

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



OUR YOUNG PEOPLE



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Vol. I.

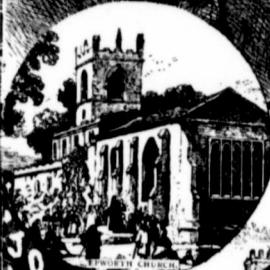
TORONTO, CANADA.

No. 9.

John Wesley.

OUR picture this month presents to our young readers some scenes connected with the life of a great and good man, whose name is associated with a very numerous body of Christians. Perhaps the name Methodist is better known to our children in America, but in England you will hear that of Wesleyans used more frequently. The Wesleyan Methodist Church was founded by John Wesley. He was born in June, 1703. His father was a clergyman of the Church of England. When John was but a little boy, the house in which he lived took fire. In the hurry, John, who was asleep, was overlooked. When he awoke the flames were coming into his room, and the stairs were all burnt. He was at

length saved by two men, one of whom stood upon the other's shoulder and reached to him at a burning window. John never forgot that night, and long afterwards he had these words written under one of his portraits, "Is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?" We have not the space in which to print all the great works he did for God when he became a man. All we can tell you here is, that he became a preacher of the Gospel and did a great work for God amid much ridicule and opposition. On one occasion, being refused the privilege of preaching in the church of Epworth where his father had been the clergyman—it was announced that he would preach outside the church, and every evening for a week he preached to great crowds of people, using for his pulpit his



father's tombstone (see round picture under the portrait). The lower centre picture gives a view of an old foundry which was purchased by Wesley, and became his first chapel. In this building very many persons heard the Gospel and were converted. On Wednesday, Feb. 23rd, 1791, he preached at Leatherhead the last of his 42,400 sermons, and there his voice, which had sounded the good news so far and wide for over 50 years, was heard no more. He died just one week after. "He rests from his labours, but his works do follow him."

Good News.



OUR Young Readers will be pleased to learn that the publisher of this paper has decided to issue it in future every two weeks instead of monthly. We also intend making it more helpful to young Sunday School Scholars by printing, on the last page, stories illustrating the International lessons. We hope our young readers will value the paper and advise their companions to subscribe for it.

A Pledge.

THE superintendent of a Sunday-school in Charleston, Ill., sends the following pledge which has been successfully used in his school:—

COLD WATER ARMY.

Motto: "A Pure Heart in a Sound Body."

ALCOHOL.

I will not buy,
I will not make,
I will not use,
I will not take,
Wine, brandy, beer,
Rum, whisky, gin,
Because they lead
Mankind to sin.

PROFANITY.

I will not curse,
Though many dare
Open their lips
To curse and swear.
My words shall be
Both pure and plain;
I will not take
God's name in vain.

TOBACCO.

I will not smoke	I will not chew,
The smoker's Pets,	I will not snuff,
Those little things	Or waste my time
Called cigarettes.	In playing puff.

We would like to know that every reader of "Our Young People" had taken these pledges, relying on God's grace to help them in keeping them.

"MAMMA," said a little girl when she was looking for a childish treasure she had mislaid, "I think God will help us find it if we ask Him; so I'll pray while you hunt." That showed the little one to have a fitting appreciation of faith and works.

A Child's Hymn.

"JUST as I am," Thine own to be,
Friend of the young, Who lovest me;
To consecrate myself to Thee,
O Jesus Christ, I come.

In the glad morning of my day,
My life to give, my vows to pay,
With no reserve, and no delay,
With all my heart I come.

I would live ever in the light,
I would work ever for the right,
I would serve Thee with all my might,
Therefore to Thee I come.

"Just as I am," young strong, and free,
To be the best that I can be
For truth, and righteousness, and Thee,
Lord of my life, I come.

With many dreams of fame and gold
Success and joy to make me bold;
But dearer still my faith to hold,
For my whole life, I come.

And for Thy sake to win renown,
And then to take my victor's crown,
And at Thy feet to cast it down,
O Master, Lord, I come.

—Marianne Farningham.

What Ailed a Pillow.



WHILE Annie was saying her prayers, Nell trifled with a shadow picture on the wall. Not satisfied with playing alone she would talk to Annie, that mite of a figure in golden curls and snowy gown, by the bed-side.

Annie finished her prayer, and crept into bed, whither her thoughtless sister followed, as the light must be out in just so many minutes. Presently Nell took to floundering, punching, and Oh dear-ing.

"What's the matter?" asked Annie at length.

"My pillow!" tossing, thumping, kneading. "It's as flat as a board, and hard as a stone; I can't think what ails it."

"I know," answered Annie, in her sweet, serious way.

"What?"

"There's no prayer in it."

For a second or two Nell was as still as a mouse, then she scrambled out on the floor, and knelt down.

"That must have been what ailed it," she whispered, soon after getting into bed again; "it's all right now."

I think that is what ails a great many pillows on which restless heads, both little and big, nightly toss and turn; there are no prayers in them.

—Selected.

The Baby Saved in the Basket.

ONE day, two Hebrew children were watching their mother, who was making a basket to hide baby in! Why? King Pharaoh had given orders to drown all the little boys who should be born. Perhaps the father asked God to keep it safe; then they gave the last kiss, and took the last look; and when she had fastened the lid, the poor mother silently carried it away to the river to hide it.

How is it that she could leave the ark among the rushes of the river? A soldier might find it; or a crocodile kill it. The mother had faith in God. He would take care of it.

