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THE SUNBEAM

LARGED SERIES.—VOL. VII.]

TORONTO, JUNE 5, 1886.

[No 12

THE ARGUS.

This beautiful bird is the Argus Pheasant, and is found in Siam, and other Indian Islands. There are no feathers on the sides of the neck and head; but the bird has elegant plumage and his tail feathers are long; the two middle measuring about four feet. The wing feathers are decorated with a great many spots that look like eyes. His cry is plaintive and not loud. The Peacock belongs to the same family of birds; and spots on their wings make a strong resemblance between the Argus and the Peacock.



THE ARGUS.

GROWING TROUBLE.

Once upon a time there was a man and a woman who planned to go and spend the day at the house of a friend some distance away from their own. On a pleasant morning they set out to make the visit, but they had not gone far when the woman remembered the large bridge they had to cross. It was very old and was not to be very safe, and she immediately began to worry her husband. "What shall we do about the bridge?" she said to her husband. "I shall not dare to go over it, and I can't get across the river any other way." "I forgot that bridge," said the man, "I forgot that bridge is a bad place. Suppose it should break down, and we should fall into the water and be drowned?"

"Or even," said his wife, "suppose you should step on a rotten plank and break your leg, what would become of me and the baby?"

"I don't know," said the man, "what

would become of any of us, for I couldn't work, and we should all starve to death."

So they went on worrying and worrying till they got to the bridge, when, lo and behold! they saw that since they had been there last a new bridge had been built, and they crossed over in perfect safety, and found that they might have spared themselves all the anxiety they had along their journey.

Now, that is just what the proverb means. Never waste your time worrying on what you think may possibly be going to happen. Do not think, "Oh! suppose it should rain to-morrow so that I can't go out," or "What shall I do if I have a headache the day of our visit to grandpa's"—
Exchange

WHERE DO THEY COME FROM?

Why are the toads so plentiful after a thunder-shower? All my life long no one has been able to answer that question. Why, after a heavy shower, and in the midst of it, do such multitudes of toads, especially little ones, hop about the gravel walk? For many years I believed they rained down, and I suppose some think so still. I asked an explanation of this of a

thoughtful woman. Her reply was that toads came out during the shower to get water. However, this is not the fact. I have discovered that they come not to get water. I deluged a flower bed the other

night with pailful after pailful of water. Immediately the toads came out of their holes to escape drowning, by tens, twenties, and fifties. The big ones fled in a ridiculous streak of hopping, and the little ones sprang about in the wildest confusion. The toad is just like any other land animal: when his hole is full of water he quits it.

"WHO WILL TAKE CARE OF ME?"

"Who will take care of me?" darling, you say,

Lovingly, tenderly watched as you are,
Listen! I give you the answer today:
One who is never forgetful or far.

He will take care of you! All through the day

Jesus is near you to keep you from ill;
Walking or resting, at lesson or play,
Jesus is with you and watching you still.

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The Sunbeam.

TORONTO, JUNE 5, 1886.

GOOD CREATURE.

ONE day a boy was tormenting a kitten. His little sister, with her blue eyes full of tears, said to him: "O Philip! don't do that; it is God's kitten."

The word of the little girl was not lost. It was set on wheels. Philip left off tormenting the kitten; but he could not help thinking about what his sister said. "God's kitten, God's creature—for he made it," he said to himself, "I never thought of that before."

The next day, on his way to school, he met one of his companions, unmercifully beating a poor, half-starved dog. Philip ran up to him, and before he knew it, was using his sister's words, saying, "Don't do that, Ned; it's God's creature.—*Christian Harvester.*

MINNIE.

MINNIE liked to play, but she did not like to study or to sew. One day she ran home from school, and climbing on a high chair looked close at her mother's face: "Have you wrinkles, mother? and did I make them come?"

"Why, what do you mean, Minnie?" said Mrs. Barker.

"Old Mrs. True's face is full of wrinkles, and her hair has turned gray. The girls say it is because Mary is a naughty girl."

"But you are not naughty, dear, and you do try to please me."

"O mamma! I heard you tell father that I worry you when I begin a piece of work that I do not finish. I'll not do it any more, mother. This afternoon I'll try to finish something that I began a long while ago."

"It will be hard work, particularly if you want to play."

"I can do it though if I try," said Minnie.

"And if you ask God to help you."

After dinner Minnie locked herself in her own room. "What shall I do first?" she thought. In her basket was a handkerchief that she had begun to hem for the missionary-box. "They are to pack the box to-morrow," she thought.

She took her needle and began to sew. But hark! the girls were at the gate calling her. They were to pick berries along the creek, and at sundown the boys were to take them in a row-boat. Minnie wanted to go very much. But she wanted also to please her mother, and she remembered what the minister had said in the sermon on Sunday: "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might." So she sat still and did her work well.—*Exchange.*

ARE YOU SAFE?

Two little girls were playing with their dolls in a corner of the nursery, and singing as they played:

Safe in the arms of Jesus,
Safe on his gentle breast;
There by his love o'ershadowed
Sweetly my soul shall rest.

