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THE SUNBEAM

ENLARGED SERIES.—VOL. VIII.]

TORONTO, MAY 7, 1887.

[No. 10.

"HE LOVED ME SO."

"My boy, what is the matter?" said a gentleman to a lad whom he found weeping at a grave. "Have you lost a friend?"

"Ah! I have, indeed, sir; my father! His body lies here." And then his tears and sobs burst out afresh.

"How old are you, my boy?"

"Twelve, sir."

"And your father has, I see, been dead five years. You were but seven years old when he died, and have you such an endearing remembrance of him that you come to his grave to weep?"

"Oh, I remember him so well, sir, for he—for he loved me so!"

THE STEPPING-STONES.

A LITTLE girl was sent on an errand one day to the neighbouring village. Her path lay through beautiful fields. On her way she had to cross a wide but shallow stream. The bridge was a long way off; but there were firm, tried stepping-stones all the way over.

"Oh, I am afraid!" said she to a lady who was passing.

"But you see the stones, my child; they go all the way across."

"The water is so wide, she said, tearfully, looking across the stream.

"Yes; but it is very shallow. See how

easily I can cross it. So, carefully picking her way, she went quite over and then returned.

Very timidly the little girl began to cross.

"It is not so hard after all," she said, looking back on the watery way. "Just one step at a time brought us over."

"Remember this walk, dear, when you have other hard things to do. Go forward,

and the way will look easier and easier. When troubles come—as they are almost sure to do in this world—don't look at the waters before you, but at the stepping-stones Jesus places for your feet. The thing that we feared very often does not come upon us, or if it does Jesus sends such comfort as we never could have imagined. Here is a strong, firm stepping-stone that has often saved me from sinking: 'As thy days, so shall thy strength be.'"

There came many a time in her after-life when Mary remembered that day's lesson, and it brought cheer and peace to her soul.—*Juvenile Instructor.*

A BRIGHT BOY.

"SEE the moon!" said a lady to her nephew, a bright little boy of five, as they sat looking out of the window the other day.

"The moon!" said the little man. "You can't see the moon in the day-time." "Yes, you can," continued his aunt. "There it is over the trees."

The little fellow had to admit that he saw it, but added, "Taint lighted, anyway."



"HE LOVED ME SO."

"Just one step at a time is all you have to take," said her kind guide.

So one step followed another,—the first few were the hardest to take,—and soon she was safe on the other shore, smiling at her fears.

THE LITTLE HAY-MAKER.

Wee Jennie May, wee Jennie May,
Is off for the fields of fragrant hay;
She begins her work with the morning light,
She works till evening stars are bright.

Wee Jennie May, wee Jennie May,
Tosses aloft the fragrant hay;
She tosses it up for the sun's bright ray,
With her little rake, this wee Jennie May.

Wee Jennie May, wee Jennie May,
Come from the fragrant fields away;
Hands and feet are tired to-day,
From working so hard in the sweet, green hay.

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The Sunbeam.

TORONTO, MAY 7, 1887.

THE SAVIOUR'S LITTLE PET LAMBS.

It is doubtful in what language our Saviour usually spoke—whether Greek or Syriac; but in one instance, at any rate, the Syriac words are given. They are, "Talitha cumi;" that is, "My little lamb, my little pet lamb, rise up." By these endearing appellations he roused the sleeping soul. By this he showed to the parents that he was one with them in their parental love, in their domestic joy, as well as in their domestic sorrow. The daughter came again to life, and was to them as she had been before.

And, children, these words are also addressed to you—"My little lamb, arise." "My little lamb"—the very words tell you how precious you are to the Good Shepherd. Arise, get up, bestir yourself; get up from any slothful habit, from any idle, selfish habit you have formed. Let his voice reach your innermost heart and raise you from the deepest sleep.

He says to each one of us, "Talitha cumi," My little lamb, rise, mount up, be better this year than you were last year. Mount up, become better and wiser; mount up, rise up, as if you were climbing a long ladder; mount up, rise up, as if you were climbing a high mountain—and then you will indeed know that this gentle Jesus who has been your strength and aid in the past will be your hope in years to come, and will be your guide even into eternity.

