

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



OUR YOUNG PEOPLE



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God Cares for You.

THE Lord Jesus not only told the Jewish people to pray to God, each one alone, and promised that God would hear and answer that prayer, but He taught them to put their trust in God at all times, to look to God for help in all troubles, and to be quite sure that God would take care of them.

How plain Jesus made it! "Look at the birds," said He; "notice them well; see how happy they seem; how they fly about, and sing." Yes, learn a lesson from the birds; think about them: they never put seed into the ground to grow; no, God does not teach them to do that. They do not cut



"YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER FEEDETH THEM."

down the ripe corn, and put it into bundles; no, that is not their work. "Nor gather into barns;" no, they never build store-houses, and fill them with food. And yet do they starve and die? Does nobody look after them? Notice the words of Jesus: "Your heavenly Father feedeth them." And again He said: "Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows." We are better—are worth more than they; God loves us more. So we should trust more to God. God our

Father feeds the birds. He will care for us. Our souls are worth more than all else in the world. Be sure that, whatever He does besides, He will never lose sight of you. He careth for you—yes, for YOU.

Whatsoever.

IT was afternoon, and in a certain schoolroom, thirty little heads were bent over the lessons for next day. Silence had reigned for some time, when the teacher got down from the desk, and began to walk through the room, looking over the shoulder of one and another to see how work was progressing. Behind Effie she stopped, for a terribly blotted, badly-written page lay before her, showing Effie's utter indifference to the teacher's good opinion.

As the teacher stood looking, the little one before her wrote on in a defiant way, her very attitude expressing, "I know I'm wrong, but I don't care."

Then the teacher stooped and whispered, "For whom is that exercise?" "For you."

"Do you call that good writing?" "Don't know."

"Did you ever hear of a verse that says, 'Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as unto the Lord?' Do you think 'Whatsoever' takes in writing?" "Don't know; suppose so."

The teacher passed on; returning a few minutes later, she found the page re-written so neatly, and a humble little face looked up as Effie whispered, "Will that do?"

Dear little people, and grown-up ones too, who read this, will you remember that nothing is too small to be included in that "Whatsoever;" and if we follow out the command we shall find our lives wonderfully glorified, and filled with happy service for our Master.

BE CAREFULLY KIND,
HUMBLY INCLINED,
ALL OF ONE MIND,
NEVER BEHIND.

Speaking for Us.

A GENTLEMAN talking to a Sunday school infant class, asked what was the meaning of Christ "making intercession" for us. After a pause, a bright little fellow of six, holding up his hand, answered, "Speaking a word to God for us."

Unkind Words.

A PEBBLE thrown into the lake makes but little noise, but the quiet water is disturbed, and the circles keep spreading, each circle being wider than that before. So an hasty, unkind word, or act, may be felt and grieved over long after it is spoken.

See what the Bible says about good words:—"A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in baskets of silver." Prov. 25: 14, R. V.

Jesus Only.

[The following little poem was written by a young son of the Publisher of this paper. We know this lad is a lover of the Lord Jesus, and we trust that all through life he may act and speak for "Jesus only."—Ed.]

JESUS came to bleed and die,
Even so that you and I
Should from sin at once be free;
Use my soul, O Lord, for Thee,
So that I may ever say:—

Oh, believe on God's own way!
Now I hope that I shall do
Lots of work, O Christ, for you;
Young and old should do it too.

NORMAN DOW BRIGGS.

(Age, 10 years, 7 months.)

Growth of Sin.

A SINGLE snow-flake is but a very small thing: so one sin may appear of but little consequence. But a number of snow-flakes falling all day long, hiding the landmarks, drifting over the doors, gathering upon mountains to come down in avalanches, and to cover trees, houses, and even whole villages; each one alone may be small, but altogether they are all but irresistible. So sin indulged grows and increases, until it becomes a mighty power.

Dear children, beware of what are called "little sins." There is really no little sin in God's sight. So, watch and avoid the very appearance of evil.

Try.

NONE of us know how much we can do till we try. Some one has humorously written these lines about the foes of little children:—

"*I can't*" is a mean little coward—

A boy that is half of a man;

Set on him a plucky wee terrier

That all the world honours—"I can."

