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THE SUNBEAM

ENLARGED SERIES.—VOL. VII.]

TORONTO, JANUARY 16, 1886.

[No. 2

JACOB RECEIVING TIDINGS OF JOSEPH.

This picture shows the old patriarch, Jacob, receiving the glad tidings that his long lost son, Joseph, whom he had mourned as dead for many years, was alive, and was governor over all the land of Egypt. "And Jacob's heart fainted," says the Bible, "and he believed them not." But when he saw the waggons which Joseph had sent to bring his aged father and his household to Egypt, then the spirit of Jacob revived, and he said: "It is enough, Joseph, my son, is yet alive; I will go and see him before I die." The whole story is one of the most interesting and most wonderful in the Bible. I hope the little readers of SUNBEAM will read for themselves in the 42nd and three following chapters of Genesis.



JACOB RECEIVING TIDINGS OF JOSEPH.

and all the scholars were sad to hear that she was sick. This little boy thought a great deal about her, and would like to take her something to show her how he loved her. But he was poor, and had nothing that he thought she would care for, and no money to buy anything. At last he thought of his kitten,—his only pet. So he tied a piece of braid around pussy's neck, and put her in a basket, and took her to his teacher's home. When the girl who came to the door learned what he had, she asked, "Why, who told you the mice kept her awake at night?" "I guess God knew about it," said the little boy, feeling very happy that his teacher would really care so much for his present. His teacher said it made her almost well again to know that her little scholar loved her so. She has the kitten yet (though now it is an old cat), and makes a great pet of it.

HE that cannot find enough in Christ for a day, how can he expect to find enough in him for eternity?

THE BOY AND HIS PET.

DEAR little boy of the infant school. He had a very dear teacher whom he loved dearly. One day he was not at school

MORNING PRAYER.

THE morning bright,
With rosy light,
Has waked me from my sleep;
Father, I own
Thy love alone
Thy little one doth keep.

All through the day,
I humbly pray,
Be thou my guard and guide.
My sins forgive,
And let me live,
Blest Jesus, near thy side.

Oh, make thy rest
Within my breast,
Great Spirit of all grace;
Make me like thee,
Then shall I be
Prepared to see thy face.

OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL PAPERS.

PER YEAR INSTANT PERK.

The best, the cheapest, the most entertaining, the most popular.

Table listing various Sunday school papers and their prices, including Christian Guardian, Methodist Magazine, and Bazaar Leaf.

WILLIAM BRIGGS.

Methodist Book & Publishing House, 76 & 80 King St. East, Toronto

C. W. COATES
3 Henry Street,
Montreal.

S. F. HERBERT.

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Halifax, N. S.

The Sunbeam.

TORONTO, JANUARY 16 1886.

BEGIN RIGHT.

Our friends may wish us a Happy New Year, and do all they can to help us to this happiness, but it depends largely upon ourselves whether it be ours or not. True living, not for self, but for others; doing not our will, but that of our Saviour, will make us happy, though every outward pleasure should fail us. Therefore, it is all important that we should begin the year right. If the first day be consecrated to Christ and spent in his service, if the first week be devoted to duty, then the next and the next, and so on through the fifty-two,

Then onward, ever onward, from strength to strength we'll go,
While "grace for grace" abundantly shall
from his fulness flow,

To glory's full fruition, from glory's foretaste here,
Until his very presence crown our happiest
New Year.

THE LITTLE COTTAGE MAIDEN.

WHAT was her name? I do not know. But she was a real little girl, eight years old, with bright eyes and gentle ways.

She lived in a cottage with her mother only a few steps from the church. She liked to knit and sew and sing.

One day when this little girl sat by a fence, a gentleman stopped to talk with her.

"How many brothers and sisters have you?"

Two of her brothers were far away on the sea; two lived in a town near by; while a brother and sister were buried in the churchyard. How many will she say there are? Hark! this is what she said:

"Oh, master, we are seven."

"How can that be?" thought the gentleman. He counted. "Two are in heaven,"

he said. He was sure that there were only five left in this world. But the little girl shook her head, and said over and over again, "We are seven."

She told him how she would take her knitting and sit by the little graves in the churchyard, and sing—sweet hymns, perhaps.

Though her brother and sister were in heaven, she counted them with her other brothers and sisters. We may do this, for we do not really lose our friends when they die and go to Jesus. By-and-bye we shall see them in a beautiful new home in heaven.

The gentleman went home and wrote some pretty verses about the little girl, and called the story "We are Seven." Ask mother to read the verses to you.

WHAT IF I HAD BEEN DEATH?"

REV. DR. KING, of Aberdeen, was very eccentric, and had his own way of doing things. One of his people used to tell: I was busy in my shop when, in the midst of my work, in stepped the Doctor. "Did you expect me?" was his abrupt inquiry, without even waiting for a salutation. "No," was my reply. "What if I had been death?" he asked, when at once he stepped out as abruptly as he came, and was gone almost before I knew it.

