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THE SUNBEAM

ENLARGED SERIES.—VOL. VII.]

TORONTO, MAY 8, 1886

[No. 10.

OWLS.

THE chief peculiarity of owls is their mode of flying, and their quick sense of hearing. Their feet being mostly mice and other small animals which easily hide themselves in the ground, great silence and clear sight are necessary, as well as quick hearing. The wing of an owl is provided with feathers so remarkably soft and pliant that in striking the air they make no rushing sound like the feathers of other birds do.

There is something in the strange appearance and silent flight of owls which has made them long feared, and superstitious people have thought them always messengers of evil. But there is hardly a more useful bird anywhere; their food consists of vermin and insects that do great harm to crops; and the farmer is thought to be very thankful to the quiet ones who go round the fields in the dark and prey upon all the vermin and insects that injure the corn.



OWLS.

HOW HARRY WROTE IT.

WHEN you are tempted to do wrong, and you go all around and find that nobody is intended her to. To-day I will tell you a story of how a little boy wrote something not just the way it was intended, but, I

think, not a very bad way, after all. Harry Lee met her, and when he found where she was going, he said, "Why don't you keep it for yourself? Come, let's hide it, and every day we can get some and eat it." Ah, what a selfish heart Harry has:

think, not a very bad way, after all.

A great many years ago John wrote a letter to Christians, and it was put in our Bibles. At the close of the letter he wrote, "LITTLE CHILDREN, KEEP YOURSELVES FROM IDOLS." What he meant was, from loving anything better than we love God.

Harry was to write this on a card but the way he did it was this "LITTLE CHILDREN, KEEP YOURSELVES FROM IDLES." You see the word "Idles" is spelled differently, so it means something quite different. This means "idle people"—the boys and girls who have nothing to do—and it is very wise to keep away from such idle people, or they would make you idle too; and we know that "Satan finds some mischief still For idle hands to do."

A KIND HEART.

ROSE has a kind heart, and loves to make others happy. One day she was told that she might carry a basket of fruit

FEAR OF THE DARK.

ALTHOUGH it is so very dark,
And I am all alone,
Mamma down-stairs, and nurse away,
And no one here to talk or play—
Yet God, I know, to thee the night
Is bright and shining as the light.

And I have promised dear mamma
I will not cry or shout,
But I would try to bear in mind
All we have talked about—
How that to God the darkest night
Is bright and shining as the light.

And so I will not be afraid,
Or start at every noise that's made;
But I will shut my eyes and sleep,
Quite sure thou wilt me safely keep,
Because, O God, to thee the night
Is bright and shining as the light.

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The Sunbeam.

TORONTO, MAY 8, 1886.

FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER

In a school a big boy was so abusive to the little ones that the teacher took the vote of the school whether he should be expelled. All the small boys voted to expel him except one, who was scarcely five years old; yet he knew very well that the bad boy would probably continue to abuse him.

"Why, then, did you vote for him to stay?" asked the teacher.

"Because said he, "if he is expelled, perhaps he will not learn any more about God, and so he will be more wicked still."

"Do you forgive him, then?"

"Yes. Papa, mamma, you, and God forgive me when I do wrong, and I must do the same."



IN A BAD FIX.

IN A BAD FIX.

WHEN Hugh McRae, "just for the fun of the thing," as he said, tied the dogs together, they seemed to enjoy it as much as did their young master. Swift, the greyhound, was especially delighted because it was bound to be a fair race between himself and Pluto, the Newfoundland. Now everybody could see that he was Pluto's superior—in the matter of speed. But when the old black dog grew tired of the sport, and concluded to take a swim in the river, Swift was not slow to express his preference for dry land. Pluto had become master of the situation. In spite of his piteous whinings, Swift was dragged to the brink of the stream. Now came the tug of war, and as Pluto whisked his howling victim into the water and struck out for the other shore, Swift's dog days would have been numbered if Hugh had not rushed up and called Pluto back. So it frequently happens that sinners glory in their evil associations. They boast of their achievements in wickedness, and of their ability to take care of themselves. The real situation is expressed in the picture. Study it.

