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THE

SUNBEAM

Vol. I.

SEPTEMBER 4, 1880.

No. 17.

MISS VANITY.

MISS VANITY is very prettily arrayed in her white dress, gaiter-boots, and jockey hat, with its graceful feather, beneath which flows her wealth of curls. And there she stands upon a chair, before the large mirror on the marble slab over the fireplace, with a tall vase on either side of her, while she daintily holds out her dress. Yes, there she stands admiring herself. She seems to be saying,

"Well, I am pretty. My cheeks are round and plump; my mouth is real handsome; and my eyes are black as huckle-berries, and bright as diamonds; and my hat is just splendid. I don't wonder Mrs. Loveland, when she called this afternoon, told Aunt Susan that I was a sweet child."

Yes; yes, you are pretty; but, oh! you are also vain; and, if you are not careful,

your vanity will spoil all your beauty. Remember the time will come when—

"The blush will fade,
The light grow dim which the blue eyes wear,
The gloss will vanish from curl and braid,
And the sunbeam die in the waving hair."



And what will you do then? Seek *now* to become "beautiful within," to be useful, to be good, kind, and truthful, and you will have a beauty that will never fade.

FAITHFULNESS IN CHILDREN.

ONE morning a gentleman and his wife were in such haste to reach a railway train that they omitted family worship. The next time they sat down to read, the mother remarked that the first chapter of Ephesians was the place. "No, mamma," said one of the little girls, "it is the second chapter; we read the first chapter as soon as you were gone." The children were all under

ten years old, but they had conducted family worship in the absence of their parents. How many older boys and girls are ashamed to do their duty under such circumstances ?

The Sunbeam.

TORONTO, SEPTEMBER 4, 1880.

THE ROAD TO SLUMBERLAND.

WHAT is the road to Slumberland,
And when does the baby go ?
The road lies straight through
mother's arms

When the sun is sinking low.
He goes by the drowsy "land of Nod,"
To music of lullaby,
When all wee lambs are safe in the fold,
Under the evening sky.

A soft little night-gown clean and white,
A face washed sweet and fair ;
A mother brushing the tangles out
From the silken golden hair ;
Two little tired satiny feet,
From the shoe and the stocking free ;
Two little palms together clasped
At the mother's patient knee.

Some baby words that are drowsily lisped
In the tender Shepherd's ear,
And a kiss that only a mother can place
On the brow of her baby dear ;
A little round head which nestles at last
Close to the mother's breast.
And then the lullaby, soft and low,
Singing the song of rest.

And close and closer the blue-veined lids
Are hiding the baby eyes,
As over the road to Slumberland
The dear little traveller hies :
For this is the way, through mother's arms,
All dear little babies go
To the beautiful city of Slumberland,
When the sun is sinking low.