"*No use in trying*,"—nonsense, I say:

Keep trying until you succeed:

But if you should meet "*I forgot*" by the way,

He's a cheat, and you better take heed."

No one is bound to succeed,—the very best men have often failed; but every one is bound to do his best: and when we bravely TRY, difficulties vanish, and we find a strength with us that takes us with surprise.

Let us ever remember that in our own strength our efforts will be a failure. We need strength from God, and He has promised to give it if we ask Him.

The Parable of the Pounds.

HERE is a "story with a meaning" told by Jesus. A nobleman took a long journey, and left a pound with each of his servants. "Occupy," said he—trade, use wisely, make the little into more. It was not that the nobleman wanted more for himself, but he wished to see how wise, industrious, and faithful these servants were. They were left to do as they thought right until his return. They set to work, some idly putting the money by, or even wickedly wasting it; some making a good use of it. Now, what does this mean? Our Master is away from our sight. He went from earth more than eighteen hundred years ago; but He will return, to be a King. And we are waiting for Him. While we wait He has given us something to do—something to do it with. What has He given us? Our minds—that we may learn; our tongues—that we may speak wisely; our busy hands; our loving hearts; Sundays to improve.

Yes, everyone, however "young or small," has the "pound." What shall we do with it? Waste, hide, or improve? How can we improve the gift? By remembering that it is not ours, but Christ's. By seeking His teaching and help, by remembering always that He will come again.



"OCCUPY TILL I COME."

Faithful Johnnie.

YOU have often read of what is called the "Fall of Man;" and when Adam and Eve fell into disobedience, *sin* entered for the first time in the beautiful world that God had made. Perhaps some little child may think, as many a wise man has done before, that God might have made Adam and Eve so that they *could not* do wrong, and only capable of doing what he wished. Why did he not? I will put a little picture before your mind, and perhaps you will guess the reason why.

A father was sitting in his library one day, writing his morning's letters. His little boy of five years old was playing beside him with his toys, when the bell rang, and a servant came upstairs to tell his master that some one wanted him below on important business.

"Johnnie, said the father, as he rose" "put your

hand here, and keep it on that letter of mine, until I come back.

"Yes father," cried the little fellow, delighted to be of any use. But when half an hour had passed away, and no father had come back, Johnnie grew rather tired of his task. He had looked at every picture, and counted every spot on the carpet as far as he could see, and his little hand grew very weary of holding open the page. Another half-hour passed; but Johnnie held bravely on. Father had bidden him, and he would do what father wished; but oh, how tired he was, and how dark it was getting! Where was papa? Poor little Johnnie! Papa had got interested in his business, and started off with the man who had called upon him, forgetting all about his little boy and the letter. And do you know, children, that Johnnie waited an hour and a half before his father came back, and he stood *all that time*, holding

the letter and *obeying his father*. When Papa came back and found what his faithful little boy had done, he caught him in his arms, kissed him lovingly and praised him for his simple obedience.

Now, on the same table where the letter lay stood a heavy stone letter-weight; and had Johnnie's father chosen, he could have put that on his letters, and left it there in perfect safety. The letter-weight was not capable of obeying

him; it could only just lie where he placed it. But had he used it, and come back and found it as he had left it, would he have kissed and praised it, or loved it better for its obedience? Oh no! the difference between Johnnie and the letter-weight was, Johnnie *could* disobey and do wrong, and he obeyed in spite of it; while the letter-weight *could not* disobey, and did right because *it could not do wrong*. Which obedience did the father more value? Which would you?

I think, from this illustration, dear children, you will see why God made Adam and Eve, and you and me, *able to do right or wrong*. He wanted our choice, and real, loving, child like obedience to His wishes; not for us only to do good because we could not do naughtily. When we choose, in spite of being able to do wrong, to do God's will and please Him, He is so good as to love, and to love us, if possible, more dearly. He delights in our loving obedience. Will you try to remember this.

Reading the Law.

Nehemiah 8 : 1-12.

EZRA'S name means a *helper*, and I am sure our little readers will admit that he merited such a name. He was a true helper. He helped the people to learn God's will, and he helped them to do it also. At the head of a band of exiles he returned from the captivity in Bablylon, to Jerusalem, and he brought back many of the vessels of the temple. During the captivity the books of the Law, and even the worship of God, had been lost sight of, and nearly forgotten. The first thing Ezra did was to bring the law before the people, and our lesson to-day tells how he did it.