Mother was busy writing, only stopping now and then to listen to the little one's talk, unobserved by them.

"Sister, how do you know you are safe?" said Nellie, the younger of the two.

"Because I am holding Jesus with both my hands—tight!" promptly replied sister.



BUDS AND BLOSSOMS.

"Ah! that's not safe," said the child. "Suppose Satan came along and cut your two hands off?"

Little sister looked very troubled a few moments, dropped poor dolly, thought seriously. Suddenly her face lit with joy, and she cried out:

"Oh, I forgot! I forgot! Jesus is holding me with his two hands, and Satan can't cut his off. So I am safe!"—*Day S.*

BUDS AND BLOSSOMS.

God's hand has made each flower
And each spring,

Each leaf upon the tree;
He guides the bird on gladsome wing,
And little busy bee.

Much more his love and care provide
For us who think and speak;
For whom the blessed Saviour died,
So gentle and so meek.

And those who, in life's early spring,
Their hearts to Jesus give,
Shall find it is a blessed thing
Beneath his smile to live.

Jesus will guide them with his love
Through all their days below,
Then take them to the land above
Where fadeless blossoms grow.

THE BREAD OF LIFE.

Ever may my soul be fed,
With this true and living bread;
Day by day, with strength supplied,
Through the life of him who died.



AT THE GRAVE.

AT THE GRAVE.

THIS is a picture of a very common scene in a graveyard in France or Germany. The people of those countries have a very pretty custom of bringing flowers and wreaths to lay upon the graves of their departed friends. In the market you can buy these wreaths ready-made. They are sometimes made of "immortelles," a dry-leaved sort of flower which never fades—hence its name. You will see the wreaths and flowers and high stone wall in the picture. The little girl has lost some one very near and dear to her. See how sad her face is, and how lovingly she strews the flowers upon the grave—perhaps her father's or her mother's grave. Did it ever strike you, my dear children, in visiting a graveyard, how many of the graves were, and that there were more graves of the young than of the old? There are many sleeping in tiny graves younger than any who lived these lines. You, too, may be called to slumber in a little grave. But if you love Jesus you need not dread it more than a bed. Since Jesus died for us, and lay in the grave, and rose again from the dead, his disarmed death of its sting, and of the dear departed who die in the Lord we may sing—

"They sleep in Jesus and are blest,
How kind their slumbers are."

CHING AND CHANG.

THIS wish to appear different from what we are sometimes brings people into trouble, and sometimes into a ridiculous position. The Chinese have a good story illustrative of this:

There were two short-sighted men in China, Ching and Chang, who were always quarrelling as to which of them could see farther. As they had heard there was to be a tablet erected at the gate of a neighbouring temple, they determined they would visit it together on a given day, and put the visual powers of each to the test. But, desiring to take advantage of the other, Ching went immediately to the temple alone, and, standing quite close to the tablet, saw an inscription with the words, "To the great man of the past and the future." Chang also went soon afterward, peering yet closer, and, in addition to the inscription, "To the great man of the past and the future," read, in smaller characters, "This tablet is raised by the family of Ling in honour of the great man."

On the day appointed for the contest, standing at a distance from which neither could read, Ching exclaimed: "The inscription reads, 'To the great man of the past and the future.'"

"True," said Chang: "but you have left out a part of the inscription, which I can read, but you cannot, and which is written

in small letters—'Raised by the family of Ling in honour of the great man.'"

"There is no such inscription," said Ching.

"There is," said Chang.

So they waxed wroth, and, after much abusing each other, they agreed to refer the matter to the high priest of the temple. He heard their story, and then said, quietly: "Gentlemen, there is no tablet to read, it was taken inside the temple yesterday."

Ching and Chang were both served right. They were a precious pair of hypocrites. They could not see half so well as they pretended. *E. S. P.*

A CHILD'S CREED.

I BELIEVE in God the Father,
Who made us, every one,
Who made the earth and heaven,
The moon, the stars, and sun.
All that we have each day,
To us by him is given;
We call him, when we pray,
"Our Father, who art in heaven."

I believe in Jesus Christ,
The Father's only Son,
Who came to us, from heaven,
And loved us every one.
He taught us to be holy,
Till on the cross he died;
And now we call him Saviour,
And Christ, the crucified.

I believe God's Holy Spirit,
Is with us every day,
And if we do not grieve him,
He ne'er will go away.
From heaven, upon Jesus
He descended like a dove,
And dwelleth ever with us,
To fill our hearts with love.

DON'T BE STINGY.

ONE day a little girl was standing by a window during a heavy thunder-storm. Her Aunt Annie was very much afraid of the lightning, and told her to come away, lest it might strike her. But Katy answered, "It is God who makes it thunder, and he will take care of me."

This same little Katy one day found her older sister crying very hard, and asked her what was the matter.

"I am crying because I am so wicked," was her answer.

"Why, don't you love God?" asked Katy.

"No, I am afraid I don't."

"O do love God, Lullie," said Katy, as she put her arms around her sister's neck. "O do love him, and don't be stingy any more."

