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THE SUNBEAM

Vol. I.

DECEMBER 4, 1880.

No. 23.



A BROWN STUDY.

WHAT is our Mabel thinking about, I wonder? She has a strange, far-off look in those deep eyes of hers. I wonder is it of the Christmas holidays, now so near, with their fun and frolic, and games and mirth; of Christmas cakes and New Year's presents. Or is it of

something deeper and further off? She looks as if she was trying to look into the future and read what is written in the Book of Fate. Dear child, better not. God only knows that, and He turns page after page, day after day, one by one, and lets us see only what is good for us to know. Put your little hand trustfully in His; make Him the guide of your youth. Go forward where He leads. Remember, God knows your future, and your past, and your present; every act, and word, and thought. As the Jubilee Singers' quaint hymn says:

"He sees all you do,
He hears all you say;
My Lord's a-writing all the day."

A LITTLE girl saw hanging in a Sabbath-school room this text on an illuminated card: "Let us not be weary in well-doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." She caught the idea of its teaching, and in attempting to repeat it at her home she gave a somewhat free rendering in this form: "Don't you get tired of doing good; for if you don't faint away, by-and-by you'll get your pay." The truth as she put it is worth bearing in mind.

The Sunbeam.

TORONTO, DECEMBER 4, 1880.

"HE TOLD MY HEART SO."

"**N**OW do you know that Jesus saves people now?" asked a lady of her Sunday-school class.

One answered, "Because He can not deceive, and is still inviting sinners to come to Him;" another, "Because He never changes." Another quoted the text, "Him hath God exalted to be a Prince and a Saviour, to give repentance and forgiveness of sins." The question came to a little girl at the end of the class. She hung her head a moment, while the colour rose to her forehead, then softly whispered, "Because He told my heart so."

She had heard no voice, she had seen no shape, she was only beginning to read the Bible for herself, and as yet it was a difficult task; but she had been told of the Lord Jesus, who when He was on earth took little children to His arms, and she asked Him to receive her. Into her heart the answer came, she knew not how; but she felt Christ loved her, yes, her in particular—not as one in a great crowd, but as if there was no one else to be loved in the whole world. She was a lamb of Jesus; she belonged to Him; He was *her* Saviour. He had told her heart so.

"In the silence of the twilight
I heard a solemn voice;
In the glory of the sunlight
It bade my heart rejoice.

"It told me I was purchased
At the costly price of blood;
That henceforth I was not my own,
But living unto God.

"So if my heart grows heavy,
Or my weary eyes grow dim,
I whisper softly to myself,
'Still I belong to Him.'"

—*Child's Treasury.*

DEAR CHILDREN FAR AWAY.

IN lands full of darkness across the blue
wave
Are many dear children the Lord died
to save,

Who, reaching out hands from over the sea,
Are pleading for light, here shining so free.

No kind Christian parents to show them
the way,

To tell them of Jesus, to teach them to
pray,

To lead them in paths of wisdom and truth,
And to teach them the love of God in their
youth.

No Bible to lighten life's pathway of gloom,
No hope full of glory beyond the dark
tomb,

No promise of God the sad soul to sustain,
No knowledge that death to the Christian is
gain.

No Jesus, no Bible, how sad is the sight!
While here o'er our pathway the gospel
shines bright.

Let us open our hearts to the poor children
there,

And give them the Bible, our help, and our
prayers.

A BOY'S FAITH.

TWO little boys were talking together
about a lesson they had been re-
ceiving from their grandmother, on
the subject of Elijah's going to heaven in
a chariot of fire.

"I say, Charlie," said George, "but
wouldn't you be afraid to ride on such a
chariot?"

"Why, no," said Charlie, "I shouldn't be
afraid if I knew the Lord was driving."

And that was just the way David felt
when he said, "What time I am afraid I
will trust thee." He knew that neither
chariots of fire nor anything else could
hurt him if God was present as his pro-
tector and friend.—*Sunday-school World.*



THE FIRST SNOW OF THE SEASON.

“**U**RRAH, Tom!” shouted Bert Halliday. “How the snow comes down! We’ll make a snow man—won’t it be jolly!”