The baby's sister Miriam is set to watch what becomes of him.

Some ladies come, and the king's daughter with them. They go near the little ark,—they see it,—and one of the ladies sends to fetch it, wondering what it can be.

The lid is unfastened; and inside they find the child alive. He opens his eyes, and begins to cry. The king's daughter loved that child; she saved his life; she wanted a nurse for it.

Miriam asks the princess to let her fetch a nurse; she fetched his mother.

The king's daughter called it her child; but it had no name, so she called it Moses, which means *drawn out*.

If you wish to know more about this little baby and what he did when he grew up to be a man, just read in your Bible commencing at the second chapter of Exodus.

A Child's Prayer.

Preserve and purify my heart;
Renew and cleanse in every part;
And when 'tis pure, Lord, keep it too.
Yea, that is more than I can do.

The First False Step.

IT is the *first false step* that tells. You know that when you tumble down stairs. Oh, if you only had looked where you set your foot, you never would have had all that rolling and tumbling, beyond your control, until you found yourself at the bottom.

So it is with everything else in this world—with the man who falls into dissipated habits; with the woman who loses her self-respect and that of others; with a man who ends a respectable life with some deed that is dishonorable; with all who follow any courses that bring their penalty of shame, suffering, and death. It is the first little step that does all; and it may not seem

so very bad a step in itself—*only* a little wrong. It may be only a mistake, indeed, but the end comes all the same.

Let every boy and girl remember this. Just as it does not do to make a mis-step at the head of the stairs, so it will not do to make even a mistake in the beginning of life—especially a mistake of the sort that leads to vice—for it brings

one to the bottom at last.—*The Myrtle.*

Spoiled Fruit.

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance." Gal. v. 22, 33.

- The little fox "selfishness" will spoil the fruit "love."
- The little fox "discontent" will spoil the fruit "joy."
- The little fox "anxious thought" will spoil the fruit "peace."
- The little fox "impatience" will spoil the fruit "long-suffering."
- The little fox "a bitter word" will spoil the fruit "gentleness."
- The little fox "indolence" will spoil the fruit "goodness."
- The little fox "doubt" will spoil the fruit "faith."
- The little fox "pride" will spoil the fruit "meekness."
- The little fox "love of pleasure" will spoil the fruit "temperance."



Illustrations on the S. S. Lessons for October 4 and 11.

Protected by God.

(2 Kings 6.)



IN this chapter we have an account given of God's care for His children, and how those who trust in Him may feel perfectly safe, although enemies surround them on every side. Some of our young readers may think that this scene is a special one, and that only great prophets are thus protected. This is not so. Every little boy or girl who trusts in the Lord is just as safe as Elisha was. God has said that no weapon formed against us can prosper. No enemy can reach you without God's permission, and if, therefore, things happen to you which seem to be hard, it only *seems* so because you do not understand God's plans, and some day you will see that it was for your good, and you will acknowledge that "He hath done all things well."

In protecting His people, God does so in different ways. Now, let me tell you how He kept the enemy from hurting some Christian people in Scotland about 200 years ago. Those were times of persecution. The poor Christians were "hunted down like wild beasts, tortured till their bones were beaten flat, hanged by scores." Among those persecuted was a man named Alexander Peden, a minister of the Gospel. He had no home to which he dare go, but spent much of his time in the fields and mountains, gathering a few people together to hold a meeting wherever there seemed to be a place of safety.

Once when going to a place of meeting with three or four companions, he was discovered by the moss-troopers, as the king's soldiers were called. As they attempted to make their escape, they found themselves almost surrounded by the soldiers advancing up the mountain. Mr. Peden immediately ordered a halt, and, kneeling down, offered the following prayer:—

"Twine them about the hill, Lord, and cast the lap of thy cloak over old Sandy and the poor things: and we will keep it in remembrance, and tell it to the commendation of thy goodness, pity and compassion, what thou didst for us at such a time."

What he meant was, "Lord, hide us from

them, and save us, and we will give Thee the glory."

He had no sooner risen from His knees than dense volumes of snow-white mist came rolling down from the top of the hills, hiding them from the sight of the soldiers, who, like the men of Sodom (Gen. 19: 11), when they were smitten with blindness, could not grope their way after them. So you see God knows how to deliver His people.

Punished by God.

(2 Kings 7: 1-17)

IN our previous lesson we learned how those who believe in God are protected by Him. In this chapter we learn that those who refuse to believe God will certainly be punished.

In this chapter we learn the wonderful way in which God still took care of His prophet and saved His ungrateful people. The sad fate which befel the man who scoffed at Elisha's words teaches us that God's threatenings are as sure as His promises.

Although there had been a great famine, during which many had died, and many were near death when God so marvellously delivered the city, yet we read of only one man who died

that day, and that was the man who dared to doubt God's message by His servant. If you read the chapter carefully you will notice that this captain was one in favour with his king, and when the people hurried out to secure the food and spoil, the king placed this man in command at the gate of the city. It looked as though after all the prophet's word would not come to pass. But just when he least expected it, and just at the moment when he seemed to be most honored, God fulfilled His word and "the man died."

Dear children, it is an awful thing to doubt God. The great sin for which the world is condemned is unbelief. See what the Bible says in John 3: 18. Do you believe? The unbelieving captain did not escape. How shall we escape? Hebrews 2: 3.



ELISHA AT DOTHAN. (2 Kings vi. 8-23)

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