

from its opening to its closing verses? If you cannot, I leave you to take pen or pencil, and to underline it in your daily readings. A most profitable exercise.

But I think some boy or girl asks: "Is there actually *nothing* in the whole wide world but bubbles? *nothing* real? *nothing* which my poor, empty, longing heart can seize, and enjoy, and call its own for ever?"

Yes, my dear children, there is just *one* thing—

your heavenly Father's love in Christ, His Son. "He satisfies the longing soul as nothing else could do." The living personal Saviour has satisfied weary thousands, and He will certainly satisfy *you*!

As by the light of opening day
The stars are all concealed.

So earthly pleasures fade away
When Jesus is revealed.

—Selected.

Our Young People's Berean Circle.

DESIRING to encourage Bible study among our young readers, we intend each month to print a Bible Exercise, the first of which we now give. This exercise forms a review of the past Quarter's Bible Lessons. To the first boy or girl sending us the most complete list of Scripture references, we will give a **One Dollar BAGSTER BIBLE**, sent free of postage. Put the text in the blank space, and send us this paper, with your name, address and age at the foot of it. Rev. H. M. Parsons will act as examiner, and decide as to the merits of the reply. All answers must be sent in before 20th March.

CHRIST AND PAUL; OR, THE MASTER AND THE SERVANT. Acts, Chapters 20 to 26.

Paul's life an example. 20: 34, 35.....
 Especially in his humility, and his care
 for others. 20: 19, 34.....
 Kept back nothing that was profitable.
 20: 20.....
 Taught *all men* and *everywhere*. 21: 28.....
 Knew that his testimony would not be
 received by the people. 22: 18.....
 Was obedient to God. 26: 19.....
 Was hated because of his faithfulness.
 26: 21.....
 Was charged with being "beside him-
 self." 26: 24.....
 The people aroused against him.
 21: 27.....
 Lay in wait for him. 20: 19 l.c.; 23: 16.....
 Went about to kill him. 21: 31.....
 His greatest enemies his own country-
 men. 20: 19; comp. 2 Cor. 11: 26.....
 Had done all in his power to win them.
 20: 26.....
 Had wept over them. 20: 19.....
 Is falsely charged with enmity to the
 law and designs against the temple.
 21: 21, 28.....
 Foretells trouble to the church. 20: 29.....
 Enjoins watchfulness. 20: 31.....
 Determines to go to Jerusalem. 20: 16.....
 His friends learning of the trouble to
 befall him, seek to dissuade him.
 21: 12.....
 A division arises concerning him.
 22: 7.....
 A conspiracy to take his life, and that
 by subtlety, and in this plot the
 Priests and Elders had a share.
 23: 13, 14.....
 He is arrested and bound. 21: 33.....
 Is smitten. 23: 2.....
 Is charged with disrespect to the High
 Priest. 23: 4.....
 The cry is raised "Away with him."
 22: 22.....
 His enemies and the King say, "No
 fault in Him." 23: 9; 26: 31.....

What seed are you sowing?

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.—Gal. vi. 7.



A WONDERFUL thing is a seed,
 The one thing deathless fore-
 ever!
 The one thing changeless—utter-
 ly true,
 Forever old and forever new,
 And fickle and faithless never.
 Plant blessings, blessings will
 bloom:
 Plant hate, and hate will grow;
 You can sow to-day, to-morrow
 will bring
 The blossom that proves what sort of thing
 Is the seed, the seed that you sow.

The Forgotten One.

"I think that my brother could forget me," cried Charlotte, tears coursing down her cheeks, "when I loved him so, and longed for our meeting again!"
 "It is because you are so changed that he does not remember you; you were so little when you parted," replied her mamma. "You will always be together now, and know and love each other as before."
 "But it will always grieve me to think that he forgot me," sobbed Charlotte.
 "Did you ever forget a friend?" "I think not, mamma." "Who is your best friend?" "Jesus Christ the Saviour." "Did you never forget Him?" "O yes—often, often." "And yet He loves you far more than you love your brother. How your forgetfulness must grieve Him! Do you ever think of this? Before the throne of glory Christ remembers us. Shall we, then, forget him?"

Don't Write There.

"DON'T write there," said one boy to another who was writing with a diamond pin on a pane of glass in the window of a hotel. "Why?" said he. "Because you can't rub it out."
 Children, remember that you cannot rub sin out. You may make an error in arithmetic, and rub away all the marks with a sponge. But a mark upon the soul cleaves to it. We cannot rub it out. There is but One who can remove sin. Only Jesus can save from its guilt and power. If we believe in Him, He will wash away all our sins.

The Lost Jewel.



NE day an elegantly dressed lady, while stepping from her carriage, dropped a valuable diamond ring into the gutter, where it speedily was buried in the refuse flowing towards the sewer. She looked in dismay at the foul and turbid stream which covered her treasure. She

appealed to a policeman who stood by, and he consented to help in the search, but he soon gave up the task as a hopeless one. But the lady, knowing the value of the lost jewel, determined that she would herself take up the search. She laid aside her silk mantle, took off her kid gloves, pushed back her ruffles and laces, and bared her arm for the work. A crowd soon gathered, and stood looking, some jeering and laughing; but the lady heeding them not, continued her search amid the filth, until she brought up the precious jewel and carried it away in triumph.