So Katy thought every person who does not love God stingy, and I think she was just right. When we think of how many things God has given us, surely he must be stingy who will not let God have a place in his heart.

THE SQUIRREL'S LESSON.

Two little squirrels out in the sun—
One gathered nuts, and the other had none,
"Time enough yet," his constant refrain,
"Summer is still only just on the wane."

Listen, my child, while I tell you his fate
He roused him at last, but he roused him
too late,
Down fell the snow from a pitiless cloud,
And gave little squirrel a spotless white
shroud.

Two little boys in a schoolroom were
placed
One always perfect, the other disgraced;
"Time enough yet for my learning," he
said;
"I will climb by and by from the foot to
the head."

Listen, my darling their locks are turned
gray;
One as a governor sitteth to-day;
The other, a pauper, looks out at the door
Of the almshouse, and idles his days as of
yore.

Two kinds of people we meet every day—
One is at work, the other at play;
Living uncared for, dying unknown—
The busiest hive hath ever a drone.

Tell me, my child, if the squirrels have
taught
The lesson I longed to implant in your
thought;
Answer me this, and my story is done:
Which of the two would you be, little one?

LESSON NOTES.

SECOND QUARTER.

A.D. 29.] **LESSON XI.** [June 13.

JESUS THE CHRIST.

John 7. 37-52. *Commit to memory verses 43-50.*

GOLDEN TEXT.

Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living
God. Matt. 16. 16.

OUTLINE.

1. The Declaration, v. 37-39.
2. A Division, v. 40-49.
3. A Decision, v. 50-53.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

What did Jesus say unto the people at
the feast? "If any man thirst, let him
come unto me and drink."

Why did he invite them to come to him?
Because he could give them the living
water.

What is the living water? The Holy
Spirit.

What is it that helps to make the earth

beautiful with grass and trees and flowers?
Water from the clouds.

What is it that makes our lives beautiful
with love and patience and unselfishness?
The living water which Jesus gives.

What did some of the people believe?
That Jesus was the Saviour. (Repeat the
GOLDEN TEXT.)

Who sent officers to take Jesus? The
chief rulers.

What word did they bring back to them?
No man ever talked like this man.

What was the reply of the rulers? The
common people believe because they know
not the law.

What did Nicodemus say? Is it not
against our law to judge him without
hearing his words?

What did he mean? That they ought to
hear Jesus themselves before they denied
that he was the Messiah.

What was their answer? That Jesus
was from Galilee, and no prophet could
come out of Galilee.

What was the birthplace of Jesus?
Bethlehem.

Why did the chief rulers not know this?
Because they did not try to find it out.

How did they feel toward Jesus? They
hated him, and wanted to kill him.

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

What do I know about "Jesus the Christ?"

I know

He is the Son of God. He came to be my
Saviour.

He loves me. He wants to help me.

He wants to keep my little feet on the
upper road.

What does "Jesus the Christ" know about
me?

He knows

I am very weak. I often do wrong.

I love him. I try to be his child.

I am sometimes dis- I want the home in
couraged. heaven.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The Son of
God.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

*Did their sins hurt any besides them-
selves? Yes: their sins hurt all mankind.*

*How did it hurt them? By causing them
to be born in sin, so that they also suffer
pain and death.*

A.D. 29.] **LESSON XII.** [June 20.

JESUS AND ABRAHAM.

John 8. 31 38, & 44-59. *Commit to mem. vs. 32-36.*

GOLDEN TEXT.

Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my
day: and he saw it, and was glad. John
8. 56.

OUTLINE.

1. Bond and Free, v. 31-36.
2. True and False, v. 37-50.
3. Living and Dead, v. 51-57.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

What did Jesus promise those who
believed in him? That they should know the
truth.

What truth? The truth about him
and God his Father.

From what was the truth to free them?
From the power of sin.

What did they tell Jesus? That they
were slaves to no man.

How did he reply to them? Whosoever
sins is the slave of sin.

What did Christ come to be? The
deliverer from sin.

Why did the Jews refuse to believe in
the words of Jesus? Because they did wrong
and did not want to do right.

Why were they not the children of God?
Because they refused to hear the words
of God.

Why did Christ call them the children
of the devil? Because they had the spirit
of the devil in their hearts.

Whom did he say should never see death?
All who kept his commandments.

What was their reply? Art thou greater
than our father Abraham, who died?

What did Jesus answer? (Repeat
GOLDEN TEXT.)

What question did they then ask him?
Hast thou seen Abraham?

How did Jesus reply? "Before Abraham
was, I am."

What did the Jews do? They took
stones to kill him.

Why? Because he had declared himself
equal with God.

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

I wonder if mother ever promised
anything? You believed it, didn't you?

Believing the Bible calls faith. You
see the present with your little mind's
even before it came, couldn't you?

Very promise made you glad, did it?
God promised the Saviour to Abraham.

Believed the promise, and although he
before Jesus came, by faith the GOLDEN
TEXT is true.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Eternal life

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

What do you mean by being born in sin?
We are all born self-willed, and, but for
the grace of God, inclined only to evil.

May we all hope for this grace?
through the Saviour, who was promised
when our first parents fell into sin.