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THE SUNBEAM

ENLARGED SERIES.—VOL. VII.]

TORONTO, FEBRUARY 27, 1886.

[No. 5.]

THE BEAVER.

EVERY Canadian boy and girl should know all about the beaver—the emblem of their country—and a very good emblem it is, and a very good motto is “Busy as Beavers” for all Canadians, old or young. Certainly the beaver is a very industrious fellow, and we need not be ashamed of him upon our country's crest. For so small an animal he accomplishes very remarkable works.

The average beaver is about two feet six inches long, and its tail is about a foot longer. It will weigh from thirty to sixty pounds. Its fore legs are small, but the hind legs are large and strong, and its feet are webbed to the very claws. It is an awkward animal on land, but just let it dive into the water, and it is as active, as graceful, and as much at home as a bird in the air or a fish in the sea.

The most remarkable part of the beaver is its broad, flat, scale-covered tail. It is used as a paddle in swimming, as a trowel and hammer for building, as a support when its owner sits up, and it can strike such a violent blow as to be heard half a mile off. In this way the old sentinel beaver, who is on guard, gives warning of the approach of an enemy, when splash! every tail disappears, and solitude reigns again. The tail is a great favourite with the Indians and hunters, and, when it



THE BEAVER.

can be obtained, occupies an important place in their feasts. The most remarkable constructions of the beaver are the dams and lodges which they build. They are made in order to secure a sufficient depth of water to be secure against freezing in winter. Having selected a spot for their village, or cluster

of houses, they proceed to cut down the trees with which to build their dam. They always cut down those up the stream, so that they may float down with the current. They have no cutting instruments but their broad, flat, sharp teeth; but with these they will bite off great chips, and in a very short time cut down a tree, eight or even ten inches through. They select trees that lean over the water, and having felled them, they trim off the branches, and cut them into lengths eight or ten feet long. These are floated to the site of the proposed dam, where they are built into their place with mud and stones, till a broad and solid wall is made. Where the current is gentle, the dam is carried straight across, where it is swift, the dam is built with an angle or curve up the stream. The little fellows exhibit as much science in their construction as could the most skilful engineer.

A NARROW ESCAPE.

THERE was a hole in the ice, that Edith did not see until she fell into it. Grace was the only one near enough to see her fall. So she laid down on the ice, and held her tight until others heard her scream, and came to help her out. All the time she laid there she prayed “Dear Lord, give me strength. Let me hold her until they come” God heard her prayer, just as he hears all the prayers of his children.

ONLY A LITTLE CHILD.

I'm only a little child,
But mamma said, one day,
The weakest hands may do some work,
And the youngest heart can pray.

And O I am so glad
To know that this is true,
That God hath in his harvest-fields
Something that I can do.

Some little corner where
My youthful hands would glean,
So I may bring my golden sheaf
When the grain is gathered in

I'm only a little child,
But Jesus died for me—
Lord, give me every day new grace
To work for love of thee.

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The Sunbeam.

TORONTO, FEBRUARY 27, 1886.

WHAT RELIGION DID FOR A LITTLE GIRL.

RELIGION helps children to study better and do more faithful work. A little girl of twelve was telling, in a simple way, the evidence that she was a Christian. "I did not like to study, but to play. I was idle at school, and often missed my lessons. Now I try to learn every lesson well to please God. I was mischievous at school when the teachers were not looking at me, making fun for the children to laugh at. Now I wish to please God by behaving well and keeping the school laws. I was selfish at home; didn't like to run errands, and was sulky when mother called me from play to help her in work. Now it is real joy to me to help mother in any way, and show that I love her."

Such a religion is essential to the best interest and moral growth of youth, and will make life cheerful.—Exchange.



THE MOONLIGHT SLEIGH RIDE.

THE MOONLIGHT SLEIGH-RIDE.

WHAT glorious fun it is to go sleigh-riding by moonlight. How everything seems shining like silver—like a fairy world. Though not many can turn out with a four-horse team, as in the picture, many of my young SUNBEAM readers can have moonlight sleigh rides to church or to missionary or Sunday-school anniversaries. They will be among the happiest memories of your lives. How different from the lot of the poor boy on the opposite page.

THE GREAT LAMP.

A VENERABLE minister smiled down on his congregation, composed of Sunday-school boys and girls, and said: "Dear children, can you tell me what a lamp is?" And they looked at him and at one another, and murmured, some of them, confused answers, and hung their heads shyly. "What! Does nobody know what a lamp is?" he exclaimed with surprise. All at once he heard a voice: "Something to hold a light, sir." "That's just right," was the minister's glad reply. "An empty lamp is of no use in the dark. Can you repeat a text which mentions the Bible as being like a lamp?" Without waiting a moment the same young voice rang out again: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet." "Ah, yes," said the aged minister. "The Bible is a lamp giving light to the whole earth. And how about the light of children—where shall we find that?" "In the Lord Jesus. He says, 'I am the Light of the world.'" And again it was the same voice. "One child answers well," said the minister, and he scanned the sea of faces to discover who it was.

