

"REMEMBER NOW THY CREATOR IN THE DAYS OF THY YOUTH."



# OUR YOUNG PEOPLE



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## Earl Shaftesbury, and his Pet Donkey.

**T**HE late Earl Shaftesbury was an earnest lover of the Lord, and therefore he loved to do good to his fellow men. When we have the love of the Lord Jesus Christ in our hearts, we will always be ready to labour for others and seek their welfare rather than our own. This was so with the good nobleman who passed away to be with Jesus, on the 1st October, 1885. When but a young man, the Earl, as a member of the House of Lords, was found actively engaged in trying to secure the making of laws intended to help the poor people of England, and he succeeded in doing a great deal for their good. One thing our young readers will be pleased to hear, and that is, the Earl was very fond of little boys and girls; and during his long life of usefulness, he gave his help toward establishing homes and schools for the benefit

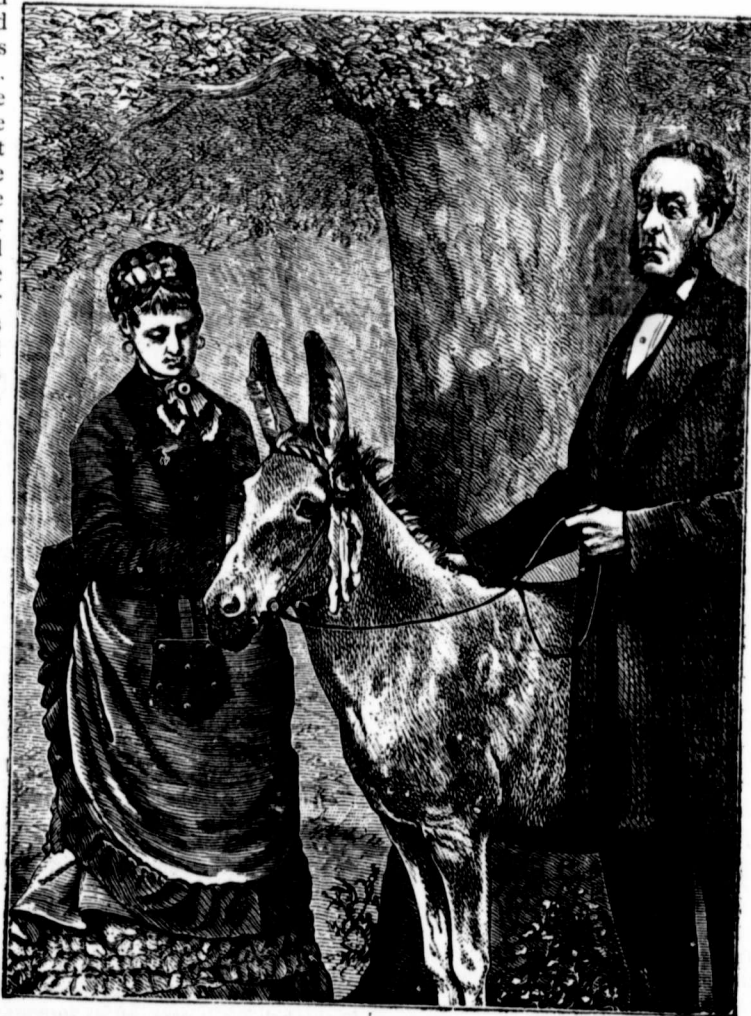
of the poor little children of England. He used to take great pleasure in visiting these homes, and there he would sit and tell the little ones

of the God who made them, the Saviour who died for them, for in these things he took the warmest interest; and every child in these homes learned to regard Lord Shaftesbury almost as a father.

In one of these homes was a child, so small for her age as to be called "Tiny," and she was a special favourite of his. One day she wrote him a letter, and he sent her the following answer. We give the letter and also a cut showing how the good Earl signed his name:—

"MY DEAR SMALL TINY,—I must thank you for your nice letter, and say that, God willing, I will certainly call and see your new home, and you too, little woman. You ask me to give "a bed" to the new home.

To be sure I will. I will give two if you wish it, and they shall be called "Tiny's Petitions. I am glad to



see how well you write; and I shall be more glad to hear from Gent and your other friends that you are a good girl, that you read your Bible, say your prayers, and love the blessed Lord Jesus Christ. May He ever be with you!—Your affectionate friend,



Years passed away, Tiny grew up and went to service, Lord Shaftesbury grew feeble with age, but, as ever, he spared no effort for the good of his homes, and he presided at a meeting during which prizes were to be given to the boys and girls who had remained a certain time in their places. It was told him that Tiny was to receive a prize. Immediately the venerable chairman started up exclaiming with outstretched hand, "Is it you, Tiny, my dear? I am so glad to see you."

His efforts on behalf of the costermongers, that is, people who go about the streets pedling vegetables, etc., gained him their love and admiration, and as a token of these, they presented him with a donkey named "Coster," who enjoyed a peaceful life drawing his master's chair at St. Giles's, Lord Shaftesbury's country house, and occasionally visiting him in town. Our picture shows "Coster" with his master, and Lady Shaftesbury.

