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## THE CHLD'S

## BIBLE EXPOSITOR;

or

## Lessons and Records of the Sunday School.

BY MRS. LEONARD.

"When thy word goeth forth, it giveth light and understanding unto the simple."-1'smim cxix, Vense 130.

## TORONTO, SATURDAY, MARCI $27,1 S 41$.

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## TORONTO:

HENRY ROWSELI, KING STMEET.

## THE CHILD'S

## BIBLE EXPOSITOR.

## NUMBER XI.

Lesson from the twenty-third verse of the fourth chapter of St. Matthew to the thirl verse of the fifth chapter.

Mrs. Arnold.--You have now, my dear children, eraced our Saviour's history from the time of his birth to that in which he began his ministry in the borders of Zabulon and Nephthalim. In that land of ignorance and darkness we find him at once actively engaged in the work of his divine mission, and multitudes following him, and flocking from all parts of Judea to hear his preaching, and to witness the wonderfu! works which be performed, such as no man had ever seen before, and which caused them to ask, "What manner of man is this?" Read, Lucy, the first three verses of your lesson for to-day.

Lucy.-" Ind Jcsus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sichness and all manner of disease among the people.
"And his fame went throughout all Syia: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with
divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.
"And there followed him great multitudes of people from Galilee, and from Decapolis, and from Jerusalem, and from Judea, and from beyond Jordan."

Mrs. Arnold.-We will now search for some of the particelar instances in which our Saviour's wonderful works were shewn at that time, and other records of his preaching, which confirm what you read in your lesson respecting his employment while he continued in Galilee. Find the ninth chapter of St. Matthew, Mary, and read the thirty-fifth verse.

Mary.—"And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and eveity dfsease among the people."

Mrs. Arnold.-In the teith chapter of Acts, St. Peter thus speaks of our Saviour and his ministry: "That word, Isay, ye know, which was published throughout all Judea, arid began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached;
"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the infy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him." Now look, Elizabeth, for the frst chapter of St. Mark, and read from the thirty-second to the thirty-fourth verses.

Elizabeth.-"And at even, when the sun did set, they brought unto him all that were diseased, and them that were possessed with devils.
"A ad all the city was gathered together at the door.
"And he healed many that were sick of divers disenses. and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they kncw him."

Mrs. Aruold.-In the third chapter of St. Mark several of our Savious's miracles and some of his discourses are recorded. The scribes and Pharisces were probably indignant to find another teacher, and one so much opposed to them, so suddenly attracting imenense crowds of followers, and they plotted together to destroy pim. Read, Charles, from the sixth to the tenth verse.

Charles.-"And the Pharisees went forth, and straightway took counsel with the Merodianss againṣ inim, how they might destroy him.
"But Jesus withdrew himself with his disciples to the sea: and a great muttitude from Galilee followed him, and from Judea,
"And from Jerusalem, and from Idumea, and from beyond Jordan; and they about Tyre and Sidon, 2 great multitude, when they had heard what great things he did, came unto him.
"And he spake to his disciples, that a small ship should wait on him because of the multitude, kest they should throng him.
"For he had healed many; insomuch that they pressed upon him for to touch him, as many as had plagues."

Mrs. Arnold.-Of the multitudes who followed our Saviour, many must have witnessed the mifacles which he performed; on one occasion, when the house in which he preached was so full that no more persons could find entrance, some people brought a man who was sick of the palsy: "and when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was;
and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed whereon the sick of the palsy lay.
"When Jesus sas their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee."

Some of the envious and unbelieving scribes and Pbarisees were present, and as they were always ready to put a wrong construction upon every word and act of our Saviour, they began to think among themselves inat he had spoken blasphemously and wickedly, for they thought, This man professes to forgive sins, which no one but God has a right to do. Jesus however knew their thoughts, as he knows ours, even before they are spokeu in words, and he said," Why do you reason thus in your hearts? whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy, Thy sins be forgiven thee, or to say, Arise, take up thy bed, and walk?
"But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (he saith to the sick of the palsy,)
"I say unto thee, Arise, take up thy bed, and go thy ways unto thine own house.
"And immediately he arose, took up his bed, and went forth before them all; insomuch that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, We never saw it on this fashion."