A little girl told him it was blind Arthur.

Yes, it was blind Arthur Beatty who answered so correctly about God's glorious lamp and its still more glorious light. The minister told his little hearers never to try to go, even a few steps, on life's journey without their precious lamp, or they would stumble into trouble and sin. He asked them, as I also asked you, dear children, learn all they possibly could of God's word so that they might not at another time be so unready with their answers, and more than all, because the light shines brighter on the path of those who study the Lamp and know it the best.

THE NEW KEY.

"AUNT," said a little girl, "I believe I have found a new key to unlock people's hearts and to make them so willing." "What is the key?" asked her aunt. "It is only a little word; guess what." But her aunt was no guesser. "It is please," said the child. "If I ask one of the great girls in school, 'please' show me my parsing lesson,' she says, 'Oh yes,' and helps me. If I ask Sara, 'Please do this for me,' no matter, she will take her hands out of the suds and do it. If I ask uncle, 'Please,' he says, 'Yes, I will if I can.' And then if I say, 'Please aunt,'"

"What does aunt do?" said aunt herself. "Oh, you look and smile, just like mother, and that is the best of all," cried the little girl, throwing her arms around her aunt's neck, with a tear in her eye.—Selected.

TAKE my feet, and let them be Swift and beautiful for thee;
Take my hands, and let them move At the impulse of thy love.



AN ODD TEAM.

AN ODD TEAM.

THERE, little people, did you ever see anything like that? I suppose not. But in some countries, away across the seas, dogs are taught to work like the one in the picture. They are harnessed up like horses. It is said that a large dog trained in this way can easily pull three to four hundred pounds in his little cart. Sometimes two dogs are harnessed together, and the driver walks along behind and guides them with the reins. The editor of the SUNBEAM has seen many a team like this in Belgium, where the very dogs have to work for their living.

NOT OUR OWN, BUT CHRIST'S.

BY M. S. RHODA.

DEAR little one, to whom do you belong, besides to dear mamma and those about you whom you love so much? You belong to the blessed Saviour, who bought us with his own precious blood. You know that the blood in our bodies is our life. If the blood were lost, we could not live a moment. So when our dear Saviour gave his blood for us, he gave his very life. And why did he give his life—why did he leave his happy home in heaven to come and die for us? Because he loved us so much that he

wanted us to be happy forever in heaven with him.

Satan tempts us so as to make us wicked like himself; but Jesus bought us for himself with his own precious blood, and he will keep us from sin and Satan, if we ask him.

Well, if we are not our own, but belong to Jesus, we must use every part of our body for him. We cannot do for him as Mary and Martha did; but for others we can do acts of kindness, and give little words of love, because we love Jesus, and so it will all be for him.

Did you ever think that your little hands could do something for Jesus, by working for others; and your little feet by running readily on some message for one you love; and your tongue, by speaking kindly and gently, even when others speak unkindly to you? Your thoughts also you can, by his help, keep pure and good for him. Whatever we do for Jesus, whose eye is always upon us, he will see and love. How sweet it is to think that we belong to such a loving Saviour!—*S. S. Times.*

CHILDREN who roam the streets will learn much that is evil, and that will unfit them for the duties of good citizens.

WHAT IS IT MAKES A LADY?

WHAT IS it makes a lady?

Asked my little girl of me,
One sunny summer morning,
As she stood beside my knee
And I told her that it is not
Fine dress nor shining gold,
Nor all the bright and flashing gems
The caves of ocean hold

But it is a gentle temper,
And thoughts of peace and love,
And a mind that seeks in all things
Some goodness from above,
That seeks another's comfort
Before it seeks its own
And strives to live on earth the life
That is in heaven known

It is this that makes a lady,
And not being rich or poor.
For kind thoughts, kind words and actions,
Make the lady, I am sure.
So think of this, my darling,
And to the truth be true,
And soon will love and kindness
A lady make of you.

DOING THINGS FOR JESUS.

It was for his name Paul said he was willing to give up everything; or, as we say, "for Jesus' sake." Papa says he will stop smoking for Jesus' sake, and give the money for missionaries. Mamma goes early every Sunday morning to teach a class in the Sunday-school, though she has so much work to do and so many children to dress she hardly knows how to spare the time, but she says, "I won't give my class up; I will try to keep it for Jesus' sake."

Then sister Molly, she wanted a new sack this winter, and had a beautiful one picked out at Smith's; but when the news came of the poor starving people who could not get work or enough to eat, and papa asked, "What can you give them, Molly?" she thought hard about it, and then the next day said, "I'll give up my new sack and wear the old one."

"What!" said Nell, "wear that old one?"

"Yes," said Molly, "for Jesus' sake."

