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# THE SUNBEAM

ENLARGED SERIES—VOL. X.]

TORONTO, MAY 4, 1889.

[No. 9.

## BIRDS REMEMBER.

SOME years ago two boys, while playing upon a cliff near the sea, found a young sea bird which a dog was worrying. It would have been killed but for them. They drove away the dog and carried the bird, nearly as large as a goose, safely home. There it was shut up in a coop, like the hens and chickens, fed and kindly cared for. It soon became quite tame, and manifested constant affection for its little masters, who felt quite proud of the result of their care. And thus weeks and months rolled on. In the fall of the year the bird became very tame, the coop was occasionally opened, and the prisoner permitted to go to the coast near which the boys lived. But it came regularly home at night, receiving its supper along with the rest of the birdies, and crept to its nest to repose. So the cold winter passed away, and the spring came. One night the bird which had been cared for so well

was missed. It did not come home. The next day and the next went by, and still the coop was empty. The fact was, the boys' bird had been coaxed away. I cannot really say into bad company, but it had joined a flock on its way north,

and flown with the rest. Presently the boys began to comprehend the difficulty, and as a matter of course they had to have a good cry about it. They had really learned to love their bird, and to part with it, for them, was a severe trial. That is all

similar events are recorded. One cold autumn day, as the boys were at play in their yard, they saw a flock of sea birds coming towards them. Nearer and nearer they came, until at last, to their great surprise, the whole flock settled upon the

ground close at hand, and the largest waddled along towards them, quacking most curiously as she came. It was the bird which had flown away in the spring now returned with her young ones to claim hospitality for the winter. You may imagine, if you can, the delight of the boys, and indeed that of their parents, at this instance of affection. Words cannot describe it. You may make up your mind that the flock was not turned adrift, though for a long time the young ones were pretty wild, and did not take as kindly to the boys as the mother did. Ah, well; they did not know them as well.



LITTLE MISS CONSEQUENCE.

very natural, for kindness, no matter upon what creature bestowed, ever begets kindness, and to part with an object that we love is ever painful.

Some boys and girls will, no doubt, anticipate the end of my story, for many

He who climbs above the cares of the world and turns his face to heaven, has found the sunny side of life. The world's side of the hill is chill and freezing to a spiritual mind, but the Lord's presence gives a warmth of joy which turns winter into summer.

### NOW I LAY ME DOWN TO SLEEP.

GOLDEN head so lowly bending  
Little feet so white and bare;  
Dewy eyes, half shut, half opened—  
Lisping out her evening prayer.

Well she knows when she is saying,  
"Now I lay me down to sleep,"  
'Tis to God that she is praying,  
Praying him her soul to keep.

Half asleep, and murmuring faintly,  
"If I should die before I wake"—  
Tiny fingers clasped so saintly—  
"I pray the Lord my soul to take."

O the rapture, sweet, unbroken,  
Of the soul who wrote that prayer!  
Children's myriad voices floating  
Up to heaven, record it there.

If of all that has been written,  
I could choose what might be mine,  
It should be that child's petition,  
Rising to the throne divine.

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## The Sunbeam.

TORONTO, MAY 4, 1889.

### GIVE THE LITTLE ONE A LIGHT.

If a child wants a light to go to sleep by, give it one. The sort of Spartan firmness which walks off and takes away the candle and shuts all the doors between the household cheer and the warmth and pleasant stir of evening mirth, and leaves a little son or daughter to hide its head under the bed-clothes and get to sleep as best it can, is not at all admirable. Not that the dear mother means to be cruel when she tries this or that hardening process, and treats human nature as if it were clay, to be molded into any shape she may please. Very likely she has no idea whatever of the injury and suffering she causes, or

perhaps her heart aches, but she perseveres, thinking she is doing right.

Children are very often obliged to endure a great deal of unnecessary hardship by being subjected to absurd methods of discipline which every good mother ought to avoid. Many a delicate, nervous child has suffered through life from the effects of such treatment. Try to dispel their fear of the darkness by reasoning with them, but do not compel them to remain in the dark against their will.