THE LION AND THE LAMB.

MERCY and Ellen Lawrence were out in the lot one summer afternoon, and, getting tired of playing housekeeping, concluded to "play Hagar and Ishmael."

"We'll put the dollies under the bushes, and make believe dig for water, said Mercy; and forthwith they began with great energy to dig in the sand.

Just then two larger girls came romping by, and spying the dollies they snatched them up and began to run.

"Put 'em down! put 'em down! they're our dollies!" cried little Ellen angrily, and scrambling to her feet to run after the girls.

But Mercy kept still. "Don't, sister, don't let the lion get up; let the lamb come," she said gently.

What do you think she meant by the lion and the lamb? Ellen knew very well. The lion was the angry temper, and the lamb was the meek, quiet spirit. Ellen was very apt to get angry. Her face would flush and her eyes sparkle and the words would come very quickly when things went crosswise. But she was trying to overcome. Mamma taught her to pass every day that the dear Lamb of God would come and live in her heart and keep her still and quiet. Mercy who was older than Ellen and more gentle, did all she could to help her little sister. It was a hard trial when these two big girls rudely snatched away their dollies.

"Let's not move," said Mercy; "they only want to tease us. If they see we are not teased they'll soon bring back our dollies they won't steal them, of course."

And it was just so. Annie and Hagar when they found the little girls didn't mind a fuss, brought back the dolls and put them down where they had found them.

"Thank you," said Mercy. But Ellen could not speak. She said afterwards she was afraid there was "a little bit of lion left in her heart, and she was afraid of him."

"PLEASE, GOD, FORGIVE ME"

BERTIE and Susie, two little four-year-old girls, were playing on the grass together when Susie said something naughty. She right away looked upward and said, "Please God, forgive me."

"What makes you do that?" asked Bertie.

"When we do wrong," said Susie, "we ought at once to ask the Lord to forgive us."

I am glad Susie learned that lesson when she was a very little girl. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."



THE HERMIT CRAB.

BY ROBIN MERRY.

THE crabs are a numerous family, including such familiar creatures as the crayfish or craw-fish, of our rivers and the water of the salt-water seas. All these creatures are provided with five pairs of legs, the first pair being usually very stout and made to do duty for arms, hands, and pincers or scissors. Clumsy as these shears are, they are employed not only for securing food but also for conveying it to the mouth. As a weapon of warfare, they are to be despised, as many a boy can testify who has made too bold with a good-sized lobster or crab.

As an article of human food these animals maintain a very important relation. Lobsters and crabs in various parts of the world are in great demand, and by some the freshest representatives of the class are deemed a delicacy.

Our picture presents us with a specimen of a crab of very peculiar habits. It is called the hermit crab, and sometimes also the soldier crab. The first name it derives from its singular manner of life. It seeks for its home the deserted shell, and here it leads a kind of hermit life. But upon the upper surface of the shell the sea-anemone, (a sea flower,) finds a convenient place for anchoring itself. And the singular circumstance is that while the crab is a voracious feeder, catching and devouring such other creatures as tempt his appetite, he really seems to form a kind of friendship for the beautiful object that sits on the roof of his home; and it is said that when it is attacked

he will fight for his defence. Our picture represents the soldier sitting in the door of his castle watching for its defence, and for his own prey as well, while the delicate anemone is rearing above him its marvellous tracery of coral rock, and waving its hundreds of slender filaments in the water to receive the food which nourishes its own strange life.

THE HOLE IN THE POCKET.

THE other day a poor woman who lives near my house came running in in great excitement. "O!" she exclaimed, "Mrs. Marjorie, I am in so much trouble! I have just lost all the money I had in the world, between my house and the corner. I must have dropped it in the street. What shall I do?"