THEIR END WAS PEACE.

A SAINT of God was nearing the river of death. In answer to some inquiry by a friend, she said, "All peace and mercy."

Joseph Addison, the celebrated English writer, when at the point of death sent for Lord Warwick, a youth nearly related to him, and as life was glimmering in the socket, forcibly grasped the young man's hand, softly saying, "See in what peace a Christian can die!" He spoke with difficulty, and soon expired.

Rev. Charles Simeon, when near death, said: "Oh, death! where is thy sting? It is all taken away." His last word was—*peace*

Another said, on his death bed, "I seem to have nothing to do but wait; there is now nothing but *peace*, the sweetest *peace*."

Mrs. Isabella Graham's last word on this side of heaven was *peace*.

A young Christian's last words were, "Oh, the rapture, the perfect *peace*!"

Felix Neff said, "I am departing to our Father in perfect *peace*."

Rev. Robert Anderson said, when dying, "Peace, peace! How gracious God is in making it all *peace*."

Rev. David Stoddard, missionary to the Nestorians, replied to an inquiry made a short time before his death: "All is *peace*, *peace* within, and *peace* without. I never knew such *peace* before." His last words to his wife were: "Sophia, *peace, peace!* Do you understand? All well—all right."

"GOD BE WITH THEE."

It is related by travellers as an instance of how little the custom of eastern nations have changed during many hundreds of years, that in the fields of Palestine the very same words may be heard now as in the days of Boaz and Ruth. When the master enters the harvest-field he salutes his reapers, just as Boaz did, "The Lord be with you;" and the peasants respond always in the words, "God bless thee." It is a happy custom that may well see no change. We should all do well to use from the heart this ancient salutation, "The Lord be with thee."



AMONG THE FLOWERS.

How delightful it is to get among the flowers. They look so pure and innocent, and smell so sweet. Some one has called them the sweetest thoughts of God. They seem almost the only things that are as pure and fresh and beautiful as the garden of Eden before the world was cursed by sin. We hope our young friends are fond of flowers, and that you cultivate them for yourselves. It only takes a very little patch of ground or a few flower-pots. With the latter you may have the gladness of spring around you all winter long. Nothing beautifies or brightens a room so much as living flowers. Remember, dear children, Jesus said, "Consider the lilies how they grow," and then tells that how much more will God clothe us. Some one speaking of the flowers—those fair, unerring things, says:—

As if on living creatures,
Where'er my eyes shall fall,
On bluebells and on daisies,
I say, "God bless you all."

PRAYER.

THE very best thing we can do when we get into trouble is to pray. God has promised to take care of his children; but he says we must ask him to do so. Let all our young friends learn to tell God of their troubles, and ask him to deliver them from evil. This is the prayer Jesus taught: "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."



MAORI GIRL.

You have here a picture of one of the Maori girls (pronounced Mah-ree) of New Zealand. A few years ago the Maoris were all savages and idolaters, and many of them cannibals. They were very fierce and war-like, and had many strong forts on the hills of their mountainous country. The British Government had much trouble to conquer them. It cost much money and many valuable lives. But Christian missionaries went among them, "with their lives in their hands," and now the country is almost altogether Christian. This girl has a cloak made of grass, which will keep her warm and dry even in the heavy storms of their rainy season.

LOVE TESTED.

"I do love God," said a little girl to her papa one day when he had been talking to her about loving God. "Perhaps you think so, Maria." "Oh, I do, indeed, I do, papa!" "Suppose, my child, you should come to me, and say, 'Dear papa, I do love you,' and then go away and disobey me: could I believe you?" "No, papa." "Well, dear, how can I believe you love God, and I see you every day doing those things which he forbids? You know the Bible says, 'If ye love me, keep my commandments.'"

CLEAN HANDS, PURE HEARTS.