#### LITTLE ALICE'S PRAYER.

"I DON'T want to say my prayer," said little Alice. "I'm tired of saying my prayer, mamma."

And a dear little girl, in a white night-dress, with soft, golden curls, and such a bright, chubby face, stood up by her mother's side, instead of kneeling down, and looked very mischievous as she watched the loving eyes that were bent upon her.

Mrs. Macy sighed, and scarcely knew what was best to do with her little daughter, whom she had given to God as soon as she was born, and had prayed Him daily to make her His own child. And now she was tired of saying her prayers! But she was only four years old, and the mother asked gently:

"And does my little Alice feel willing to go to bed without thanking her heavenly Father for taking care of her all day?"

Alice laughed and kissed her mother on both cheeks and then on her mouth. This she called "a French kiss." Then she went to her auntie who was lying sick on the sofa; and auntie whispered:

"Who will take care of little Alice to-night, when it is all dark in the house?"

Alice dearly loved to be whispered to, and she answered in the same tone:

"Mamma will take care of me."

"No," said auntie, "Mamma will be asleep."

"Papa, then," persevered the little one.

"Papa will be asleep, too."

"Then auntie will," said Alice, triumphantly.

"But auntie will be upstairs, and perhaps asleep, too," was the reply, for the invalid could not feel at all sure that sleep would come to her. "God never sleeps, though. His kind, watchful eye is over us all the time, and He takes especial care of little children."

"Will He take care of me?" asked Alice, in an awe-stricken tone.

"You have not asked Him to," replied auntie; "and He has told us to ask Him for what we want."

Alice's bright eyes looked steadily at her aunt for a moment; and then she kissed her and danced off to bed. She was asleep almost as soon as her head touched the pillow.

But in an hour or two there was a dismal wail for "Mamma!" and Mrs. Macy hastened into the little room opening from her own, where Alice's crib stood.

"Mamma, mamma!" sobbed the little one, "I want to be taken care of."

Then auntie had to explain what this meant; and Alice knelt in the crib, and repeated the childish prayer taught her as soon as she could speak. Then she went to sleep again, with a smile on her lips; and the invalid thought of the beautiful promise:

"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty."

And she felt in the wakeful watches of the night that she was "taken care of" too.

#### A BROTHER'S CHARGE.

ONCE day a little boy asked his mother to let him lead his little sister out on the green grass. She had just begun to run alone, and could not step over anything that lay in the way. His mother told him that he might lead out the little girl, but charged him not to let her fall. I found them at play, very happy in the field.

I said, "You seem very happy, George. Is this your sister?"

"Yes, sir," answered the little fellow.

"Can she walk alone?"

"Yes, sir, on smooth ground."

"And how did she get over these stones which lie between us and the house?"

"Mother charged me to be careful that she did not fall; and so I put my hands under her arms and lifted her when she came to a stone, so that she need not hit her little foot against it."

"That is right, George; and I want to tell you one thing. You see now how to understand the beautiful text, 'For He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.' God charges his angels to lead and lift his people over difficulties, just as you have lifted little Annie over these stones. Do you understand it now?"

"Oh, yes, sir; and I shall not forget it while I live."

Can one child thus take care of another, and can not God take care of those who trust Him? Surely he can. There is not a child who may read this story over whom he is not ready to give his holy angels charge.

LITTLE FOLKS' WORLD.

FAR away, and yet so near us, lies a land  
 where all have been;  
 Played beside its sparkling waters, danc'd  
 along its meadows green;  
 Where the busy world we dwell in and its  
 noises only seem  
 Like the echo of a tempest, or the shadow  
 of a dream;  
 And it grows not old forever—sweet and  
 young it is to-day;  
 'Tis the Land of Little People, where the  
 happy children play.  
 And the things they know and see there  
 are so wonderful and grand,  
 Things that wiser folks and older cannot  
 know and understand;  
 In the woods they meet the fairies, find the  
 giants in their caves,  
 See the palaces of cloudland, and the mer-  
 men in the waves,  
 Know what all the birdies sing of, hear the  
 secrets of the flowers;  
 For the Land of Little People is another  
 world than ours.  
 Once 'twas ours; 'tis ours no longer; for  
 when nursery-time is o'er,  
 Through the Land of Little People we may  
 wander nevermore.  
 But we hear their merry voices, and we see  
 them at their play;  
 And our own dark world grows brighter,  
 and we seem as young as they,  
 Roaming over shore and meadow, talking  
 to the birds and flowers;  
 For the Land of Little People is a fairer  
 world than ours.