What a question! What a thought for every one of us! Does not death come to most, if not to all, as unexpectedly as this?

Doesn't the inquiry impress the lesson from our Saviour's lips: "Be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh?"—Spurgeon.



A LETTER TO BO-PEEP.

I WOULD like to know Bo-peep,
Where you feed your sheep,
In the warm, bright summer weather.
Is it amongst the hills
And the little laughing rills,
And the bonny, blooming heather?

Yes, and if they should stray,
From me too far away,
I must seek until I find them;
Or the eagle fierce, you know,
And the great hooked crow,
Might peck out their eyes and blind them.

LEARNING TO SPELL.

ARTHUR is a bright little fellow, just beginning his education. A short time since, in the presence of visitors, he came running to his uncle, exclaiming, "O uncle, I can spell sun!"

"Very well; let us hear," answered the uncle.

"S-u-n, sun."

"That is right. Now let us hear you spell another kind of son?"

Arthur's face wore a puzzle expression for a time, but soon brightened with an inspiration as he sung out, "M-u-n, moon?"

This was greeted with applauding laughter. The uncle then said, "Are you your papa's son?"

"Yes, sir."

"Very well; spell that kind of a son."

"M-e, me!" triumphantly shouted the little chap, to the confusion of his uncle and the glee of the others.—Dew Drop.

WHAT WINNIE THOUGHT.

"Now do you suppose," said Johnny, as his little cousin laid away her largest, rosiest apple for a sick girl, "that God cares about all such little things we children do? I guess he is too busy taking care of the big folks to notice us much."

Winnie shook her head and pointed to mamma, who had just lifted baby from his crib: "Do you think mamma is so busy with the big folks—helping the girls off to school and papa to his office—that she forgets the little ones? She just thinks of baby first, 'cause he's the littlest and needs it most. And don't you think God knows how to love as well as mamma does, Johnny Gray?"



COASTING.

COASTING.

OUR little friend's seem somewhat frightened by their coasting adventure. The little girl hugs her brother as tight as she cau. I hope they will get to the bottom of the hill all right. If they should run into a bush or stone they might get badly hurt.

AMOS AND THE NAILS.

"AMOS, here is a hammer and a keg of nails; I wish every time you do a wrong thing, to drive one of these nails into this post."

"Well, father, I will," said Amos.

After awhile Amos came to his father and said, "I have used all the nails; the keg is empty."

His father went to the spot, and found the post black with nails. "Amos," said he "have you done something wrong for each of those nails?"

"Yes, sir," said the boy.

"Amos," said the father sorrowfully,

"Will you not turn about and try to be a good boy?"

Amos thought a moment and then said, "Father, I'll try."

"Very well," said his father. "Now take the hammer, and every time you do a good act, or resist a wrong one, draw out a nail and put it into the keg again."

After some time the boy came to his father and said, "Come, father, see the nails in the keg again. I have pulled out a nail for every good act, and now the keg is full again."

"I am glad my son," said the father, "but see, the marks of the nails remain."

GOD HEARS.

From the far blue heaven,
Where the angels dwell,
God looks down on children,
Whom he loves so well.

He will hear their praying,
In the day or night,
And with gentle kindness
Guide their steps aright.

A KISS FOR MAMMA

The car was all ready, the aeronaut saying
A few last words ere he sailed away
To the far, blue sky, where the sunbeams
straying
Made perfect the glorious summer day
While thousands and thousands were
gathering nigh,
To wish him good journey, and bid him
good-bye.

A wee little maid with her sunny hair
falling
Back from her beautiful childish brow,
Sprang away from her nurse, her baby voice
calling;
"An please Mr. Man, may I do now?
I want to do up wiv 'oo in 'e sky
To find my own mamma an' tiss 'er dood-
bye."

He kissed the sweet face, while the tear-
drops were shining
On many a cheek hardened with care,
He unclasped the arms round his neck
fondly twining
And sailed from the little one standing
there;
But a sweet voice rose to him, clear and
free,
"Tell mamma I's dood dirl, an' tiss 'er fo'
me!"

—Wide Awake.

A SHEPHERD-BOY'S PRAYER.

A LITTLE lad was keeping his sheep one Sunday morning. The bells were ringing for church, and the people were going over the fields, when the little fellow began to think that he too would like to pray to God. But what could he say? for he had never learned any prayer. So he knelt down and commenced the alphabet—A, B, C, D, and so on to Z. A gentleman happening to pass on the other side of the hedge heard the lad's voice, and looking through the bushes saw the little fellow kneeling, with folded hands and closed eyes, saying "A, B, C."

"What are you doing, my little man?"

The lad looked up. "Please, sir, I was praying."

"But what were you saying your letters for?"

"Why, I didn't know any prayer, only I felt that I wanted God to take care of me and help me take care of the sheep. So I thought if I said all I knew he would put it together and spell all I wanted."

