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THE SUNBEAM

ENLARGED SERIES.—VOL. IX.]

TORONTO, MARCH 10, 1888.

[No. 3

THE YOUNG NURSE.

The little girl in the picture seems to be carefully waiting on her sick brother though he does not seem to be very sick

that need it. I hope my little friends will all learn this blessed art. They may in after years brighten many a sad hour, and nurse, it may be, some loved one, back life.

bids me I have to. But then I go right away by myself and fold my hands, and look up and say, 'O God, please to forgive if I have sinned. Thou knowest I cannot



THE YOUNG NURSE.

either, and if he eats all the breakfast that is prepared for him, he can't be very sick. There is nothing that so calls forth the sympathies, or cultivates kindness, as waiting on those

A GOOD EXAMPLE.

A LITTLE girl in India was asked by the mission lady if she bowed to the idol of the house. "Yes," she said, "when mother

help myself, because my mother will beat me." What a good lesson this is for a child who is compelled to do anything wrong.

SWEET BESSIE.

"Oh, where are you going, sweet Bessie?
Oh, where are you going to-day?
I met all the other children
So happily, down the way,
As if there was nothing at all to do,
But to sing, and laugh, and play."

"I am doing an errand for Jesus;
And though I am not at play,
I am learning to be useful,
And am happier far than they."

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The Sunbeam.

TORONTO, MARCH 10, 1888.

LITTLE SINS.

LITTLE sins grow. They are not like spiders or wasps which we can put our foot on and crush if need be; but like little lions, which seem as harmless as kittens at first, but grow into fierce, roaring, wild beasts.

There is a lad about fifteen years old in State's prison, put in for five years, for stealing. He says he remembers well the first thing he ever stole. It was a ten-cent piece which was lying on the mantel in a lady's house, where he was doing some work. When no one was looking he slipped it into his pocket, and oh, how frightened he was afterwards for fear he would be found out. But he was not, and so the next time he had the chance, he stole again, and kept on growing worse and worse, until at last, with some other boys he broke into a house.

People seldom do very wicked things at first. They do little wrong things; so little, that they say, "Oh, that's nothing; there's no harm in that." But the little things grow and grow into big things, and then people see no harm in them.

Dear children, there are no little sins in God's sight. All are very large and very black.—Morning Light.

A BRAVE BOY.

HENRY BLAKE went off to a boarding-school. He was put into a room to sleep where there were several other boys. Henry knelt down to pray, before going into bed, as he had been accustomed to do at home. The other boys threw their shoes at him, while he was praying.

The next night Henry prayed after he had gotten into bed, with the covers all drawn over his head. But he felt himself to be a coward, and the next night knelt at his bedside as before. Some of the boys threw shoes at him again; others began to feel ashamed of themselves. Henry kept on his brave course night after night. Fewer shoes were thrown each night, until at last there were none at all, and, instead, other boys, who had been taught to pray at home, knelt at their bedsides and prayed.

Will not all these boys and girls enlist in the army of the Lord, and do what they can to fight wrong wherever they see it?

"Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
Ye soldiers of the cross;
Lift high the gospel banner;
It must not suffer loss.
From victory unto victory
His army shall be led,
Till every foe be vanquished,
And Christ is Lord indeed."

AN OLD FASHIONED STORY.

"ALICE and Harriet, take your knitting-work. John and Henry, you may each bring nine armfuls of wood into the woodshed. May, you may take your slate and write; and I guess if they are let alone the two babies will take care of themselves. Now, for half an hour, let us have silence. If anybody speaks, let it be in a whisper." The fact was that there had been so much noise, and some of it in half quarrelsome tones, that Mrs. Ford was tired, and took the best way to stop it, for half an hour at least. The children were all young, and all wanted their own way. But they had learned to mind their mother.

So there was silence in the kitchen, except the noise the little mother made with her baking, and the occasional prattle of the two babies. Little May sat with her slate on her knee, looking thoughtful. She wrote and erased, and wrote again with much painstaking labour. At last she seemed satisfied, and going to her mother, said in a whisper: "May I have a little piece of white paper and a pencil out of your drawer? I want to copy something." "What is it? Let me see," said her mother. May hesitated and blushed, but held it up

to her, saying, "You won't tell, will you mother?"

Her mother read it twice over. Tears gathered in her eyes.

"You won't tell anybody, will you?" entreated little May. "No, no, certainly not! It shall be a secret between you and me."

She got a nice piece of paper, and sharpened the pencil anew for the child, although she was pie-making. May copied it very carefully, and laid it away in the bottom of her handkerchief box, saying: "I shall see it often there, and nobody goes there but mother and I." But it happened one day that Harriet was sent to distribute the pile of clean handkerchiefs from the ironing into the different boxes, and as May's was empty, she saw the writing. It was so short that she took it in at a glance.

"Alwas spek plesent when Eennybody speks X.—MAY." Somehow it fixed itself in Harriet's mind, and that evening she was busy with pen and ink. The result was a writing in Harriet's handkerchief box, with a resolution, written more neatly, but to the same effect:

Resolved,—That I will try this year to return pleasant words for cross ones.—HARRIET FORD.