The donkey was not the only token of grateful affection from those whom he had helped. The girls knitted socks and made night-shirts, the boys offered clocks, albums, and chairs. At a meeting of the Ragged School Union in Exeter Hall, Lord Shaftesbury told the girls present that he was wearing the socks they had made, "not put on because I was coming here, but because they came in the ordinary course of wear and tear."

Perhaps in some future issue we shall tell you of his work among the Shoe Blacks, and how the little boys liked the Earl.

Remember dear little children that you can "*do good*" and "*be good*" although you are not great as was the Earl. But you will never "*do*" or "*be*" unless you accept of Jesus your Saviour. That is what the Earl did when he was only a little fellow. Will you not do as he then did, and do it "*Now*."

### Jesus,

THE  
Compassionate Saviour,  
Hope of Israel,  
Righteous Judge,  
Infinite One,  
Son of God,  
True Deliverer.

## Our New Year's Letter.

DEAR "LITTLE READERS,"

I WISH you a "Happy New Year." Wise King Solomon said, "He that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he." "Whoso trusteth in the Lord happy is he." To be wise, loving, and good is to be happy. Jesus said, "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them." By "these things" he meant the very words you will be learning from Sabbath to Sabbath, out of God's Holy Word. May he help you to both "know" and "do" them! Be honest, earnest, true. Try to make this year better than the last, remembering,—

"The years are the stairway  
On which you must climb to the skies;  
And strive that your standing be higher  
As each one away from you flies."

But remember too, we cannot climb at all unless we ask Jesus to help us.

## Our Scripture Prize.

THE prize offered in our last issue has been awarded to Master Herbert Clarke, 38 Pembroke St., Toronto. In our next number we shall offer another prize for Bible study, and shall expect many of our young readers to compete.

## The Sugar Last.

NEAR me at the table sits our baby boy,  
Forehead fringed with curllets, bosom full of joy;  
To his lips of ruby, deftly spooning up  
Juicy morsels floating in his silver cup.

Mouthful after mouthful quickly disappears,  
While his luscious lip-smack falls upon our ears;  
Many a snowy milk drop moistens bib and chin,  
As the dripping spoonful each is taken in.

Bread and milk now vanished, lo! before his eyes.  
Snugly at the bottom, all the sugar lies  
Thus our little shrewdness deals at each repast,  
Cunningly devising to *have the sugar last*.

Come, now, all ye children, of whatever age,  
Come and learn a lesson from our baby sage,  
So sup from your life-cup that as days go past  
You may find it sweetening, sweetening to the last.

Oft this theme I ponder as around I gaze  
On the legions straying far from virtue's way.  
Surely, ah! too surely, when the life is past,  
Shuddering they will find it bitterness at last.

Give the heart to Jesus, give the hours to God;  
Heed the Spirit teaching in the blessed Word.  
Then when life is over, all its sorrows past,  
You in heaven shall find it sweetness at the last.

## The Cities of Refuge.



**T**HE six cities of refuge, of which we read in Numbers 35:15, were appointed by God for the children of Israel, the stranger and the foreigner dwelling with them, that every one who killed any person unawares might flee thither for safety.

They were to be easy of access and well supplied

with food and water. Along the roads leading to these cities were direction posts pointing out the way, so that no one might go astray who was really in earnest to escape from the avenger of blood. But there was no time to lose. Every moment was precious to the escaping one. Once inside the walls of the City of Refuge, the "stranger" found shelter, security, life, and peace.

The avenger was sure to reach those who did not flee, and they were slain.

So now, dear boys and girls, for whom this is written,—the Lord Jesus Christ is God's refuge for sinners fleeing from coming judgment.

Have you fled to Him for safety?

Everything your soul needs is provided in Jesus, and the way to be saved is easy, for Jesus has finished the work, and left you nothing to do but to believe in Him and be at peace.

"Oh escape to Christ the Saviour,  
Now believe in Him to-day,"

You do not need to travel anywhere to find Jesus. You have not to wait till you see or feel something. You can come to Him now, where you are, and He will be sure to receive you. His arms are open wide to receive you, just as the gate of the City of Refuge was always open for the escaping Israelite to enter and find safety.

There's no time to lose. Death, judgment, and the lake of fire are coming upon you nearer and nearer every day.

Fly to Jesus now in simple faith; believe in Him as your own Saviour.

"Only trust Him, only trust Him,  
Only trust Him now;  
He will save you, He will save you.  
He will save you now."

**The name of the Lord is a strong tower:  
the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.**

## The Best For Jesus.

**L**ITTLE Edith Crowell was not quite five years old, yet she listened attentively to the minister's account of the sufferings and privations endured by our missionaries in the Far West. She was particularly interested in the story of one family who had been shut up by the snow so long as to exhaust their entire stock of fuel and provisions—even baby's little chair and rude toys had been sacrificed for the sake of a little heat with which to warm the benumbed fingers.

Little Edith said nothing then, but the next day, when the ladies were filling a box for this destitute family, she brought her large wax doll and asked her mamma to put it in the box for the missionary's baby whose toys were burnt.

