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THE SUNBEAM

Vol. I.

MARCH 20 1880.

No. 6



HAVING A GOOD SING.

HAVING A GOOD SING.

WHAT a good time these children and their Aunt Mary are having. They are practising their hymns for Sunday-school, and how they all seem to enjoy it. There is no more delightful way of spending a leisure hour than for a family to gather round the piano or organ and "have a good sing." It brings joy and gladness into the house, and makes everybody happy. The good Robert Hall used to say that he wanted all his children to learn to sing, because it was the only earthly accomplishment they would use in heaven. Well, I

think nothing that we learn, that is right, will ever be lost. But certainly one of the chief joys of heaven is represented as singing the NEW SONG—the song of Moses and the LAMB. But remember, no one can sing that song on high unless they learn to sing it on earth. I mean unless their hearts are attuned to the worship of heaven. Learn, therefore, dear children, to sing God's love, not merely with the lips but with the heart, and in your daily life.

The Sunbeam.

TORONTO, MARCH 20, 1880.

NO UNDOING.

A LITTLE girl sat trying to pick out a seam that she had sewed together wrong. Her chubby fingers picked at the thread, which would break, leaving the end somewhere among the stitches she had laboured so wearily to make short and close. And though the thread finally came out, yet the needle-holes remained, showing just how the seam had been sewed; and, with tears in her eyes, the child cried, "O mamma, I can not undo it!"

Poor little girl! you are learning one of the saddest lessons of life. The desire of undoing what never can be undone gives us more trouble than all the doings of a busy life. And because we know this so well, our heart often aches for the boys and girls we see doing the things they will wish so earnestly by and by to undo.

Are there any of you who are old enough to read this who never laid your head on your pillow at night, with a weary ache all through you, as you could not shut out the unkind words you have spoken to father, mother, brother, or sister? Older boys and girls have felt keener heart-aches for graver faults. You all know something of this desire to undo and sorrow that you can not.

It is a very sad picture. And now, where is the bright side? Right here, little boys and girls, big boys and girls. Let us try to do a thing the first time so we will never wish to undo it. We do not care to undo the words of kindness we spoke to our classmates when they failed in spelling, or cried when they could not remember how many seven times eight were; nor would we take back the apple we gave a poor beggar-boy, nor unsaw the wood we sawed for mamma this morning, though our arms have ached all day—for it was a nice kind of ache, that we enjoyed.

No, we never wished to undo a thing that is done right. Then how much better it is, and how much trouble we save ourselves, if we do a thing right at first! Sometimes we do not know what is right; but we can always ask. If the little girl had asked her mother about the seam she was sewing, and had done as she was told, she would have saved the trouble of picking it out. We can ask our friends; and, above all, we can ask our heavenly Father—he never leads us wrong. Anything we do under His guidance we shall never wish to undo.—*The Myrtle.*

THE SAVIOUR'S CALL.

COME unto me," says Jesus. He wants little children, as well as young people and old people, to come unto him. He loves the little ones. He calls them his "lambs." If we hear his voice and go to him he will make us happy in this world, and when we die he will take us to heaven, where we will be happy forever. Do you not love Jesus? If you do, you will keep his commandments, just as you obey your parents, because you love them. Jesus loves you? Will you not love him?

WHEN Moses wore a heavenly radiance, "he wist not that his face shone." The best people are those who have the least to say about their own goodness.



WHAT IS OUR BABY THINKING ABOUT?

WE seems to be thinking very hard about something. I wonder is it his play, his dinner, or his Sunday-school. Let us hope it is about the last. I trust you all think a good deal about it, and try to learn the pretty little "Tiny Texts" and the rest of the lessons. Learn to love the Bible and the Saviour while you are young, and it will be a joy and gladness to you all your life.

In the days of thy youth remember Him

Who giveth upbraiding not,
That His light in thy heart become not dim,
Nor His love be unforgot:
And thy God, in the darkest days, shall be
Beauty, and gladness, and joy to thee.

A VIOLENT TEMPER.

WHAT did I hear you say? that you had a quick temper, but were soon over it, and that it was only a word and a blow with you sometimes, but you were always sorry as soon as you got over your passion?

Ah, my boy, I'm afraid that was the way with Cain. It has been the way with many a murderer ever since. People almost

seem to pride themselves on having quick tempers, as though they were not things to be ashamed of, and fought against, and prayed over with bitter tears. God's Word does not take your view of it, for it says expressly that "He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty;" that "Better is he that ruleth his own spirit than he that taketh a city," and that "anger resteth in the bosom of fools."