GOD'S "FUNDER."

FRANKIE and Bessie were two little ones of whom I have just heard. The other day, when out on an errand for their mamma, they were overtaken by a shower, and stopped under a shed to wait until the rain was over.

Frankie was the older of the two, and he always felt very proud when taking care of Bessie. By and by there came a peal of thunder, that seemed to crash right down over their heads, and they saw the forked lightning flashing. It was too much for Bessie, and she began to cry.

"You needn't be afraid of the funder, sister," said master Frankie; "'cause it's all Jesus' funder, and he won't lef it come this way, 'cause we'll pray him not to."

BE CAREFUL HOW YOU ASK.

"WILLIE, if you do not mind how you pray, Jesus will not listen to your prayers. You wouldn't ask mamma for anything you really wanted in such a careless way." So said a little girl to her brother who was running over his prayers very fast, without thinking what he was saying.

Do you ever ask mamma for anything you want in such a careless way? Then, how should you pray to Jesus?

THE CHILDREN'S MITE.

LITTLE hands, be free in giving;
Little hearts, be glad to serve;
Each unselfish act of living
God fails never to observe.

Give not only gold and treasure—
Give your sympathy and care;
Love that knew not stint nor measure
Jesus scattered everywhere.

All the goods your hands can carry,
When you go to God on high,
And your blessings to the weary,
To the sick and poor who sigh.

Angels garner up in heaven
Every gentle word and deed,
All the joy your lives have given
To God's little ones in need.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

A.D. 30.] **LESSON XII.** [Marc's 18.

THE SON REJECTED

Matt. 21. 33-46. Commit to memory vs. 42-44.

GOLDEN TEXT.

He came unto his own, and his own received him not. John 1. 11.

OUTLINE.

1. The Rejected Heir.
2. The Rejected People.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

What parable did Jesus relate to the Jews? The parable of the vineyard.

To whom did the fruit of the vineyard belong? To the owner of the vineyard.

Whom did he send for it? His servants.

How did the husbandmen, in charge of the vineyard, receive the servants? They stoned them, and beat them, and killed them.

Whom did the owner send last of all? His well-beloved son.

Why did he send him? He said, "They will reverence my son."

What did the husbandmen plan to do when they saw him coming? To kill him and divide his inheritance among themselves.

What did Jesus ask the Jews, who were listening to him? "What will the Lord of the vineyard do when he comes back?"

How did they answer? He will destroy the wicked husbandmen and give the vineyard to others.

What did he wish to show the Jews by this parable? What God had done for them, and how they had treated God.

What servants of God had they persecuted and killed? The prophets and John the Baptist.

Whom had God sent them last of all? Jesus, his well-beloved Son.

What were they then planning to do? To kill him. (Repeat GOLDEN TEXT)

What does it mean? That the Saviour they rejected would be Lord of the whole earth.

To whom would the kingdom of God be given? To a people who would receive him.

What do we learn from this parable? That all who reject Jesus will be cast out of God's kingdom.

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

God is your Lord and Master.

He has sent his Son, Jesus, to you.

He expects you to receive him with joy and reverence.

He commands you to serve him with a loving heart and a brave obedience.

"God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Salvation for the Gentiles

CATECHISM QUESTION.

How are we to seek the grace of God? We must seek the grace of God by earnest prayer in private and in the house of God.

A.D. 56 or 58.]

[March 23.

TEMPERANCE LESSON.

Gal. 5. 16-26.

Commit to memory vs. 22-27.

GOLDEN TEXT.

If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Gal. 5. 16

OUTLINE.

1. The Works of the Flesh.
2. The Works of the Spirit.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

What is it to walk in the Spirit? To do right, as Christ did.

What is the lust of the flesh? Love of money and worldly pleasure.

What is it to fulfil the lust of the flesh? To do every wrong and selfish act we feel like doing.

What is constantly striving against the flesh and its sinful love? The Holy Spirit.

What must we do? Walk either after the flesh or after the Spirit.

What is impossible? To follow both.

What did Jesus tell us? No man can serve two masters.

What are some of the works of the flesh?

Envy, murder, drunkenness, revelings, wrath, strife, and hatred.

What are the fruits of the Spirit? Love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, faith, temperance.

When we give ourselves to Christ, what must we do? Refuse to obey the flesh that lives to be sinful and selfish.

Who will help us? Jesus, our Saviour from sin.

What will our lives then show? The fruits of the Spirit.

What is one of the fruits of the Spirit? Temperance.

What is one of the works of the flesh? Drunkenness.

What then will every true Christian do? Abstain from all intoxicating drink.

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

Are you walking after the flesh, or after the Spirit?

Are you doing all you can to persuade others to choose the better way?

Are you trying to help the cause of temperance wherever you go?

Have you signed the pledge? Have you asked others to sign it?

"Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The Holy Spirit.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

Through whom do we receive the grace of the Holy Spirit? Only through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

WHAT IS YOUR FATHER TEACHING YOU?