"Bless your heart, my little man, he will, he will, he will. When the heart speaks right, the lips can't say wrong."

The prayer that goes to heaven comes from the heart.—*The Sunday Hour.*

HEATHEN CHILDREN.

Does not Jesus love the children
Who now dwell in heathen lands?
Would he give them like blessing,
Lay on them his gentle hands?

Yes, oh, yes! the Saviour's pity
Limitless and ceaseless flows,
And he died that he might rescue
Them, with you, from endless woes.

And he bids you send the knowledge
Of His love to them afar, -
To the children who in darkness
See not our bright Morning Star.

Oh! be earnest that the tidings
Which to you such mercies bring
May go forth to scatter gladness,
Making all the desert sing.

CHILDREN AND TREE-FROGS.

WHEN I was a small boy I heard a minister say: "Children are like little tree-frogs." I wondered what he could mean by such words as these, for I could see no resemblance between children and tree-frogs. "It is said," remarked the minister, "that the tree-frogs become the colour of the bark of whatever kind of a tree they are on." And he said: "Little boys and girls are like them in this way: they partake of the habits of the children with whom they keep company. If they play with bad children, they will be likely soon to form the same bad habits which they practise." O how true were his words!—*Sunshine.*

LESSON NOTES.

B.C. 587.] LESSON IV. Jan. 24.

CAPTIVITY OF JUDAH.

2 Kings 25. 1-12. Commit to memory vs. 11, 12.

GOLDEN TEXT.

By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion. Psa. 137. 1.

OUTLINE.

1. A Besieged City, v. 1-3.
2. A Captured King, v. 4-7.
3. A Destroyed City, v. 8-10.
4. A Captive People, v. 11, 12.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

Who besieged Jerusalem in the reign of Zedekiah? Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon.

How long did his army surround it? A year and a half.

What was Zedekiah and his soldiers obliged to do? To fly by night.

Who pursued them? Nebuchadnezzar and his army.

What befell Zedekiah? He was taken prisoner.

What was the fate of his sons? They were killed before his eyes.

What was Nebuchadnezzar's command for Zedekiah? That his eyes be put out and he be thrown into prison.

What was done to Jerusalem? The holy temple and all the walls and houses were burned.

Why did they do this? So as to entirely destroy the city.

What became of the people? Many were killed.

What of those who were spared? Nearly all were carried as slaves to heathen lands. (Repeat the GOLDEN TEXT.)

Why did the people of Judah have such trouble and sorrow? Because they left the Lord of their fathers and bowed down to idols.

Did their idols give them help? No; they had no power to do so.

Could God have helped them? Yes, if they had trusted in him.

What does God always give his people? Victory over their enemies.

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

Because the Jews obeyed not the commandments of God, he let the king of Babylon carry many of them away from their pleasant homes in Jerusalem as captives. The GOLDEN TEXT tells you where they went and how they felt. Did wrong-doing ever make you happy in the end? Which is better to do, disobey as they did, or as in Job 36, 11?

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The wages of sin.

Who was Lazarus? One whom Jesus loved, and raised to life when he had been dead four days.

Who was Martha? The sister of Lazarus, who was too much troubled in making a feast for the Lord.

B.C. 605.] LESSON V. [Jan. 31.

DANIEL IN BABYLON.

Jan. 1. 8-21. Commit to memory vs. 20, 21.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word. Psa. 119. 9.

OUTLINE.

1. True to God, v. 8-16.
2. Honoured of Men, v. 17-21.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

Who were among the captives carried to Babylon? Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.

What did the king command them to do? To live in his palace, and eat and drink of the meat and wine from his table.

Why did he give this command? He wanted them trained for high places in his court.

What did Daniel resolve in his heart? To keep the laws of God. (Repeat the GOLDEN TEXT.)

What was one of these laws? All Israelites were forbidden to eat of meat killed by heathens.

What was Daniel's request? That he and his companions be given pulse and water to eat and drink.

What did he mean by "pulse?" A diet of fruit and vegetables.

Of what was the ruler afraid? That they would not thrive on such food.

What did Daniel ask them to do? To try it ten days.

What was the result? Daniel and his friends were healthier and fairer than those who ate of the king's meat.

What did Melzar do? He gave them pulse.

With what did God bless his faithful children? With learning and wisdom.

Of all the captive children, who were chosen by the king to stand before him? Daniel and his friends.

How did he find them? Ten times wiser than all the wise men in his country.

What always brings us blessings? Obedience to God's law.

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

Daniel was tempted, but he was firm in his purpose to do right, and God blessed and prospered him.

"I can't; it would make Jesus sorry," said a little girl, when tempted to do wrong.

What do you say?

"If we from temptation flee,
Jesus all our strength will be."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—God's watchful care.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

Who was Mary, the sister of Martha? The woman that chose the good part, and sat at the feet of Jesus, and heard His word.

Who were the apostles? Those twelve disciples whom Christ chose to be the first preachers of His gospel and rulers of His Church.