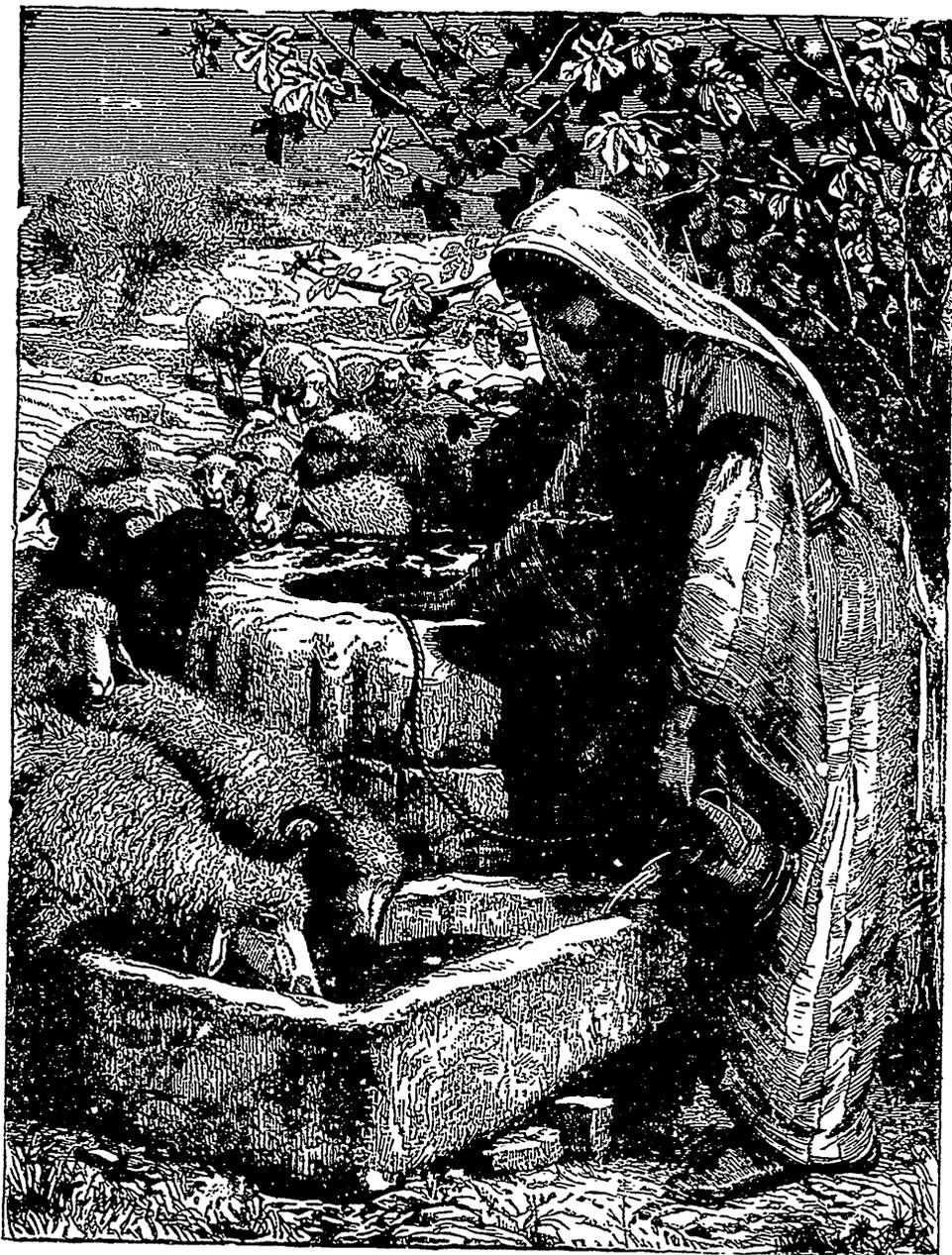
WHY RATS GNAW.

I AM going to tell you why the rats gnaw so much. Did you ever see what lots of holes they make ? If you were to sleep in a house that had rats in the walls, you would hear them gnawing away when you woke up. Rats must get tired of gnawing so much, but they must do it. If they did not their teeth would grow so long they could not eat. It is just the same with the pretty little squirrels and rabbits. They have to gnaw to make their nests and find their food. If their teeth were like yours, they would soon wear out, and they could get nothing to eat. But the teeth of these little animals grow all the time, so they can gnaw all they want to. I have heard that once in a while a squirrel gets lazy. He does not want to crack his nuts, he wants his mamma to crack them for him. He does not want to make a hole in the tree to live in next winter. If he does not get over his laziness pretty soon, he can't eat the nuts after they are cracked for him.

—◆—◆—◆—
"READ ; TRY."

SOMETIMES little boys and girls tease their mothers when they are busy, by asking questions. There was once a very little boy who used to ask his mother a great many questions ; and how do you think she answered him ? "Read, and you will know," said she ; and she would give him books, where he found all he wished to know, sometimes, too, this little boy used to wish that he could do this difficult thing, or that difficult thing ; and instead of discouraging him, this good mother would say one little word, and that word was "Try." The little boy was Sir William Jones, afterwards one of the most learned men that ever lived.