So as soon as the snow ceased, out they went and made a big ball, which they rolled and rolled till it grew so big that they could roll it no more. Then they stuck a big snowball on one side for a

nose—rather a snub nose, I am afraid—and Bert scooped out a place for its eyes, and made a mark that looked something like a mouth, and stuck a sprig of holly in it to show more clearly what it was, while Tom stuck a flag on the top of its head—rather a funny place for a flag to be, wasn’t it? But Mabel, Tom’s sister, with her hands in her warm muff, thought it rare fun. She did not know how cold the boys found it

rolling the big snowball with their naked hands. That is the way to become hardy and brave. I hope the dear boys and girls who read the SUNBEAM will all have lots of fun with the first snow of the season.

LESSON NOTES.

B.C. 1689.] LESSON X. [Dec. 5.

THE LAST DAYS OF JACOB; or, A Prophetic Blessing.

Gen. 48. 8-22. Commit to memory verses 15, 16.

GOLDEN TEXT.

And Israel said unto Joseph, Behold, I die; but God shall be with you. Gen. 48. 21.

OUTLINE.

1. An old man's joy, v. 8-12.
2. A prophet's blessing, v. 13-22.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSONS.

1. *An old man's joy*, v. 8-12.—How old was Jacob at this time? A hundred and forty-seven years. Where was he? In the land of Goshen, in Egypt. Who came to see him? Joseph and his two sons. What did Jacob say when he met them? [Read verse 11.] Why did he feel grateful to God? Because God had given Joseph to him again. What did he do to Joseph's children? He kissed them and blessed them.

2. *A prophet's blessing*, v. 13-22.—In what position did Joseph place his children before his father? One on each side. For what did he bring them? For his blessing. Where did he place his oldest son, Manasseh? On the right hand of his father. Where did he place Ephraim, the younger son? On his father's left hand. How did Jacob place his hands upon them? He placed his right hand on the head of the younger son, and his left on the older. What blessing did he pronounce upon them? God's mercy, and an abundant increase. What did Joseph try to do? To change his father's hands. What did he say? [Read verse 18.] How did Jacob answer him? [Read verse 19.] To which did he give the greater blessing? To the younger son. What did Jacob say in the GOLDEN TEXT?

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

1. Remember that God cares for the children of those who serve him.
2. Even those who receive the least of his blessings are greatly blessed.
3. Always try to be worthy of God's promises.
4. Remember that God will be with you, even when your parents die.

B.C. 1635.] LESSON XI. [Dec. 12.

THE LAST DAYS OF JOSEPH; or, A Prince's Faith.

Gen. 50. 14-26. Commit to memory verses 18-21.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The memory of the just is blessed. Prov. 10. 7.

OUTLINE.

1. FEAR, v. 14-18.
2. FORGIVENESS, v. 19-21.
3. FAITH, v. 22-26.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSONS.

1. *Fear*, v. 14-18.—When were Joseph's brothers full of fear? After their father was dead. Of what were they afraid? Of the anger of Joseph. What did they expect? That Joseph would punish them for their wickedness to him. What did they ask of him? Forgiveness. How did they ask it? [Read verse 17.] What did this show? That sin is sure to bring sorrow. What did the brothers of Joseph do? They came and knelt before him.

2. *Forgiveness*, v. 19-21.—How did Joseph receive their request? He wept. What did he say? [Read verse 20.] How did he speak to them? "He spoke kindly, and comforted them." What did he promise them? To help them and care for them. What does this example show us? That we should forgive those who do us wrong.

3. *Faith*, v. 22-26.—How old was Joseph when he died? A hundred and ten years. How did he show his faith in God's promise? [Read verse 24.] What did he forbid them? To bury him in Egypt. What did he command them? To take his body with them to Canaan. What was done with his body? It was embalmed, and kept in a coffin. How long was it kept? Until the Israelites went out of Egypt. What is said in the GOLDEN TEXT?

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

1. See how the guilty are troubled by the memory of their sins.
2. Be ready to forgive those who have done you wrong.
3. See how God brings good out of evil.
4. Depend upon God's promises.

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