It is recorded of a certain great philosopher, that a friend who went to visit him met the philosopher's little daughter before he met the philosopher himself. Knowing that the father was such a deeply learned man, he thought that the little girl must have learned something very grave, something very deep from such a father, and he said to her: "What is your father teaching you?" The little maid looked at him with her clear blue eyes, and just said, "Obedience."

That was what the great and wise man taught his little girl, and I believe that is the most important lesson for children to learn—"to be obedient." It is a lesson necessary for their happiness, for their safety, and I think we may say for their life.

FEELINGS come and go like light troops, following the victory of the present; but principles, like troops of the line, are undisturbed and stand fast.—*Richter.*



A SOFT ANSWER

MARY and Ellen were cousins about the same age, and lived not far from each other, in a little country town. They were great friends, and spent much of their time together. Sometimes, however, difficulties would arise between them, and sharp, cutting words would be sure to follow. Their schoolmates had noticed this, and wondered how cousins, and friends could talk so to each other.

One winter the Holy Spirit touched the heart of Ellen, and she gave her heart to God. All her schoolmates were surprised, and no doubt wondered how this wild, quick-tempered girl could ever come to be a humble Christian.

They watched her closely, and it was not long before the test came. It was at noon, when the scholars were all engaged in some lively game or social chat around the stove. Ellen had unconsciously offended Mary in some way, and in loud, angry tones, so that all the school could hear, she said to Ellen, "You are a pretty Christian!" and sneered about her religion.

Every eye turned toward Ellen. They knew that she had always been ready to "give as good as was sent;" and now they were interested to see what grace had done for this sensitive girl. For an instant her eye flashed, and her lip quivered, but before she could speak she heard a still voice whisper, "A soft answer turneth away wrath." A mild look came into her eye,

and in a trembling voice she said:

"If I am not a good Christian, I want to be."

There was silence for a moment, but Mary was too proud to let the school think Ellen had conquered, and for several minutes she continued to ridicule her in a sarcastic manner, but only received in return, meek and quiet answers, and tender glances from tearful eyes.

The school-bell rang, and the trouble ended; the scholars had learned something of the power of meekness under trial; but Mary was far from being contented with herself. She spent an uneasy and unhappy afternoon, and at the close of school kindly took Ellen by the arm and walked home with her, seeming to desire by unwonted kindness to atone for the injury her unruly tongue had wrought. They parted kindly at the gate, Mary showing by her

acts if not by her words that she regretted what had happened, and that she too wished that she were a Christian.

Many years have passed since then; the school days are ended; and many of the pupils in that school have since proved the power of grace divine. Ella still lives to rejoice in him who has done so much for her, but Mary's course is run. She rests in hope, and her last words to her cousin were, "I'll meet you in the kingdom."—*Little Christian.*

FULL, YET ROOM ENOUGH.

"MAMMA," said six-year-old Fred, "I can't love God and you both, so I'll choose you."

"Why, my child! what do you mean by saying that you cannot love both?"

"'Cause that's what the Sunday-school lesson says; it says that I must love God with all my heart, and there isn't but one 'all' to it, so if I love him with all, there won't be one bit left for you."

Mamma laughed, and only asked Fred to come with her. Going to the cellar, she quietly asked him to help her fill a large pan with potatoes.

"There," said he, piling on the last big fellow, "it's full."

"Full, yet there's room," answered mother, as she next took a bag of beans and commenced to shake them into the big crevices between the potatoes. She poured and shook until a quart or more had dis-

appeared, and the pan was specked with white.

"Neither is it full yet," she said; and taking up a shovelful of sand she scattered that over the pan, and it, too, disappeared, and another after it.

"Not full yet," she said again, as she took a cup and began pouring water on the pan; and she poured and poured until several quarts were gone.

"Now, you see how a thing can be full and yet hold more—of something else. So your heart may be full of the love of God, and plenty of room left for me and papa and sister and play books."

"HANDSOME IS WHO HANDSOME DOES."

ONE time I met a little girl
Whose face was fair to see;
Of all the pretty girls I knew,
The prettiest face had she.

"A charming little girl," said I.
Aunt Hannah wisely smiled:
"It takes more than a pretty face
To make a charming child."

I wondered what she meant; but, ah!
I knew it very soon.
I said no more "A charming child,"
But sung another tune.

For she—the girl with pretty face—
Was cross as cross could be;
Her snarling words and pouting lips
Soon disenchanted me.

"You see, my dear," Aunt Hannah said,
"A handsome face alone
Will never make a charming child,
Nor for cross words atone.

"But handsome is who handsome does,
When heart is filled with grace;
And pleasant words are lovelier far
Than many a pretty face."

"WHY HE PROMISED TO."

A LITTLE maiden, about seven years old, was once asked: "My little girl, are you a Christian?"

Looking up with a happy smile, she answered: "Yes!"

"How long have you been one?"

"Ever since last night," she said. "I was at the meeting, and I felt I was a sinner, and I went home and kneeled by the side of my bed, and I asked God to put away my sins; and he did it."

"How do you know he did it?"

"Why, he promised to," was her reply.

How this dear child's faith took God simply at his word, believing that what he had promised he would fulfil.