

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



OUR YOUNG PEOPLE



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Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

Galatians 6 : 2.



There is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

Proverbs 18 : 24.

The Friendly Birds.

THE picture on this page illustrates a scene witnessed by an eminent Scotch Naturalist. On one occasion he shot a Tern, hoping to secure it as a

specimen. He however failed to kill it, the ball breaking the bird's wing and it fell into the water. Its cries attracted the attention of its mates, and at once they came screaming to its rescue. The naturalist hastened to secure the prize, but to his astonish-

ment two of the birds lifted up the wounded companion, one taking hold of either wing. Thus they bore it several yards seaward and gently let it down where two others relieved them of the load, and they in turn carried it still further. Thus by relieving each other they managed to gain a rock far beyond the reach of the baffled enemy—the naturalist.

Dear young readers, may we not learn a lesson from these words. Have we a companion wounded and helpless? Shall we leave him a prey to the enemy—to be placed as a specimen of that enemy's persistence and success? Surely not! Let us gather round such wounded ones. Let us in the arms of love support them, and convey them to a place of safety. Yea, let us not leave such an one, nor cease our efforts till we see him placed on the rock,—the Rock of Ages, where alone safety is to be found.

“Because I Loved Him.”

SOME years ago, the master of a school had occasion to reprove a boy for inattention and bad conduct. Kind reproof, however, failing to produce the desired effect, he sentenced him to stand in a corner of the room for a given time. But just as the culprit with downcast eyes was moving to the appointed place of punishment and disgrace, known as “the dunce's corner,” another boy went up to the master and said,

“Please, sir, may I stand in the corner for him?”

The master, taken by surprise at the request, said, “If I allow you to take his place, I shall keep you in the corner all the time I have named.”

“I don't mind that,” said the dunce's school-fellow.

“But,” said the master, “think of the disgrace connected with being seen in the dunce's corner.”

But nothing could turn the boy from his unexpected proposal, so to the dunce's corner he was allowed to go.

When the time was up, the young substitute was released from his punishment, and calling him to his side, the master said, gravely,

“Now, tell me, did Smith ask you to stand in the corner for him?”

“No, sir.”

“Did he not deserve to be punished?”

“Yes, sir.”

“Then why did you offer to take his place?”

“Because I loved him.”

How touching and beautiful this incident! And as we look at it we may see as in a mirror, a truth most comforting and precious to the awakened sinner who feels his guilt and shame. It illustrates the wondrous love of Christ.

All have sinned against God! But “God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” And the gracious Son of God so

loved the world of sinners that He willingly and cheerfully engaged to come into the world and die to save them.

He knew how wicked man had been,
And knew that God must punish sin;
So, out of pity, Jesus said
He'd bear the punishment instead.

Oh, who would not love this gracious Saviour? Who would treat Him with dishonour, and put Him to an open shame? And yet many do, and perhaps some young reader is doing so now. Let me entreat you; do not thus sin against infinite goodness.

Remember He stood in your place, bore your punishment, and died on the cross for your salvation, and all because *He loved you.*

Idol Worship.



HERE is no fear of any little ones now falling down, like the blind heathen, before dumb idols of wood and stone. But there are other idols some children worship. Here is one. It is the Idol SELF. They think so much about themselves, and are careless in thinking about others.

They would like the best flowers for their little gardens, and the best toy boats to sail, and the best doll for their cupboard, and are displeased if others have nicer things.

O Lord, with all my heart I pray
That Thou would'st help me ever day,
In all my hours, and in thoughts, and play,
To keep the Idol SELF away!

Unchangeable.

Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and to-day, and for ever. Heb. 13: 8.

THERE is nothing in the world which remains the same. The daisy droops, the grass withers, the stone gathers moss upon it; the ocean shores get altered; the very mountains are said to be slowly crumbling. Brothers and sisters grow up to be men and women; then they leave home; and the chair they used to sit upon in the house, or the seat under the old elm, is empty—all is changed. ONE only never has changed, and never can. Who is that?