The only thing that I could advise was that she should insert an advertisement of her loss in the paper; and,

as she did not know how to write it, I wrote one for her. Then I said: "How came you to lose your pocket-book? Was there a hole in your pocket?"

She showed me a rip between the lining and the outside of her dress, and said she supposed she had slipped her money through that instead of into the right place. "I've been meaning to sew that for a week," she said, very sadly.

I felt too sorry for her to tell her that experience had taught her a very dear lesson; but it did seem hard that the savings of two months should have been lost for want of a stitch in time.

The homely old proverb says: "A stitch in time saves nine." Please think of it when you are studying your etymology, and are not sure about a derivation. It will take only a few seconds to look it up now, but it may save you much trouble at examination-day to be sure on the subject. Think of it, too, when your little playmate passes you coldly, and when you feel that you have given offence to your teacher or mother; a frank work of apology, a kind, forgiving look in time, may save you from many hours of regret and distress. A great many tangled and troublesome things in this world would be set right speedily if everybody believed in a stitch in time. You may apply this principle to everything in life, and it will never fail you. A great poet (Lord Tennyson) says:

It is the little rift within the lute
That by and bye will make the music mute.

A very tiny leak, if not repaired, will

cause the great ship to go down in the midst of the sea. Any small wrong thing may be corrected or mended while it is small, but every day that it is left alone it will grow larger and stronger. One weed is easier to pull up than ten are. Do not forget the stitch in time, wherever you may be.

TOUCH IT NEVER.

CHILDREN, do you see the wine
In the crystal goblet shine?
Be not tempted by its charm.
Children, hate it!
Touch it never,
Fight it ever.

Do you know what causeth woe
Bitter as the heart can know?
'Tis that self some ruly wine
Which would tempt that soul of thine.
Children, hate it!
Touch it never,
Fight it ever.

Never let it pass your lips,
Never even let the tips
Of your fingers touch the bowl;
Hate it from your inmost soul.
Truly hate it!
Touch it never,
Fight it ever.

Fight it! With God's help stand fast
Long as life or breath shall last,
Heart meet heart, and hand join hand,
Hurl the demon from our land.
O then, hate it!
Touch it never,
Fight it ever.

THE FORGIVING FATHER.

A LITTLE girl knelt to pray, but the memory of a wrong done that day came between her soul and Christ. She had disobeyed her father. She rose and went to his room.

"Papa," said she, as tears and sobs choked her voice, "I have come to tell you something I did to-day that was wrong. I want to ask you to forgive me."

"My dear child, I do not want you to tell me, I forgive you freely without." He dried away her tears and sent her back rejoicing.

As she knelt again for her heavenly Father's blessing, the readiness of her earthly father to forgive her was to her a type of the divine forgiveness. She realizes that "God pardons like a father who kisses the offenses into everlasting forgetfulness." —Forward.

WELL, NEVER TOUCH THE WINE.

We are a little temperance band,
And this our pledge secure,
We'll never, never touch the wine,
We'll drink the water pure.

We'll join the army of the land,
The tried, the true, the brave,
Who nobly strive from alcohol,
Our friends and homes to save.

If faithful in our temperance band,
The little we can do
May help some other feeble one,
To keep a purpose true.

Come, join our little temperance band,
The erring help to win,
Unite with us in chorus grand,
This little song to sing.

A CHILD'S EXPLANATION.

Wise heads have often been bothered about the origin of language. Many learned explanations have been given.

A little girl was wearying over her spelling book. At last, in a distressful tone, she said to her brother, a few years older than herself, "O Paul, where do all these lots of miserable words come from?"

"Why, Gracie, you duncie, don't you know! It is because people quarrel so much! Whenever they quarrel, one word brings on another, and that's the reason we have such a long string of them"

"I wish they'd stop it," sighed Gracie, "then the spelling books wouldn't be so big"

Paul's explanation was funny, if not quite correct. One part of it, however, hit the mark. "Whenever they quarrel, one word brings on another!"—that is, another angry word. So better not quarrel.