Now what can you do "for the name of Jesus?" If you drop some of your candy pennies into the missionary-box, won't that be for him? If you leave the play you like so well, to mind baby for mother when he is cross, isn't that for the name of Jesus? If you do it cheerfully and without pouting, Uncle Frank thinks it is—*Our Children.*

WE ARE COMING.

We are coming, we are coming,
A brave little band,
On the safe side of temperance
We'll now take our stand.

We don't like tobacco,
Do you know what we think?
That the boys who will use it,
Are quite sure to drink.

We can't be too little
To learn to do right,
And always remember
We live in God's sight.

GOD SEES US.

A MAN once went out to steal some corn. He took his son, a bright little fellow of eight years, along with him. When they came to the edge of the cornfield, from which the father expected to steal the corn, he looked up and down the road, to make very sure that there was no one to witness the intended theft. He could see no one, and, thinking the coast clear, was about to go into the field, when the little fellow caught him by the arm and, looking up into his face said, "Papa, you forgot to look one way."

"Which way?" asked the father.

"You forgot to look up."

The words struck conviction to the man's hardened heart and he returned home, without stealing the corn.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

B.C. 444.] LESSON X. [March. 7.

READING THE LAW.

Neh. 8. 1-12.

Commit to memory verses 8-10.

GOLDEN TEXT.

So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading. Neh. 8. 8.

OUTLINE.

1. A Great Congregation, v. 1.
2. A Bible Reading, v. 2-8.
3. A Day of Gladness, v. 9-12.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

Where did the people gather together? In the street before the water gate.

What was the water gate? The gate through which water was carried into the temple.

Why did they come together? To celebrate the feast of the trumpets.

What did they ask of Ezra? To hear the law of Moses.

What did he do? He brought the book of the law and read it.

How long was he reading it? From daylight till noon.

Where did Ezra stand while reading? Upon a pulpit of wood.

Who were with him? Priests and Levites, who explained the law to the people.

How did the people listen? With reverence and close attention.

How was the law read and explained? Distinctly and clearly, so that every one understood it.

Why did the people weep? Because of their sins.

What had sin brought upon them? Sorrow and punishment.

What did Ezra and the priests tell the people? "Weep not, the day is holy unto the Lord."

What should they do? Keep the feast with joy.

For what reason? Because God had forgiven them.

What is the joy of the Lord? The happiness that comes from doing his will.

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

If you would like to know the very words God used when he told Moses to read the law mentioned in the GOLDEN TEXT you can find them in Deut. 31. 10-13. Notice what he said about the children. God wants you to listen very attentively whenever his word is read or taught to you, and to study it for yourselves. If you do this you will find it to be a lamp lighting the path that leads to heaven.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The authority of the word.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

Who were Ananias and Sapphira? A man and his wife who were struck dead for lying unto the Holy Spirit.

Who was St. Stephen? The first who was put to death for Christ's sake.

B.C. 174.] LESSON XI. [March. 14.

ESTHER'S PETITION.

Esther 4. 10-17, & 5. 1-3. Commit to memory vs. 1-3.

GOLDEN TEXT.

So will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law; and if I perish, I perish. Esther 4. 16.

OUTLINE.

1. The Message of Faith, v. 10-14.
2. The Resolve of Faith, v. 15-17.
3. The Power of Faith, v. 1-3.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

What cruel law was made by the king of

Persia? That all the Jews in his kingdom be put to death on a certain day.

What did the Jews do when they heard it? They mourned in sackcloth and ashes.

Who was the king's queen? Esther, Jewess.

Did the king know she was a Jewess? No.

Who sent a copy of the king's law to Esther? Mordecai, her cousin.

What did he want her to do? To ask the king to spare the lives of her people.

What was Esther's reply? That she might lose her own life in so doing.

Why did she thus reply? Because every one that entered into the presence of the king without his permission was put to death.

Who only were spared? Those to whom the king held out his golden sceptre.

Of what was this a sign? Of his mercy.

What word did Mordecai send the queen? That she might be killed as one of the Jews.

What request did Esther make of him? To ask all the Jews to fast for her three days.

What did she promise? To see the king. (Repeat the GOLDEN TEXT.)

How did the king receive Esther? With favour.

What did he promise? To grant any request she might ask of him.

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

There never need be one bit of fear in your hearts to go to your King and ask him for whatever you want.

Queen Esther was willing to lay down her life for her people. (See the GOLDEN TEXT.) Who gave his precious life for you?

"You may be the smallest of those who love him,

The weakest of those who pray,
But if you come as he has bidden
He never will say you, Nay."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Faith.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

Who was St. Paul? The apostle who was first a persecutor, but afterwards the great preacher of the gospel to the Gentiles.

Who was Dorcas? A good woman who made clothes for the poor, and who was raised from death.

To be a real gentleman, not a sham, you must be gentle and courteous and kind to the folks at home. Coarseness and rudeness are as bad at home as "before company."