Jesus the Saviour
Is always the same;
For ever! For ever!
Write over His name.

Paul's Shipwreck.

PAUL had to sail across the sea, a prisoner to Rome. The first part of the voyage was safe enough, and if his advice had been followed, there would not have been the trouble the crew had afterwards. Paul said there was danger at the present season, the captain said there was not; so they started.

Soon, however, they discovered their mistake—the storm became very furious—the ship was driven before the wind, and whatever the sailors did, they could not manage the vessel.

They threw overboard much of the cargo, and even its tackling, sails, spars, and gear; still the storm and danger continued. Cloudy weather for a fortnight added to their trouble.

Driven about day after day, and not able to find out where they were, they began to be afraid of striking upon some rock, or sand-bank, and going to pieces. Anchors were thrown out, and at last the sailors thought of abandoning the ship and leaving soldiers and prisoners to perish. Paul said the sailors must not go, or all would be lost. The centurion, therefore, cut away the boat.

At last, a gleam of light showed land, and a place into which, perhaps, they might run the ship. "Up anchors, and let her drive in." Poor fellows! the ship did drive, but she struck on a rock, and in a few minutes went to pieces. Now surely all will be lost; but no—some swam to shore, and the rest, some on boards and broken pieces of the ship, drifted ashore. On sea or on land, we are all safe under God's keeping.

Done for Mamma.

ONE morning found little Dora busy at the ironing table, smoothing the towels and stockings. "Isn't that hard work for the little arms?" I asked.

A look like sunshine came into her face as she glanced towards her mother, who was rocking the baby. "It isn't hard work when I do it for mamma," she said softly.

I Don't Care.

SOME years ago there was a bright, talented boy, coming late out of school. He had been kept in by his teacher for bad conduct. As he stepped into the street, a friend of his—a noble man, and one who always delighted in helping boys—said to him: "I am very sorry to see you coming out of school so late." The boy replied in a careless, ungentlemanly way: "I don't care."

Now, remember that I was intimately acquainted with this lad. I knew his father and mother. They

were excellent people, and denied themselves many things that they might give their son the advantages of a good education. This boy was talented—no one in school more so. He could stand at the head of his classes whenever he tried to, but he didn't care.

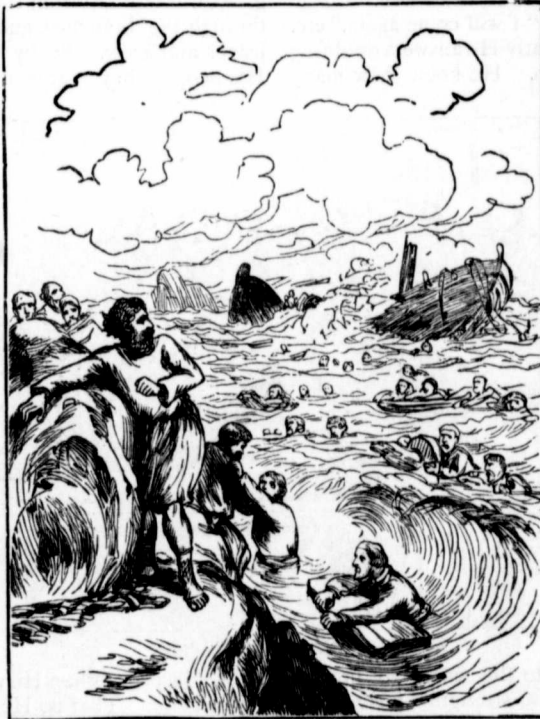
This spirit of "I don't care" grew upon him, and at last his father took him out of school and put him into a shop. But he failed there, for he didn't care whether he pleased his employer's customers or not. After remaining in the store for a short time, he was dismissed. He didn't care, but father and mother and sister cared, for they shed many tears on account of his failure.

Some years after this I saw him driving a dirt-cart, in trowsers and shirt and barefoot; but he didn't care.

