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THE SUNBEAM

ENLARGED SERIES.—VOL. V.]

TORONTO, FEBRUARY 2, 1884.

[No. 3.

UNDER THE CLOUD.

Persons having a sad heart and a gloomy face are said to be under a cloud. To be under a cloud, like the girl in the picture, cannot be very pleasant.

This little girl seems to have found her lesson too hard for her, so she puts on a pitiful face, and life looks very dismal indeed. If she would only pluck up courage and study hard for a little while, the lesson would be learned, the clouds would fly, and the sunshine burst forth.

No one can look upon a sad, dejected countenance without being uncomfortable. We don't want to come near it, if we can avoid it. And who amongst us likes the company of those afflicted with the blues? We like them to keep a good way off. The sour, cloudy, pouty face of a young girl is the most unnatural and uncomely sight upon which it is possible for one to gaze. A look like that in the picture is enough to turn all the sweetness in one's nature into the most biting acid. We hope that the readers of the *Sunbeam* will avoid getting under the cloud of a fretful, sour, and dissatisfied disposition. If any should find themselves caught under it, the quicker they get out of that condition the better for themselves and others.



UNDER THE CLOUD.

of things. The looks of these poor souls force one to the conclusion that they were born under a shadow. Such unfortunate souls deserve some sympathy, but there is no excuse for keeping under the cloud, though it caught them at the very threshold

of their being. By continued effort, with the help of God, the worst conditions of life may have more sunshine than cloud. "For the path of the just is as the shining light, which shineth more and more unto the perfect day."

MODESTY REWARDED.

During the time of the famine in France, a rich man invited twenty of the poor children in the town to his house and said to them:

"In this basket is a loaf for each one of you; take it; come back every day at this hour till God sends us better times."

The children seizing the basket wrangled and fought for the bread. Each wished to get the largest loaf, and at last went away without thanking their friend. Francesca alone, a poor but neatly-dressed girl, stood modestly apart, took the smallest loaf which was left in the basket, gracefully kissed the gentleman's hand, and went away to her home in a quiet and becoming manner. On the following day the children were equally ill behaved and Francesca

this time received a loaf that was scarcely half the size of the others. But when she got home, her sick mother cut the loaf, and there fell out of it a number of bright silver coins.

The mother was alarmed, and said

"Take back the money this instant, for it has no doubt got into the bread by some mistake."

Francesca carried it back; but the benevolent gentleman declined to receive it.

"No, no," said he; "it was no mistake. I had the money baked in the smallest loaf simply as a reward for you, my good child. Always continue thus contented, peaceable and unassuming. The person who prefers to remain contented with the smallest loaf, rather than quarrel for the larger one, will find throughout life blessings in this course of action still more valuable than the money which was baked in your loaf of bread."—*The Morning Star*.

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The Sunbeam.

TORONTO, FEBRUARY 2, 1884.

GOD'S CALL TO CHILDREN.

God's call may come to children; he may and does speak to those who are in life's fresh morning. It is not by the sound of thunder that God speaks as he did in Sinai. It is not by voice that you can hear as in the days when he was revealing himself to man, but in the still small voice of conscience, in the silent and often unheeded breathing of his Holy Spirit in your hearts when you lie awake and wonder and dream and think and pray. God may be turning your minds to do something which you have never done before. It may be to seek after Christ who is very near, to take your stand before others as a Christian, to give your life to some special service. O, be attentive to every call of God and be very obedient. When I was a boy I used to spend a great many hours in the woods. And when I was walking fast over the rustling dead leaves and dry sticks, I couldn't hear the beautiful music of the woods. But when I sat down

quietly on some great log and listened, there came first a hush in all the forests and then I could hear far and near the voices of birds and the hum of insects and the sad musical sighing of the gentle winds in the highest tree tops. And so sometimes we are so busy and noisy, and tramp through the days of our pilgrimage so fast, that we hear not the voice of God. But if you will only pause once in awhile and listen and look into this great wonder-book, our souls, and into the other and greater wonder-book, the Bible, and thus get ready for the call of God in the quieting of our minds, it will come to us. The Lord says, "Be still, and know that I am God."