A man who carries a quick temper about with him is much like a man who rides a horse which has the trick of running away. You wouldn't care to own a runaway horse, would you? Yet it is worth a good deal more, let me tell you, than a runaway temper.

But you say you were born with it.

We are all born in sin, and can be saved only by grace. Take your wrong temper, your crossness, and your contrariness, and drop it every day at the foot of the cross. Ask God for help, and thank Him every time you get a victory over yourself. When you feel the fierce spirit rising, bridle it with a tight rein. Do not speak till you can speak calmly, whatever may be the provocation. Words do lots of mischief.

LITTLE CHILDREN.

ARE you gentle to each other?
Are you careful day by day,
Not to give offence by actions,
Or by anything you say?

Little children, love each other;

Never give another pain;
If your brother speak in anger,
Answer not in wrath again.

Be not selfish to each other;
Never spoil another's rest;
Strive to make each other happy,
And you will yourself be blest.—*Ex.*

HERE is something to remember: "Love is sunshine. Hate is shadow."

LITTLE TEMPLES.

"Ye are the temples of God."

JESUS, can a child like me
Thine own living temple be ?

Yes, thy Spirit day by day
In my heart will deign to stay.

Then that heart must ever be
A fit dwelling-place for thee.

Naughty tempers, thoughts of sin,
These things must not enter in.

But a temple is a place
Built for constant prayer and praise,

And the teaching of thy word ;
Am I such a temple, Lord ?

Yes, if all I do and say,
In my work and in my play,

Shall be gentle, true, and right,
Pleasing in thy holy sight.

Help me, Lord, for I am weak ;
Make me hear when thou dost speak.

Cleanse my heart from every sin,
Make me beautiful within.

May thy presence from above
Fill my heart with holy love.

Then shall those about me see
That the Saviour dwells in me.—*Ex.*

ONE day a lady said to her little girl,
"Helen, have you given your heart to
Christ?" "I do not know just what that
means," answered the child; "but I know
I used to please myself, and now I try to
please Christ."

THE boy who was kept after school for
bad orthography said he was spell-bound.

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LESSON NOTES.

TEMPERANCE LESSON. [March 28.
CHRIST'S WARNING AGAINST INTEMPERANCE; or, Evils
of Appetite.

Matt. 24. 45-51. Commit to memory verses 45-48.

OUTLINE.

1. The good servant, v. 45-47.
2. The evil servant, v. 48-51.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your
hearts be overcharged with surfeiting and drunk-
enness. Luke 21. 34.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

1. The good servant, v. 45-47. Who is the
good servant? The one who obeys his master's
will. What shall he receive from his master? A
blessing and a reward. What shall be his reward?
To be ruler over the household. How may we
obtain that honour? By doing the will of Christ.

2. The evil servant, v. 48-51. What is the sin
here especially named? Drunkenness. What is a
drunkard? One who uses strong drink. How do
people become drunkards? By tasting liquor.
What is the effect of drinking liquor? To want
more and more strong drink. What becomes of
drunkards? They are unhappy here, and will be
lost hereafter. How may we avoid the drunkard's
end? By never tasting of strong drink.

A.D. 27.] LESSON I. [April 4.

THE POWER OF CHRIST; or, Christ the Commander.

Matt. 8. 18-54. Commit to memory verses 23-27.

A few months after the Sermon on the Mount
Jesus was at a place called Capernaum, by the Sea
of Galilee. He wished to sail across the lake with
his disciples. Just as they were going, a scribe
came and offered to go with them. Jesus said to
him, "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the
air have nests, but the Son of Man hath not where
to lay his head." As soon as they were on the
water Jesus lay down in the boat to sleep. A
storm arose, the waves rose high, and the disciples
were fearful of being lost in the waters. They
cried out to Jesus, "Lord, save us!" He rebuked
them for not trusting him more fully, and then
spoke to the winds and the sea, and there was a
great calm. When they came to the other shore,
at Gergesa, two men rushed out to meet them, in
whom were wicked spirits. Jesus bade the spirits
leave them. They asked if they might go into a
herd of swine which were feeding near by. Jesus
said, "Go," and at once the evil spirits entered into
the swine, and drove them down a steep place into
the sea, so that all were drowned. The keepers of
the swine ran to the city and told the people what
had happened. They came out in crowds, and
begged Jesus not to enter their city, but to leave
them, for they cared more for the loss of their
swine than for the coming of their Saviour; so
Jesus went away, and sailed back across the lake.

GOLDEN TEXT.

What manner of man is this, that even the winds
and the sea obey him! Matt. 8. 27.