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THE SUNBEAM

Vol. II.

JANUARY 15, 1881.

No. 2.



OUR BABY.

BABY'S LULLABY.

BY-BY, little birdie,
Baby's going to bed ;
On his snow-white pillow
Rests his golden head.
Gentle sleep is coming
To close each bright blue
eye ;
From the green trees, 'birdie,
Sing a lullaby.

By-by, little birdie,
Baby's going to rest,
Like a little birdie
In its warm wee nest.
The moon will keep her
vigil
In the star-lit sky ;
Baby's tired, birdie,
Sing a lullaby.

By-by, little birdie,
Green trees, pretty flowers ;
You must sleep, like baby,
Through the quiet hours.
When God bids fair Nature
Return to life and glee,
Birdie, waken baby
With your melody.

By-by, little birdie,
Baby's going to sleep ;
He who feeds the sparrows
Will our darling keep.
He will close His curtains
Softly by and by,
While His holy angels
Sing a lullaby.

The Sunbeam.

TORONTO, JANUARY 15, 1881.

THE SNOW BIRDS.

DEAR little snow-birds,
Pray how can you stay
Out-doors in the cold,
On this winter day ?

“ You seem to be happy,
Your song full of glee,
But what makes you glad
I'm sure I can't see.”

“ Because, you must know,
Cold never hurts me ;
My brown feather coat
Is warm as can be.

“ God sent me, I think,
To comfort and cheer,
And I love cold weather,
Be it ever so drear.”—*Ex.*

A TOUCHING INCIDENT.

ALITTLE Sunday-school girl, seven years old, was taken sick, and, having no home of her own, was taken to the hospital to die. Night came on. Nothing was heard in the room where she was but the ticking of the great clock in the hall, as its pendulum swung backward and forward, saying, “ Tick, tick, tick.” Then the hours were struck as they rolled slowly away. The clock had just struck one, when the voice of the little sufferer was heard clearly but softly repeating this verse of one of her Sunday-school hymns :

“ Jesus, the name to sinners dear,
The name to sinners given ;
It scatters all their guilty fear,
And turns their hell to heaven.”

Then all was silent again. Nothing was heard but the sound of the great clock as it went on ticking. Presently that same

sweet voice was heard again, repeating another verse about Jesus :

“ Happy, if with my latest breath
I may but gasp his name,
Preach him to all, and cry in death
Behold, behold the Lamb !”

The nurse hastened to the side of the little sufferer, but she was too late ; the angels had come before her, and had taken the dear child's happy spirit to the mansions above.

AVOID EVIL COMPANY.

SOPHRONIUS, a wise teacher, would not suffer his children, even when grown up, to associate with those whose conduct was not pure and upright.

“ Dear father,” said the gentle Eulalia to him one day, when he forbade her, in company with her brother, to visit the volatile Lucinda, “ you must think us very childish if you imagine we could be exposed to danger by it.”

The father in silence took a dead coal from the hearth and gave it to his daughter. “ It will not burn you, my child ; take it.”

Eulalia did so ; and her white hand was soiled and blackened, and as it chanced her white dress also.

“ One cannot be too careful in handling coals,” said Eulalia, in vexation.

“ Yes, truly,” said the father. “ You see, my child, that coals, even if they do not burn, blacken. So it is with evil company.”

WILLIE'S WAY.

“ Mamma,” said Willie, “ it hurts me when I hear a boy swear !”

“ You never want to swear yourself, do you, Willie ?” said his mamma.

“ When bad words come into my mind, I say, ‘ Get behind me, Satan ;’ and then I don't want to say them.” That is Willie's way. Do you like it ?

SORROW is a summons to come up higher in Christian character.



DON'T CRY.

"DON'T cry, Nellie," said Charlie Thompson, to his little playmate, Nellie Foster, who had fallen and hurt her knee in the rough stubble field.