JAMIE came in from play a few days since with his hands so black and soiled that the first thing he did was to get a basin of water and wash them.

But as his hands became whiter the water became darker, till at last what had been so clear and stainless was fit only to be thrown away. Jamie sat looking at it intently for a moment, and then, lifting his eyes, he exclaimed, "Only think, mamma, that water was made to be drunk! Who would like to drink it now?"

"Yes, Jamie," answered mamma; "that water, like everything else, was perfectly pure when it came from God's hands, and it is only as it is brought in contact with things impure that it becomes unfit for use. Just so it is with

our hands; and how thankful we ought to be for the water that can wash away the stains we cannot avoid!

"So it is with the soul, which, though so pure when God made it, no sooner enters this world than it is tainted with sin. Does my little boy know what alone can cleanse a soul that is soiled? It must be washed in the water of baptism, and ever after in the blood of Jesus Christ, who has promised to take away our sins and make our souls pure and white."—*Young Christian Soldier*.

WILL YOU BE A SOLDIER?

"SEE these funny-looking men, mamma?" said Ray; "and that horse?"

"They have on what is called scale-armour."

"I think they look like big fish. Why do they wear it?"

"Hundreds of years ago men almost always fought with arrows when they went to war. And they had different kinds of armour to cover them, so that the arrows would not wound them."

"That's what I should have liked to have had," said Ray. "I'm glad they gave their poor horses a chance too."

"This scale-armour was thought the best, for it was made of many pieces of finely worked steel, and fitted better than the other kind, which was only metal plates.

But it was all clumsy and heavy enough—very different from what I want you to wear."

"Why, mamma," said Ray, "I didn't know you wanted me to go to war."

"Yes I do, my boy; I want you to get your armour at once."

"A little boy wear armour!" exclaimed Ray in great surprise. "You must be joking, mamma."

"No, dear. The soldiers of the Prince of Peace cannot begin too young to fight their great enemy the devil."

"Hear what armour your Captain has waiting for you. Your body girt about with truth, a breastplate of righteousness, a shield of faith, a helmet of salvation, feet shod with the gospel of peace. Who could help winning with such aid?"

"Such armour would be easy to wear," said Ray, looking soberly at the picture.

"And you can have it all just for the asking, my dear boy," said his mother

A LITTLE SERMON FOR A LITTLE BOY.

I CANNOT be St. Paul:

I'm a little boy, you see
If Macedonia should call

And I went, they'd laugh at me,
And say I wouldn't do,

For I couldn't preach and pray;
So, friends, instead of trying to,
I'll talk to you to-day.

Paul started many churches,

And he often wrote a letter
To tell the people to be good

And teach them to be better,
And that is what the mission-folks

Would like to do to-day,
But something else is needed

Than just to hope they may.

We would like to have some money

To send off men to do

About what Paul did long ago
Asia and Europe through.

St. Paul believed in faith,
But acted out works too:

So give us dollars and your prayers,
Please, every one of you.

A WARNING.

A MAN once took a piece of white cloth to a dyer to have it dyed black. He was so pleased with the result that he went back to the dyer with a piece of black cloth, and asked to have it dyed white. The dyer answered, "A piece of cloth is like a man's reputation; it can be dyed black, but it cannot be made white again."

A CHILD'S LOGIC.

"Come Johnny," said a father
To his little boy of three,
"If you want a pretty plaything,
Just come along with me."

He led him to the kitchen,
Where, in a fuzzy heap,
Within a box half filled with straw,
Three kittens lay asleep.

"Now, Johnny, dear," the parent said,
With quiet mien and grave,
"Two of these kittens must be drowned,—
Choose which you wish to save."

With searching and impartial eye
The child surveyed their charms,
Then clasped the biggest of the three
Within his chubby arms.

A few days later, Johnny
Was sitting at his play,
When in his father hastened,
His face both glad and gay.

"Come, Johnny boy, I'll show you
A plaything better far
Than any you have seen before;
But hush! don't wake mamma."

They softly gained the nursery,
Where in a basket gay
With dainty ribbons blue and white,
Two sleeping infants lay.