—◆—◆—◆—
By revenging yourself on your enemy, you make him your equal ; by pardoning him, you show yourself his superior.



REBEKAH AT THE WELL.

THIS picture illustrates the beautiful story told in the 24th chapter of Genesis. The fair Rebekah went forth to water her flock, as is still the custom in the East, when a stranger drew near and asked for a drink, and she said "Drink, my lord; and I will draw water

for thy camels also." Then the man knew by that sign that God intended Rebekah to become the wife of Isaac, and he gave her a valuable present. See how eagerly the sheep drink of the cold sparkling water out of the old stone well, and how cool the shadows of the vine look upon it. One lesson taught by this story is that of polite-

ness to strangers. You remember also God says that even the gift of a cup of cold water shall in nowise lose its reward; and that is something that even the youngest of you can give a thirsty traveller.

LESSON NOTES.

B.C. 1898.] LESSON X. [Sept. 5.

LOT'S ESCAPE FROM SODOM; or, Mercy.

Gen. 19. 12-26. Commit to memory verses 23-26.

GOLDEN TEXT

Remember Lot's wife. Luke 17. 32.

OUTLINE.

1. Righteous Lot, v. 12-23.
2. Wicked Sodom, v. 24-26.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSONS.

1. *Righteous Lot*, v. 12-23.—Who came to see Lot in Sodom? Two Angels. What did they find? That the people of the city were wicked. What did they tell Lot? That they were going to destroy the place. What did Lot do? He went out to warn the men who had married his daughters. How did they receive his warnings? They would not heed them. What did the angels command? To leave the city, with his wife and daughters. How did they hurry him? They took him by the hand and led him out. What did they say? "Escape for thy life to the mountain." What did Lot ask them? That he might stay in a little village on the plain. How was his request received? For his sake they spared the little village. What was its name? Bela, afterward called Zoar.

2. *Wicked Sodom*, v. 24-26.—What did God do to Sodom and Gomorrah? He rained on them fire from heaven. What became of them? They were utterly destroyed. What did their fate show? How God hates all sin. What did Lot's wife do? She looked back toward Sodom. What happened to her? She became a pillar of salt. What does her end show? The danger of not being decided. What is the GOLDEN TEXT.

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

1. Be quick to heed God's warning.
2. Avoid the company of the wicked, and you may escape their fate.
3. Fly in haste from evil.
4. Beware of looking back with love for sin.

B.C. 1872.] LESSON XI. [Sept. 12.

TRIAL OF ABRAHAM'S FAITH; or, Consecration.

Gen. 22. 1-14. Commit to memory verses 11-14.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Now I know that thou fearest God. Gen. 22. 12.

OUTLINE.

1. A GIFT to God, v. 1-10.
2. A GIFT from God, v. 11-14.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSONS.

1. *A gift to God*, v. 1-10.—What was the name of Abraham's son? Isaac. Why was he very dear to Abraham? Because he was the son of his old age. What did God command Abraham to do? To offer his son for a burnt-offering. Why did God command this? To try his faith. Where was he to be offered? On a mountain, in the land of Moriah. What did Abraham do? He prepared at once to obey God. How did he do this? He took Isaac with him to the place. What did he do at the place? He made an altar, and laid Isaac upon it. What did he then do? He raised his knife to kill his son. What did his action show? That he was ready to obey God.

2. *A gift from God*, v. 11-14.—What did Abraham hear when he was going to kill his son? A voice from heaven. What did the voice say? "Abraham! Abraham!" What did Abraham answer? "Here am I." What did God tell him? "Lay not thine hand upon the lad. What did God say in the GOLDEN TEXT? What took Isaac's place on the altar? A ram caught in a bush. What was the meaning of the name by which Abraham called the place. "The Lord will provide." Why did he give it this name? Because God provided the lamb in place of his son.

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

1. Always be ready to obey God's call.
2. Submit entirely to God's will.
3. Trust that God will do all things well.
4. Hold back nothing from Him.

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