For several years I did not hear anything from him. One day I ascertained that he had shipped as a common sailor to a foreign port; but on shipboard, as everywhere else, he didn't care, and when the vessel reached her harbour, the captain turned him off the ship. After wandering about a few months on a foreign shore he died of fever, and lies buried thousands of miles from his home. Upon his tomb-stone, truthfully might be inscribed these words:

"Here lies a once noble, talented boy, who came to an untimely grave, because he didn't care!"

THAT was a neat and wise reply of the late Bishop Wilberforce to one who attempted to puzzle him by asking which was the shortest way to heaven. "Turn to the right," he said, "and keep straight on!"



Jesus Comforting His Disciples.

John 14: 1-14.

WHEN a friend dies or goes away from us, perhaps never to return, how often we think of, and how much we prize, the last words they speak to us. Remember this is the last talk Jesus had with His disciples before he was crucified. Think how they must have felt when He told them He was surely going to die. They had expected to see Him a great king, and instead, He was to be betrayed and put to death. What an end to all their bright hopes! Read slowly and carefully the tender, loving words Jesus spoke to them, and to us as well. "I go to prepare a place for you;" "I will come again," etc. Notice how kindly and patiently He answers doubting Thomas and curious Philip. He knew how many other doubting and curious ones would read these same words. Learn by heart the blessed promise in the last verse of our lesson—meant for you, and me, and everybody, who shall go to the Father in Jesus' name.

The word 'comfort' originally meant 'strengthen.' The title of the lesson would thus read 'Jesus strengthening His Disciples.' They needed strength, because soon He was to leave them, and they were to go forth alone into the world to preach the Gospel. He aimed to give strength by *encouraging them with good news*. What, then, was the good news with which Jesus sought to strengthen His wavering disciples?

First—That He was going to prepare a home for them in Heaven. Though they had no home here, they would comfort themselves and be encouraged by the hope that at last they would enter an everlasting home. Each of them would say to himself, "I have no home on earth, but Jesus has prepared for me a home in heaven, and is keeping it for me. In a few more years I shall be there and never more go out."

But He also strengthened them by promising to answer their prayers while they were still on earth. "Ask, and ye shall receive." This promise would make them realize that He still cared for them, and in spirit was not absent from them.

Remember the promise of prayer answered "Ask, and ye shall receive," is for us as well as for John and Peter.

Jesus the True Vine.

John 15: 1-16.

IT was the night when He was betrayed that Jesus spake to His disciples about the "Vine and its branches," and compared Himself to a Vine, and His people to its branches. Now, what do we learn from this? What does a vine do for its branches? 1. The vine gives life. The root and stock of the vine is full of life, and the sending forth of this keeps the branches alive. All the branches (even the smallest) get their life from the vine. See what Jesus says of Himself in John 10: 10. 2. The vine gives growth. The sap from the root of the vine flows up through the branches, and causes them to put forth leaves and grow. So by the grace that Jesus gives His people, they "grow up unto Him in all things."

In John 15: 5 He says, "Without Me ye can do nothing."

3. The vine gives fruitfulness. But to be fruitful, a branch is to remain in the vine. If it is broken off from the vine, it will bear no fruit, so we can bear no fruit—do no good works—unless we abide in Him. You know, dear children, that men care very little for a vine unless it bears fruit. Now, to be useful, to do good to others, is the greatest of all privileges. It is to



JESUS AND HIS DISCIPLES.

be like Jesus. When He was on earth He went about doing good. That is, He was always bearing fruit, and He wishes us to be like Him. All the fruit we bear, all the good we do, helps to glorify God. This is what we are made for. Remember, that Jesus tells us to "Abide in Him." This means that we are to have faith in Him—that we are to love Him—that we are never to do anything to displease Him. Now, this is *our duty*, and you know that a child who fails to do his duty, must expect to suffer. Let us never forget this. Jesus also speaks of branches which bear no fruit, and that these will be taken away. Dear children, don't be fruitless branches. Let our little boys and girls prove themselves to be true branches of "the True Vine," by bearing much fruit.

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