LESSON NOTES.

SECOND QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

A.D. 30] LESSON VI. [May 12

THE ANOINTING AT BETHANY

Mark 14, 1-9. Commit to mem. vs. 8, 9.

GOLDEN TEXT.

She hath done what she could. Mark 14, 8.

OUTLINE.

1. A Ministry, v. 1-3.
2. A Memorial, v. 4-9.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

Who lived at Bethany? Mary, and Martha, and Lazarus.  
 Whom did they love dearly? Jesus.  
 What great work had be done for them? He had raised Lazarus from the dead.  
 Who made the supper for Jesus in Bethany? Simon.

Who served at the supper? Martha.  
 What did Mary bring with her? A box of costly ointment.  
 What did she do with it? She anointed the head of Jesus.  
 Why did she do this? To show her love for him.  
 Why did some find fault? They said it was a waste.  
 What did they not understand? That it was a gift of love.  
 What did Jesus say? That she had done a good work.  
 What does this show? That he is pleased with our gifts of love.  
 What did Jesus say should be known everywhere? Mary's deed of love.  
 What do God and the angels love to see? Our deeds of love.  
 From what kind of a heart do such acts spring? From a loving heart.  
 Where may we get love? "Love is of God."

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

Have I an alabaster box to bring to Jesus?  
 Perhaps a play-hour spent with a poor sick child, for Jesus' sake, may be my alabaster box.  
 Perhaps I may give up some treat, and use the money to help and bless somebody.  
 Perhaps I may give some time to work for Jesus which I would like to have for my own work.  
 Jesus said, "She hath done what she could."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—True service.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

5. *What can God do?* God can do whatever he will.
6. *Does God know all things?* Yes, God knows all things; every thought in man's heart, every word, and every action.

A.D. 30] LESSON VII. [May 19

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Mark. 14, 12-26. Commit to mem. vs. 22-24.

GOLDEN TEXT.

This do in remembrance of me. Luke 22, 19.

OUTLINE.

1. The Passover, v. 12-21.
2. The Lord's Supper, 22-26.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

With whom did Jesus eat the passover feast? With his disciples.  
 Where did they eat it? In Jerusalem.  
 What was eaten at this feast? A lamb roasted with bitter herbs.

Of what was the passover a type? Of the death of Christ.  
 Why do we call Christ our Passover? Because he was the Lamb of God slain for us.  
 By whom did Jesus say he should be betrayed? By one of the twelve.  
 What did he say of the betrayer? "Woe to that man."  
 What did Jesus do after the passover, was eaten? He blessed bread and break it.  
 To whom did he give it? To his disciples.  
 What did he say? "Take, eat; this is my body."  
 What did he then give them to drink? The cup of wine.  
 What did he say of it? "This is my blood."  
 For whom did Jesus shed his blood? For all who love and obey him.  
 What is this feast of bread and wine now called? The Lord's Supper.  
 Why do Christians eat it? To show that they remember Jesus.  
 Why ought we to remember Jesus? Because he remembered us.

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

Jesus has made a feast to which he invites all his friends.  
 The children are just as welcome as the big folks. It is called the Lord's Supper. We eat it to show that we remember Jesus.  
 Do you remember him at home? at school? at work? at play? as well as at church?

"The eyes of the Lord are in every place."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The Lamb of God.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

7 *Will he call us to account for all we think or do?* At the last day God shall bring every word into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil.

MORNING AND EVENING.

SPEAK kindly in the morning. It will lighten all the cares of the day, turn sorrow into gladness, make the affairs of life move along more smoothly, giving peace to the one who thus speaks, and grateful joy to the one who hears. Speak kindly at the evening hour, for it may be that before the dawn of another day some tenderly loved one may finish his or her span of life in this world, and then it will be too late to recall an unkind word, or even to seek forgiveness for an injury inflicted upon the heart of a loved friend departed.