The father stood there proudly,
And gazed upon the three,
While waiting all expectant
To witness Johnny's glee.

But lo! in solemn silence,
With tightly-folded hands,
And eyes that scan each tiny face,
The child reflecting stands.

Then in the fattest baby's cheek,
Just where the dimples are,
He thrusts a little finger plump,
"Save this one please, papa!"

CLARE'S "NOTICE."

ONE time little Clare saw a notice on a barn which said, "No smoking allowed here." Clare said he could write a notice if he had a piece of paper. Aunt Lina gave him a piece, and he soon had this "notice" fastened up on the porch. "No drunkenness, no smokeness, no swear words, no wickedness allowed here." "Course we don't need it," said Clare, soberly; "but somebody might come along, you know." That's a fact, boys. There is always somebody along who needs to see you set a good example.

LESSON NOTES.

SECOND QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

B.C. 1491.] LESSON VII. [May 15.]

THE CALL OF MOSES.

Exod. 3. 1-12. Commit to memory vs. 2-6.

GOLDEN TEXT.

I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee
what thou shalt say. Exod. 4. 12.

OUTLINE.

1. Moses.
2. The Call.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

What did Moses see as he tended his flocks at Mount Horeb? A flame of fire in a bush.

What attracted his attention to the fire? He noticed that it did not burn the bush.

What did he start to do? To find out the reason why.

What prevented him? A voice in the midst of the bush.

Whose voice was it? The voice of God.

What did the voice command? "Put off thy shoes."

For what cause? The place was holy ground.

What made it holy? The presence of God.

What did God declare to Moses? "I am the God of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob."

Why did Moses hide his face? He was afraid to look upon God.

What did God tell him? That he had heard the cry of his people.

What was he ready to do? To deliver them from the Egyptians.

Where was he going to bring them? To a land flowing with milk and honey.

What did God call Moses to do? To go before Pharaoh.

How did Moses feel about it? Timid and distrustful.

What encouragement did God give him? "I will go with thee." (Repeat the GOLDEN TEXT.)

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

Do you ever feel timid about speaking for God?

Can you love him and not let others know it?

Is there anything he wants you to do, that you will not?

Remember he says to you, "I will be with thee to help thee."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Divine compassion.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

Where did God put the first man and woman? God put the first man and woman in the garden of Eden.

B.C. 1491.] LESSON VIII. [May 22.]

THE PASSOVER.

Exod. 12. 1-14.

Commit to memory vs. 13, 14.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Christ our passover is sacrificed for us,
1 Cor. 5. 7.

OUTLINE.

1. The Passover.
2. Our Passover.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

What message did Moses bring to Pharaoh from God? "Let my people go, that they may serve me."

What was Pharaoh's reply? "I will not let Israel go."

What did God send upon Pharaoh for refusing to obey him? Great and terrible plagues.

What did Pharaoh do? He hardened his heart against the Lord.

What awful punishment did God purpose to bring upon him and the people? The death of the first-born in every house.

Who did he intend to save? The Israelites.

What did he direct them to do? To kill a lamb without spot or blemish. (Repeat the GOLDEN TEXT.)

What must they do with the blood? Sprinkle it upon the doors of their houses.

How were they to use the flesh? Roast it whole, and eat it with bitter herbs.

For what were they to be ready? To leave the land in haste.

Of what was the blood of the lamb a token? Of God's mercy.

What would he do when he came to smite the land? Pass over and save from death every house sprinkled with blood.

At what houses did the Lord stop and slay the first-born? All that were not sprinkled.

What were the Israelites to keep in remembrance of this passover of the Lord? A feast every year.

What law did God make concerning it? That it should be kept by his people forever.

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

Christ is our passover, the Lamb of God slain for us.

He shed his blood upon the cross to save us from the wrath of God.

Only those whose hearts are sprinkled with his blood will God spare and save from eternal death.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Salvation.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

In whose image was man created? Man was created in the image or likeness of God.