Dear children, do you not see in this, an illustration of the work of our Saviour? There were lost jewels in this world of sin. He knew their value, for they had been made by Him. He was desirous that they should be recovered. But by whom was this to be accomplished? The Law, like the policeman, proved ineffectual. Was the search abandoned? No.

"What the Law could not do" God sent His Son to do. Jesus laid aside all the glory of His exalted position, came down into the world, and amid the astonishment of angels in heaven, and the opposition of men upon earth, he continued and completed the work He began.

Children, you are the jewels for whom Jesus sought, and by His Spirit He still is seeking you. He wishes to lift you out of the mire and filth of sin and give you a place with Himself in Glory. Will you let Him do so? That ring had no power to resist the lady, either in her search, or in placing it upon her finger. You, however, have this power, and it therefore increases your responsibility.—*Earlham Series Tracts, No. 80.*

The Man who Swallowed a Bible.



IN the days of my boyhood, my father told me that he knew a man who had swallowed a Bible. This greatly excited my astonishment, and I wondered how it could be. My father having an object in view, never explained what he meant; but went with me some time afterwards, to call upon the old man. I remember that visit as well as though it happened but yesterday.

Oh how graciously did texts of Divine truth fall from the lips of that aged servant of Christ! His Bible seemed to be a mine of limitless value, and he drew forth liberally, like one who draws water from a well that he believes to be inexhaustible.

As we came away, my father said to me, "Well, and what do you think of this man having swallowed a Bible?"

"Think, father!" said I, "why I think that he has indeed swallowed a Bible; for the word of God seems like meat and drink to him."

Children! it would be well if each one of your number would swallow a Bible. You would find it "sweeter than honey and the honey-comb."—*Selected.*



Mind.

MIND your tongue! Don't let it speak hasty, cruel, unkind, or wicked words.

Mind your eyes! Don't permit them to look on wicked books, pictures, or objects.

Mind your ears! Don't suffer them to listen to wicked speeches, songs, or words.

Mind your lips! Don't let tobacco foul them. Don't let strong drink pass them. Don't let the food of the glutton enter between them.

Mind your hands! Don't let them steal, or fight, or write any evil words.

Mind your feet! Don't let them walk in the steps of the wicked.

Mind your heart! Don't let the love of sin dwell in it. Don't give it to Satan, but ask Jesus to make it His throne.

Above all, "Let this MIND be in you which was also in Christ Jesus" (Phil. ii. 5), and if it be, you will be humble minded, and in lowliness of MIND esteem others better than yourself. (Phil. ii. 3.)

Seeking Early.

BY REV. A. SAPHIR, D.D.



GOD loves children. We know this from Holy *Scripture*. He continually remembers the children, and ordains that they should be taught His ways by their fathers.

God loves children. We know this from the way in which *Jesus* regarded children. How beautiful are the words of our Lord: "Suffer little children to come

unto Me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

God loves children. We know this from the *Apostles*, whom our Lord sent forth. When they entered a house, they were to think of the whole family, and to say, "Peace be to this house."

God loves children. We know this from *experience*. See how He blesses them, and watches over them, when they are helpless and weak. See what love to them he has put into the hearts of fathers and mothers.

God loves little children, and therefore He speaks to them, *He seeks them*.

Dear children, God wants you, and therefore He says to you: "*They that seek Me early shall find Me.*" Only think of the joy, the honour of *finding God*? He is God over all, blessed for ever; Light to fill our minds and hearts with true wisdom and knowledge, Infinite Love, to make us happy and joyful for ever.

When God says to us, "Seek Me," He makes it so easy for us. He tells us where to find Him. *Look unto Jesus Christ!* God was manifest in the flesh. Jesus is the Son of God, He is the

Light of the world. "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have life everlasting." And little children can believe in Jesus. They can trust in Him.

You should seek God, because He is so good and loving, He wishes you to be always with Him and to enjoy His help. He can and will give you grace to resist temptation. He can make you gentle and kind, unselfish and pure. He can strengthen you, He can make you patient and calm. He can incline your hearts to keep His commandments. And then think how much you may be enabled to do for God.

Samuel was a little child when the Lord appeared to him, and what a long life of usefulness and labour was his.

Josiah was only eight years old when he began to reign. Only fancy a child of eight years sitting on the throne and ruling a great nation! And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord. When he was twenty years old he began the Reformation, restoring the worship and service of God. He laboured for six years in this great work, and it is said

of him, "like unto him there was no king before him, that turned to the Lord with all his heart."

Daniel sought the Lord early, and when he was young he feared God. What a long life of eminent service was granted to this young disciple!

Many other eminent names are written in the history of the Church, of men who began in their childhood to seek God and to love the Saviour.

"They that seek Me early shall find Me." They shall find heavenly wisdom, eternal love and unfading joy. Whether they live or die, they are the Lord's; blessed on earth, and still more blessed in heaven.—"*Seek Me Early*" Series.



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