Many more of these acts of power and benevolence we read of in the Gospels, which we have not time now to search for; but when we find that our Saviour publicly performed such works as were far beyond the power of man to accomplish, and that they were done in the presence of the many who followed him from place to place, it seems strange to us that the number of
those who adhered faithfully to him should have been so few, and we naturally think that if he was now on earth, and we could see him and hear his voice, we should be ready to serve and to worship him, and to leave every thing else for his sake; but do not deceive yourselves, my dear little flock; the same pride of heart, and love of the world, and the same spirit of opposition and unbelief, and the same carelessness and indifferepce about eternity, and the same culpable presumption on the mercy of God, which led the Jews to pay little attention to our Saviour's words when he was on earth, are at work in our hearts at this day, and make us cold and heedless of his written word, and forgetful of all he Las done for us. The scribes and Pharisees persecuted and opposed our Saviour during his life; they would have silenced his preaching if they could, and they did all they could to prevent its effects upon the hearts of others who listened to it, while all the time they affected a high regard for religion, and a more than ordinary share of picty; but I have told you rnat there are very few offeaces against God recorded in the Bible which we may not find lurhing in our own hearts if we search diligently for them; and we are guilty of this sin of the Pharisees if ever we lay clain to a character for religious feeling and observances, and are not careful in every particular to act consistently with our profession. And when we read of the miracles, and of the exemplary and much enduring life of our blessed Saviour, and treat his boly word with aeglect and indifference, not allowing our bearts or actions to be influenced by his Gospel, we are like the stubborn and faithless Jews, who heard his preaching and witnessed his miracles, and yet were
unconverted. Jesus still lives for us, but not on rarth; but he sees and knows as much of your thoughts, and of what is passing in your hearts, as if he were here in his bodily presence. He docs not now call you by name as he called his twelve disciples to follow him; but every lesson you learn in the bithe, and every sermon you hear from the pulpit, is a call from him to become his children, and to be his followers, and not children and followers of the Prince of this world. There is something cheering and encouraging to Christians when they find as we do in almost every page of the Gospcl instances of the mercy and benevolence of our Saviour, which shew that he whe is unchanged and unchangeable can look with compassion and pity on the sorrows of poor mortals, and is ready to relieve them. Read, Harrict, from the eleventh to the fifteenth verse of the seventh chapter of St. Luke.

Harriet.-"And it came to pass the day after, that be went into a city called Nain; and mány of̃ his uisciples went with him, and much people.
"Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of bis mother, and she was a widow : and much people of the city was with her.
"And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not.
"And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise.
"And he that was dead sat un, and began to sneak. And he delivered him to his mother."

Mrs. Arnold.-Many such incidents are recorded in the bible, which I hope we shall come to in the course
of your lessons. At present we must go on to the remaining verses of your lesson to-day, and this bring ${ }^{3}$ us to wur Saviour's sermon on the mount, which I wish you to learn and to listen to as if the roice which first spoke these words were now addressing them to you. Mad, Mannah, the three first verses of the fifth chapter of St. Mathew.

Hamah.-"And secing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain, and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:
". Ind he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,
"Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Mrs. Arnold.-Do you remember, Elizabeth, what was said of the "poos in snirit" in the book we were reading yesterday?

Elizabeth.-"'The poor in spirit are those who seek for no earthly distinction; court no worldly wealth; are thankful for what they have, and think it more than they deserve."

Mrs. Arnold.- You will find, in studying the Bible, that in no portion of it are we promised peace, happiness, or any other blessing, except such as arise from our obedience and humility. There is no promise of happiness arising from worldly wealth or high station, or gratified ambition. These blessings, if such they are, depend upon our steady adherence to Christian principles, in the love and fear of God. Wealth is only one of Satan's most dangerous snares, if it render us proud, or coretous, or hard-hearted, and lovers of pleasure and ease rather than faithful servants of God. High station only makes us more deeply responsible for our actions,
since many more look to the rich and great for an example tha: to those who live in humble obscurity, therefore the extent of evil done ty people in an exalted station, is greater in proportion to their means of doing either good or evil; so that however successful you may be in life and in worldly pursuits, your success will add nothing to your happiness, but rather take away from it, unless all your advantages are held in subservience to the commandments of God, and received as talents given by him to be used in his service and for the benefit of your fellow-creatures, not in selfish indulgence, or a covetous and grasping spinit. You will see that in the address of our Saviour to his disciples, he describes those who are blessed in a very different way from that in which a worldly-minded person would describe them. He does not say blessed are the rich, or the great, or the powerful, or the successful, or the wise, or the learned. None of those things seem to him even worth mentioning as any portion of the blessings promised to his followers; but he says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of bearen." To be "poor in spirit" is to be of an humble, meek, gentle and teachable disposition. We are all poor in the sight of God, whatever we may think of ourselves: the very best of us have no iighteousness, nor wisdom, nor goodness, nor strength of our own to boast of; in ourselves we are all under condemnation as simners, and are, in respect of heavenly things, poor, and naked, and blind, and miserable; and those only are blessed who know this to be their state, and, feeling their poverty and helplessness, come to Jesus Christ for help, and trust to him for safety. Find the thirty-fourth.Psalm, Lucy, and read the eighteenth verse.

Lucy.-"The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit."

Mrs. Arnold.-We have but a few minutes more on our hands, but we will employ them in finding such passages of Scripture as firther explain the nature and advantages of the "porerty of spirit" which our Saviour has pronounced to be blessed. Look for the fifty-seventh chapter of Isaiah, Ilannah, and read the fifteenth verse, and then go on to the sixty-sixth chapter, and read the first and second verses.

Ifamah.-"For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Moly; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.
"Thus saith the Lord, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is $m y$ footstool: where is the fouse that e build unto me? and where is the place of my rest?
"For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the Lord: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word."

Mrs. Arnold.—The whole of the fifty-first Psalm is descriptive of that sorrow for sin and humiliation in the sight of God which is sure to arise from the poverty of spirit approved and blessed by our Creator and Judge. Find it, Mary, and read the seventeenth verse.

Mary.-"'The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despisc."

Mrs. Arnold.-And now, as our time is expired, and we must close the lessons for to-day, let us conclude
with a portion of the Proverbs of Solomon, and see what was the opinion of the wisest man in the world on the subject of pride and bumility, and their several advantages. Find the sixteenth chapter of Proverbs, Charles, and read the eighteenth and ninetcenth verses.

Charles.-" Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.
" Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud."

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