Beginning a Christian life early is God's way for us. There is nothing unnatural about it. It doesn't mean that these children are to be little saints, free from all faults, perfect in word and in action. It means that they are to be healthy, active, happy boys and girls, young men and women, learning and unlearning, making mistakes and yet making progress, growing more and more into God's favour. It is said several times of the child Samuel, that he grew. "Why of course they did," you say. But the Bible teaches by it that we do not become mature and perfect at once. "To become religious," it has been wisely said, "does not make a prodigy of a boy or girl. It is not a hot-bed process." The Bible in the beautiful picture of Samuel's childhood describes a boy who was like a little tree, but one planted in the courts of God where it grew into beauty and power. God grant that you all may love his house and his service. How much more light you have than came to Samuel! He lived amid the shadows of a dark time and Christ was not seen by him except afar off. Will you follow that light which led wise men of old to the feet of Jesus?

SOLDIER AND THISTLE.

LITTLE Minnie, in her eagerness after flowers, had wounded her hand on the sharp prickly thistle. This made her cry with pain at first and pout with vexation afterward.

"I do wish there was no such thing as a thistle in the world," she said pettishly.

"And yet the Scottish nation think so much of it they engrave it on the national arms," said her mother.

"It is the last flower that I should pick out," said Minnie. I am sure they might

have found a great many nicer ones, even among the weeds."

"But the thistle did them such good service once," said her mother, "they learned to esteem it very highly. One time the Danes invaded Scotland, and they prepared to make a night attack on a sleeping garrison. So they crept along barefooted as still as possible until they were almost on the spot. Just at that moment a barefooted soldier stepped on a great thistle, and the hurt made him utter a sharp, shrill cry of pain. The sound awoke the sleepers, and each man sprang to his arms. They fought with great bravery, and the invaders were driven back with much loss.

"Well I never suspected that so small a thing could save a nation," said Minnie thoughtfully.—*Baptist Weekly*.

A BOY'S VALENTINE.

I MIGHT begin "The rose is red"
(Though that is not so very new)
Or this the boys all think is good:
"If you love me as I love you."

But—seems to me—a valentine.

Is nicer when you do not say
The same old things that everyone
Keep saying in the same old way.

And I asked Jane the other night
What grown-up people write about?
She would not answer me at first
But laughed till I began to pout.

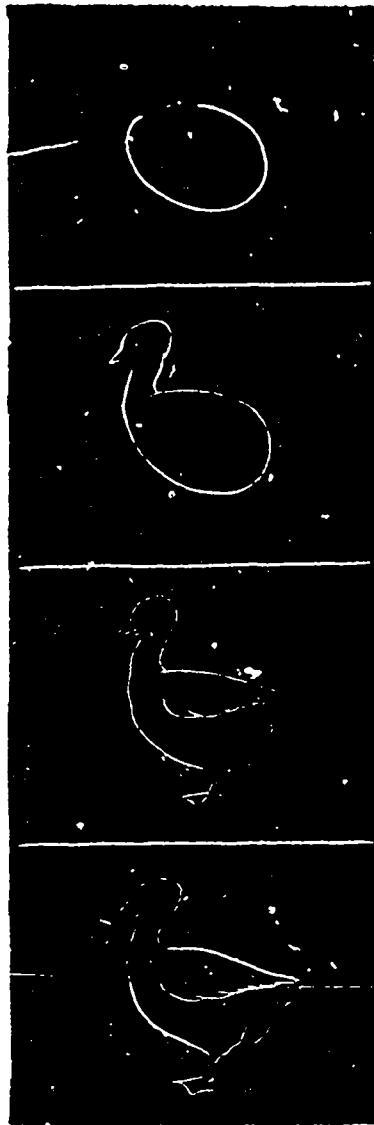
That stopped her for she saw I meant
The question (and she will not tease.)
"Why love," she said, "and shining eyes
A kiss, soft hair—just what they please."

It can't be hard, if that is all,
So I'll begin by saying this
"To my dear lady beautiful
I send a valentine and kiss.