Do you know any better rule for good reading than the one given you in the 8th verse?—*Read distinctly ;*

give the sense ; make people understand.

Who will remember this when they read or recite verses at the Sunday-school. Think of the Sunday-school in the streets of Jerusalem! *All the men, women and children gathered together to hear God's Word read and explained.* When the people heard the words of God's law and remembered how often they had disobeyed it, they were troubled and wept. But the Levites comforted them and told them that the way

to escape the punishment which the law told about, was to go and do right now. So the people went and did as they were told. The next day they came and heard more read, and then they went and did as that day's lesson told them.

Now, dear children, that is what you are to do. To live out all you learn from God's Word each day. Remember the first thing He tells you to do is to "Believe in Jesus," that is, accept Jesus as your own Saviour, and if you do that, you have His promise that He will help you to do what is right every day of your life. You know the Bible says, "If you know these things happy are ye if ye do them." If the Jews had not obeyed, what they learned would have made them more unhappy; but they obeyed, and so we read in the 17th verse of this chapter, "There was very great gladness." May each dear reader know the joy of being an obedient child of God.

Esther's Petition.

Esther 4: 10-17; 5: 1-3.

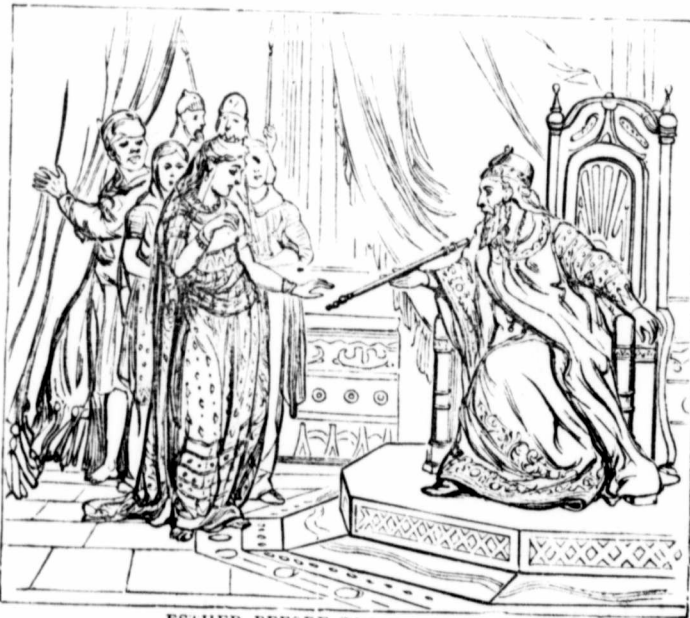
AHASUERUS, the man in the picture holding out the sceptre, was a great and mighty king, and he governed the large kingdom of Persia. After he had been king three years, at a great feast he sent for his beautiful queen, Vashti, but she would not come. The king was very angry, and soon after this he chose a beautiful Jewess, named Esther, as queen in Vashti's place. Though Esther became a grand queen she did not forget the Lord her God, nor did she forget to love her people.

A man called Haman had risen to be next in influence to the king himself. He hated the Jews. He talked with the king and made him promise to have

every Jew, Jewess and child, in all his large country put to death.

Although Esther was in the midst of so much wealth and magnificence, and though her husband was very kind, yet when Mordecai sent word to her of the danger the Jews were in, she was in great trouble. She sent word that she and her maidens would fast three days, and then she would go in unto the king, which was not according to the law, and which might cause her death. Thus,

brave beautiful Esther did not fear to risk her life so that she might save her own people. When the king saw Esther he held out his golden sceptre for her to touch. Now, this was a good sign, and Esther then said that she would like Haman and the king to come to a banquet. At the banquet Esther told the king all that wicked Haman had done, and the king ordered that he should be hanged. You may learn from this lesson that one wicked man may cause a great deal of trouble, but that God is able to punish such persons. Also, that one good person may be useful in bringing joy to others. Which are you doing?



ESTHER BEFORE THE KING.—Esther 5.

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