LESSON NOTES.

SECOND QUARTER.

A.D. 28.] LESSON VII. [May 16.

THE NOBLEMAN'S SON.

John 4. 43-54. Commit to memory verses 43-51.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Jesus saith unto him, Go thy way; thy son liveth. John 4. 50.

OUTLINE.

1. At Cana, v. 43-46.
2. A Call, v. 47-49.
3. A Cure, v. 50-54.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

Who came to Jesus while he was in Cana? A nobleman of the king's court.

What did he ask of him? To heal his son.

Where was his son? In Capernaum, a day's journey from Cana.

What did Jesus tell him? "Unless you see wonderful things, you will not believe on me."

How had the Samaritans believed? Without seeing miracles.

What was the nobleman's prayer? "Sir, come down ere my son die."

How did Jesus answer it? (Repeat the GOLDEN TEXT.)

Did the nobleman believe Jesus' word? He did; and turned to go home.

Who met him on the way? His servants.

What good news did they bring? That his son was alive and better.

When had he begun to get well? The same hour that Jesus promised he should live.

Who believed on Jesus? The nobleman and his whole house.

How does Jesus want us to believe on him? By faith.

What has he told us? "Blessed are they that have not seen and yet have believed."

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

Jesus told that dear father, who came to him to cure his little boy, the GOLDEN TEXT The father believed, went on his way, and found that the very hour Jesus spoke the word the fever left him. "What a splendid thing for Jesus to do!" "Wish he was here now!"

"Still he comforts fathers' hearts,
Life and strength and joy imparts;
Still the children's friend is he,
As of old, by Galilee."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The power of Christ.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

Where did God put the first man and woman? God put the first man and woman in the garden of Eden.

In whose image was man created? Man was created in the image or likeness of God.

A.D. 28.] LESSON VIII. [May 23.

JESUS AT BETHESDA.

John 5. 5-18. Commit to memory vs. 6-9.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Wilt thou be made whole? John 5. 6.

OUTLINE.

1. Helplessness, v. 5-7.
2. Healing, v. 8, 9.
3. Hatred, v. 10-18.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

Where did Jesus go one Sabbath day? To the Pool of Bethesda.

Where was the Pool of Bethesda? Jerusalem.

What did Jesus see there? A many sick people.

Why did they come to the pool? They made well by bathing in the water.

Who was there among them? A who had been sick thirty-eight years.

What did Jesus ask him? (Repeat GOLDEN TEXT.)

What did the man reply? I have one to put me into the water.

What was the reply of Jesus? "Take up thy bed, and walk."

What happened? "The man was well, and took up his bed, and walked."

Who reproved him for carrying his upon the Sabbath? The Jewish rulers.

Who did he say had told him to do his bed? The man who healed him.

What warning did Jesus give him? "Sin no more, lest something worse sickness come upon you."

What did he then tell the Jews? Jesus had healed him.

Why were the Jews angry with Jesus? Because he did good on the Sabbath day.

What did Jesus tell them? "My Father does good on the Sabbath, and so shall I."

How does God work on the Sabbath? He gives us the sunshine and the rain same as on other days.

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

You know you have sinned, don't darlings? You want to be made whole and you believe Jesus can and is willing to do it, too, don't you? Then go right and tell him your answer to his wonderful blessed question in the GOLDEN TEXT is "will."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The law of Sabbath.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

How was man made like God? His was created like God: immortal, holy, happy.

Did our first parents continue holy happy? No: they sinned against God, fell into misery.

THE STRENGTH OF INSECTS.

The strength of insects is simply prodigious. M. Plateau has been testing their powers, and announces as the result of experiments that the smallest insects the strongest, proportioned to their size, that all are enormously strong when compared bulk for bulk with vertebrates. A horse can scarcely bear two-thirds of its weight, while one small species of beetle can lift ninety-nine times its weight. Were the strength of man in proportion to the beetle, he could play with weights equal to ten times the weight of a horse.