"The valentine because she has
The loveliest hair and gentlest eyes
The kiss because I love her more
Than any one beneath the skies;

"Because she is the kindest, best
The sweetest lady ever known
And every year I'll say the same,
The very same to her alone!"

There! Now it's finished. Who will do
I've thought of one and then another
Who is there like it? Why of course,
I'll send it right away to mother!



HOW TO DRAW A GOOSE.

The Goose has a body
The shape of an egg.

With a round head,
A long neck and bill

When the weather is cold
She can stand on one leg,
With some wings she can fly
If she will.

Now we give her a tail
More for beauty than use,
And out of our egg comes
A very nice goose.

WHICH WAS THE COWARD ?

"Oh! ho! Afraid, hey! Plenty of grapes, and too much of a coward to get them."

"I'd rather be a coward than a thief, any day," and Harry Denton passed on.

Not ten minutes after you might have seen a hatless boy dodging around the corner, sneaking away under an old shed, and peeping through a knot-hole to see if Dr. Burt had passed on.

Which was the coward ?

SINS BLOTTED OUT.

A LITTLE boy was once much puzzled about sins being blotted out, and said, "I cannot think what becomes of all the sins God forgives, mother."

"Why, Charlie, can you tell me where are all the figures you wrote on your slate yesterday ?"

"I washed them all out, mother."

"And where are they, then ?"

"Why, they are nowhere; they are all gone," said Charlie.

Just so it is with the believer's sins;

they are gone—blotted out—"remembered no more."

"As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us."—*Philadelphia Methodist.*

A LITTLE BOY'S TEMPERANCE SPEECH.

SOME people laugh and wonder
What little boys can do
To help this temp'rance thunder
Roll all the big world through;
I'd have them look behind them,
When *they* were small, and then
I'd just like to remind them
That little boys make men!

The bud becomes a flower,
The acorn grows a tree,
The minutes make the hour—
'Tis just the same with me.
I'm small, but I am growing,
As quickly as I can;
And a Temperance boy like me is bound
To make a temperance man.

"NO."

BY FLETA COOK.

WOULD ye learn the bravest thing
That man can ever do ?
Would ye be an uncrowned king,
Absolute and true ?
Would ye seek to emulate
All ye see in story,
Of the noble, just, and great,
Rich in real glory ?
Would ye lose much bitter care
In the world below ?
Bravely speak out when and where
'Tis right to utter "No!"

Learn to speak this little word
In its proper place;
Let no timid doubt be heard,
Clothed with skeptic grace;
Let thy lips, without disguise,
Boldly pour it out;
Though a thousand dulcet lies,
Keep hovering about,
For be sure our lives would lose
Future years of woe,
If our courage could refuse
The present hour with "No!"

GOD IS THERE TOO.

NURSE came in and found Bessie wide awake, lying very still in her little bed.

"All alone in the dark," said nurse, "and not afraid at all, Bessie, are you ?"

"No, indeed," answered Bessie, "for I ain't alone. God is here; and I look out of the window and see the stars, and God seems to me looking down with all his eyes, nurse."

"To be sure," said the nurse; "but God up in the sky is a great way off."

"No," spoke little Bessie, "God is here, too, because he seems sometimes hugging me to his heart; then I am so happy."

O, how sweet to feel God near—to be resting on his bosom, like a little child in its father's arm! This is the blessed privilege of a believing child.—*Youth's Delight.*

LOOK AT BOTH SIDES.

TWO horsemen met near the statue of a knight with a shield. One side of the shield was gold, the other of silver. One said the shield was gold—the other that it was silver. They got angry about it, and fought till both were badly hurt. An old priest came along and told them that they should have looked on both sides of the shield. We should always look on both sides of the question.

BAD TO-BACK-ER.

ONE day at school
 I told the boys
 'Twas wrong to chew tobacco;
 A six-year old,
 Grown very bold,
 Presumed to give his veto.
 Says he: "I saw
 A fellow chaw
 Because he had the toothache,"
 "Taint never wrong
 For anyone
 To chaw that has the toothache,
 The school agreed
 With him; indeed,
 His logic charmed the urchins.
 Quite puzzled, I
 Could scarce reply
 At first to his assertions.
 A happy thought,
 However brought
 Relief from Greeley's namesake:
 "Horace," I said,
 "If a girl instead!
 Should chance to have the toothache,
 And want to chew,
 What should she do?"
 Like older ones by time unschooled.
 He scratched his head,
 And then he said:
 "She'd orter have the tooth pulled."