"Don't cry, and you shall have my ball, and I will gather a lot of flowers for you."

"Thank you, Charlie, it's most better now," said Nellie, smiling through her

tears, and soon the little playmates were scampering through the shadows once more, as if such a thing as sorrow was unknown in the world.

That is the way, children, to meet trouble in this world. Try to comfort and help one another. It will make your sorrows lighter, and will double your joys.

LESSON NOTES.

B.C. 6.] LESSON III. [Jan. 16.
PROPHECY OF ZACHARIAS; or, The Dayspring from on High.

Luke 1. 67-79. Commit to memory verses 76-79.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The Dayspring from on high hath visited us. Luke 1. 78.

OUTLINE.

1. The Redeemer, v. 67-75.
2. The Forerunner, v. 76-79.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

1. *The Redeemer*, v. 67-75.—Who gave this prophecy? Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist. When did he give it? Soon after John the Baptist was born. What had happened to Zacharias after the visit of the angel? He had been dumb. Why had this happened to him? Because he did not believe the angel's promise. When was he able to speak again? When John was born. What did he then speak? The words of this prophecy. How did he begin his prophecy? With praise to God. For what did he praise God? For sending a Redeemer. What Redeemer has God sent? His Son, Jesus Christ. From what does the Redeemer save men? From sin. For what besides did Zacharias praise God? For keeping his promise of mercy. To whom had God given promises? To Abraham. How did Zacharias say that God should be served? In holiness and righteousness.

2. *The Forerunner*, v. 75-79.—What is a forerunner? One who goes before to make ready for another. Of what forerunner did Zacharias speak? Of John the Baptist. Before whom did John go? Before Jesus Christ. What work did John do for Christ? He made the people ready for him. How did he make the people ready? By telling them to turn from their sins. By what name did Zacharias speak of Christ? [Golden Text.] What is the "dayspring?" The sunrise. How is Christ the dayspring or sunrise? Because he brings light to men. Where does he guide our feet? Into the way of peace. How may we describe Zacharias' song? A song of sunrise, light, and peace.

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

1. Praise God for giving you a Redeemer.
2. Let him lead you into the way of peace.
3. Seek to have your sins forgiven.
4. Serve God all the days of your life.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION—The faithfulness of God.

B.C. 6.] LESSON IV. [Jan. 23.

THE BIRTH OF JESUS; or, Good-will toward Men.

Luke 2. 8-20.

Commit to memory verses 10-14.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good-will toward men. Luke 2. 14. L

OUTLINE.

1. The Night Watch, v. 8-12.
2. The Night Song, v. 13, 14.
3. The Night Visit, v. 15-20.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

1. *The Night Watch*, v. 8-12.—Who were watching? Shepherds with their flock. Where were they watching. In the fields near Bethlehem. When were they watching? At night. Who came to them? An angel of the Lord. How did they feel when they saw the angel? They were afraid. What were the first words of the angel? "Fear not." What else did he say? "I bring you glad tidings of great joy." What were the tidings? That Jesus was born that day. How did the angel say that they might know him? As a babe lying in a manger.

2. *The Night Song*, v. 13, 14.—Who suddenly appeared? A multitude of angels. What did they say? [Golden Text.] For what were they praising God? Because Christ had come. What does Christ bring to men? Peace and good-will. How does he do this? By making those who love him love all other men. For what, then, was the babe of Bethlehem born? To be a blessing to everybody.

3. *The Night Visit*, v. 15-20.—What did the shepherds say after the visit of the angels? "Let us go to Bethlehem." Why did they go there? To see Jesus. When did they go? At once. When should we go to seek Christ? As soon as we hear about him. Whom did they find? Mary and Joseph and the babe lying in a manger. Who was this babe? The Lord Jesus Christ. What good thing did the shepherds afterward do? They told others about Jesus. How were the words of the shepherds received? With wonder. In what spirit did the shepherds go back to their flock? With praises to God.

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