THE CARELESS NURSE.

### THE FIRST RUBBER BOOTS.

THAT precious pair of rubber boots,  
So tall, so black, so shining!  
They're just the things, the very things,  
For which our Ned's been pining.

And now he calls them all his own,  
A happy thought comes o'er him,  
And when he kneels to say his prayers  
He sets the boots before him.

Then into bed our darling goes,  
His treasures near him keeping;  
For on the pillow one small head  
Between two boots is sleeping.

Through snow, through slush, and in the  
rain—

Oh, never mind the weather!—  
The rubber boots, the little Ned,  
They trudge along together.

His feet go dabbling in the brook,  
Just like two little fishes,  
And then he runs to tell mamma  
The funniest of wishes.

"I wish I was a puss-tat, ma,  
Just like our old gray Molly,  
Then I could wear four rubber boots,  
Oh, wouldn't that be jolly?"

### SEED DAYS.

WHERE do we raise grain, or plants, or  
flowers?

We raise them in the gardens or in the  
field. To do it, we must plough, dig, hoe,  
and thoroughly work the soil. But is this  
all that is necessary? No; there must  
first be seed sown. Suppose we should  
plant beads, and buttons, and pearls, and  
diamonds. Would there be any crop?

Of course not, because these things have  
no life in them; but seeds which are sown  
have in them life which comes from God.

Nothing good can be got from the soil  
until something good has been put into it.  
The seed must be planted before it will  
grow.

We cannot get beans or peas out of the  
ground until we put beans or peas into the  
ground. No plant will grow unless the  
seed is first placed in the soil. There is a  
time to plant. If we sow corn in November we  
should get no crop. We must sow our own  
seed in the seed-time if we would have it  
ripened in the harvest day.

The Bible tells us about seed which is  
sown in the hearts of men.

What is that seed? The sower soweth  
the word, and this seed sown in our hearts  
springs up in all the fragrant flowers and

precious fruits that adorn and bless the  
Christian life.

But when is the time to sow this seed?  
In the autumn, or when the chilling wind  
has come? when old age creeps on, and the  
harvest is past and the summer is ended?  
No, the time to sow this good seed is in the  
spring.

It is sown in childhood, when hearts are  
young and fresh, and open to receive the  
good word of God. Thus from childhood  
we may know the Scriptures which are able  
to make us wise unto salvation.

Dear children, if your hearts are not sown  
with good seed, the thorns and briars of sin  
and sorrow, the weeds of folly and vanity,  
will be sure to grow instead.

If you would have good fruit, you must  
sow good seed. Pray that God will help you  
that you may bring forth fruit with patience,  
some thirty, some sixty, and some an hun-  
dredfold.

### KEEP THY HEART.

MARTIN had been learning his morning  
verse out of his little "Dew Drops." It  
was this: "Keep thy heart with all dili-  
gence, for out of it are the issues of life."  
He didn't understand it at all, and went to  
his mother to have it explained. She said  
this to him:

"What makes people swear? At first  
bad temper. They get angry, or mad, as  
children say, and say bad words. Then  
they become used to them, they do not  
seem so bad after awhile, and by-and-by  
they use them in their common conversation.

"What makes people commit murder?  
Anger again. It gets possession of the  
heart, expresses itself in bad words, and if  
it is not controlled, leads to fighting and  
violence. Anger is like a fire within. You  
must quench it as soon as it is kindled.

"What makes people steal? First they  
wish for something they see which is not  
their own. Then they think how to get it.  
They begin by taking small things, and if  
they are not found out, they grow bolder  
and bolder. You see that wicked desires  
lead to wicked words and to wicked actions.

"What makes people lie? They have  
done something wrong, and they wish to  
hide it; or they tell a great story that  
others may think well of them. Lies grow  
straight out of the heart.

"So, my son, you must watch your heart  
with great care. Pray that God will teach  
you how to discover the very beginning of  
sin, and to smother it. This it is to keep  
the heart 'with all diligence;' and the  
reason is plain enough; 'for out of it are  
the issues of life.'"