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

A.D. 52.] LESSON VI. [Feb. 10.]

THE CONVERSION OF LYDIA.

Acts 16 11-24. Commit to memory verses 13-15.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. Acts 16. 14.

OUTLINE.

1. Mission Work, v. 11-13.
2. Success, v. 14, 15.
3. Opposition, v. 16-24.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

What city in Macedonia did Paul and his friends visit? Philippi.

Where did they go on the Sabbath day? Down by the river-side.

Who was there? A few women gathered together to pray.

What did Paul do? He talked to them.

Who was converted by Paul's preaching? Lydia, a seller of purple.

What is it to be converted? To be changed from a self-life to a Christ-life.

Whose power can destroy the self-life? The power of God.

What did Lydia ask Paul to do? To baptise her and her household.

What invitation did she give to Paul and his friends? To come and stay in her house.

Who followed Paul and Silas about the city? A slave girl possessed of an evil spirit.

What did she call them? Servants of God.

What miracle did Paul do in Christ's name? He cast out the evil spirit.

Who were angry with Paul and Silas? The owners of the slave-girl.

What did they do? They caused Paul and Silas to be scourged and cast into prison.

Why were they angry? Because the doings of the evil spirit brought them money.

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

How long is it since you first heard about Christ?

Did you begin then to *love and obey* him?

Did you begin then to *work* for him?

Have you been willing to *suffer* for him?

"Be ye therefore followers of God as dear children."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Evil spiritual agencies.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

What is your duty to God? My duty to God is to worship Him, to love Him, and to keep his commandments.

What is your duty to man? My duty to man is to honour and obey my parents, to show respect to those above me, to speak the truth always, and to be just and loving to all.

A.D. 52.] LESSON VII. [Feb. 17.]

THE CONVERSION OF THE JAILER.

Acts 16. 25-40. Commit to memory verses 29-34.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. Acts 16. 31.

OUTLINE.

1. Songs in the Night, v. 25-28.
2. The Joy of Salvation, v. 29-34.
3. Out of Prison, v. 35-40.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

What did Paul and Silas do at midnight? They sang praises unto God.

What suddenly shook the prison? A great earthquake.

What did it do? Opened the doors and loosed the bonds of the apostles.

Who was terrified and tried to kill himself? The keeper of the prison.

What did Paul say to him? "Do thyself no harm, for we are all here."

What did the jailer do? Came in and fell down before Paul and Silas.

What question did he ask? "What must I do to be saved?"

What was their reply? "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ."

What great change followed? The jailer with all his house believed.

What message came from the judges in the morning? "Let those men go."

What reply did Paul send back to the judges? "Let the judges come themselves and let us out."

Why did Paul send such a message? Because they had been unjustly condemned.

What did the judges do? They came and begged them to leave the city.

Who are honoured and protected above all others? God's servants.

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

The jailer unconverted was—

An unbelieving heathen,

A rough, wicked man.

A cruel persecutor.

The jailer converted was—

A repentant sinner.

A true friend.

A humble believer.

"Ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Salvation by faith.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

How can you do this? I can do my duty to God and man only by the grace of God.

What is this grace? The grace of God is the power of the Holy Ghost, felt in our hearts, enabling us to do what otherwise we could not do.

PLAYING LIKE A CHRISTIAN.

I HEARD of two little children—a boy and a girl—who used to play a great deal together. They both became converted. One day the boy came to his mother and said, "Mother, I know Emma is a Christian."

"What makes you think so, my child?"

"Because, mother, she plays like a Christian."

"Plays like a Christian?" said the mother; the expression sounded odd.

"Yes," replied the child! "if you take everything she's got, she don't get angry. Before she was selfish; and if she didn't have everything her own way, she would say, 'I won't play with you; you are an ugly little boy.'"—*Food for the Lamb.*