"But, darling, you want Pinkey yourself," her mother replied.

"But the baby has no dolls, and I have Jane and Rosie, besides ever so many tiny ones."

"Then," said mamma, "send some of them, and keep this beautiful one yourself."

"I would rather give this one because it is the best; and, don't you mind, you told me last night that Jesus wanted the best gifts we could bring? He will know I gave Pinkey because I do love Him so dearly.

Mamma said no more, and Pinkey has gone to make her home among the snows of the North West.—*Morning Star.*

**A**N unhappy temper often spoils our sweetest enjoyments; Jesus Christ is the only Physician that can cure a bad temper.

## A Recitation.

**H**ERE are a few easy sentences that will be sure to please. Let them be spoken in a firm voice and in a spirited manner, but not too quick. Give time for each sentence to have effect;—

THE GIRL (OR THE LAD) FOR ME.

"Can't-do-it," sticks in the mud; but "Try" soon drags the wagon out of the rut. The fox said "Try," and he got away from the hounds when they almost snapt at him. The bees said "Try," and they turned flowers into honey. The squirrel said "Try," and up he went to the top of the beech-tree. The snowdrop said "Try," and blossomed in the cold snows of winter. The sun said "Try," and the Spring soon threw "Jack Frost" out of the saddle. The young lark said "Try," and he found that his new wings soon took him over the hedges and ditches, and up to where his father was singing. The horse said "Try," and ploughed the field from end to end. No hill too steep for "Try" to climb; no field too wet for "Try" to drain; no hole too big for "Try" to mend. "Can't-do-it" is a lazy girl (or boy), but "Try" is the girl (or the boy) for me.

JANUARY 3RD.

**Josiah and the Book of the Law.**

2 Kings 22: 1-13

**L**AST year we learned how the kingdom of Israel was divided, and ten of the tribes formed a kingdom of their own which lasted for two hundred and fifty years, when it was destroyed by the Assyrians. The kingdom of Judah, which was made up of the two other tribes, lasted for one hundred and thirty years longer. Most of the time wicked men reigned over it, but one of the kings was a good man named Josiah. He began to reign when he was a little boy only eight years old. When he was sixteen years old he began to seek after God. He broke down all the idols and opened the temple and showed his people the way to serve the God of their fathers. Men were set at-work to repair the temple of God. While the men were at work they found the book of God's law, which no one had seen for many years, and it had been entirely forgotten. They brought it to the young king and read from it. As he heard the law, he began to weep, saying, 'O how wicked have we and our fathers been in not keeping this law which God gave to us! How angry God must be with us for disobeying his words!' He sent the priest to a good woman in Jerusalem, to learn what they must do to serve God. So Josiah and all his people turned to God with all their hearts.

Now, dear children, just think of a boy only eight years old being king! But what grander history could be written by any one than is told of this boy-king in the Golden Text, "He did that which was right in the sight of the Lord." But you see little Josiah had learned about good King David, and, while he was still young, he began to seek after David's God. It was God who made the young king brave enough to destroy all the idols, and who put it into his heart to repair and cleanse the temple. It was a great thing for a child to do; but what he did every child may, by the grace of God, do also, though it may be in humble and unnoticed ways, which no one will find out to speak of or praise, only God will see and know them.

Remember, childhood is the time for obedience, and if you are obedient to God you will grow up as did King Josiah, into a brave, fearless, servant of God.

JANUARY 10TH.

**Jeremiah Predicting the Captivity.**

Jer. 8: 20-22; 9: 1-16

**T**HE prophets were men by whom God spoke to his people, before he sent his own Son to tell us the glad news of salvation. While King Josiah was trying to make the people love and obey God, the prophet Je-re-mi-ah brought them many messages from God himself. And when the good king died, and the people went back to their idols, it was Jeremiah who grieved over their folly (see v. 1) and reproved their sins (vs. 4-8), and warned them that, because of their disobedience and neglect of God's Word (v. 13), their beautiful cities would surely be destroyed (v. 11), and they be scattered among the heathen (v. 16). The

book of Jeremiah, and another called Lamentations, which he wrote, are full of picture-lessons, to show the people their great wickedness in God's sight, and the dreadful woes God would surely send upon them unless they repented. Jeremiah was a mild, timid man, but whatever God told him to say, he said, no matter how angry the people were, nor how often wicked kings threatened to kill him.

Jeremiah, was called "the weeping prophet," because he sorrowed so greatly over the sins of his people.

Jeremiah's tears did not keep him from telling his people the truth. He spoke out boldly against the sins of the king, of the rulers, and of all the people. Sometimes he spoke in the court of the temple, sometimes in the streets; and when they put him in prison he wrote his words and sent a friend to read them. He mourned over the people but he also told them of the "balm in Gilead," by which he meant God's mercy, which could save them from their sins.

But the people would not listen, and went on in wickedness, until as we shall see in a future lesson God sent them into captivity as a punishment for their sins.

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READING THE BOOK OF THE LAW.