



OUR YOUNG PEOPLE



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Saving the Colours.

OUR picture serves to perpetuate a brave act performed during the late war in Africa. After the battle of Isandlana, the colours of the 24th Regiment were missing. What had become of them? Had they fallen into the hands of the enemy? Nay, from that they had been saved through the bravery of Lieut. Melvill. He determined to save them, and he did, but lost his own life in the effort. He was pursued by the Zulus till he came to a broad and rapid river. Into this both horse and rider plunged. Anxiety for the flag made him lose the management of his horse when in the middle of the stream. With his precious burden he drifted down the current to a large rock on which another brave officer had landed. Lieut. Higginson tried to help, but both were washed off. In the struggle with the stream the flag was torn from them, and sank, borne down by its heavy fringe, and they beheld it no more. They reached the shore exhausted, and almost lifeless, yet perchance they felt the sacrifice had not been in vain, for the stream had folded itself lovingly around the treasure; it would rest there, safe from the savage Zulus and from all dishonour which might have come to it. The colours were afterwards recovered, but the brave defenders never knew it, for they were overtaken by the enemy and slain. If you had asked them why they had so acted, they would have said, "We simply did our duty." Let each of our young readers do

his or her duty in the same spirit. But no person can in the fullest sense of the word do his duty, until he has accepted Jesus Christ as his Saviour, for to "Fear God and keep His commandments is the whole duty of man."

Dear young readers, have you enlisted in the army of the great King? If so, are you willing rather to die than see His flag dishonoured. Doubtless had those men lived they would have received the Victoria cross, or some other special distinction from the hands

of their sovereign; but what is that to the approving smile of our gracious King, when He shall one day say to us, "Well done, good and faithful servant: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

Gifts.

MANY a mother says to her little child, "I promise to give you a book with beautiful pictures on your Birthday." The child is very happy at the thought. It longs for the day, because it believes its mother's promise will turn out quite true. The

Birthday comes, and the Book; and a lovely Book it is! Every page has a picture in it! God is like that mother. He has promised countless blessings to all—even to the very youngest—who love and trust Him.

Sometimes, however, a mother has made a promise, and something occurs which renders it impossible for her to fulfil it. No danger of any of God's promises failing. He knows the end from the beginning, so that nothing *can* happen which He did not expect, and nothing can hinder Him, for He is Almighty.



Jesus and the Little Children.

I THINK, when I read the sweet story of old,
How when Jesus was here among men,
He ca led little children as lambs to His fold,
I should like to have been with Him then.

I wish that His hand had been placed on my head,
That His arms had been thrown around me,—
That I might have heard His sweet voice when He said,
“Let the little ones come unto Me”

Say “Yes.”

A BOY, aged fourteen years, belonging to the congregation of Mr. Robertson, of Newington, met with an accident, and had to part with one of his limbs, in the hope of saving his life. But the operation failed of that effect; and when he was told gently that he would not probably live more than two days, he looked up, and said, “*Only two days, and I shall be with Christ!*” And when his minister asked if he had any message to send to his young companions, he answered, “*Just tell them to say ‘Yes’ to Christ at once.*”

The Captain.

“The Captain of Salvation”—Hebrews 2: 10.



YOU have been hearing a good deal lately, children, of the “Salvation Army,” and perhaps you have seen some of its “regiments” passing along the streets. Whatever some may think of these people and their strange ways, they have got hold of a right idea. The followers of Jesus are an army—striving to subdue the whole world to Him.

Much might be said of this army. Let me just ask you to remember what their *banner* is—Love; their *music*—Hope; their *weapon*—Truth; their *enemy*—Sin; their *field of battle*—Everywhere; their *CAPTAIN*—Christ.

How it encourages the Church to know that their great Leader is with them. When Wellington's men were wavering one day in battle, he himself rode forward into their midst. One of the men seeing him cried, “There's the Duke, God bless him; I'd rather see his face than a whole brigade.” Then followed a tremendous cheer; and at once the tide of battle turned. And so is it with the Captain of Salvation. With such a Leader, victory is sure. He Himself has borne the brunt of battle. On Him, made perfect through suffering, the enemy tried his worst in vain. He died to conquer; and rose again to reign. He can never know defeat.

Will you not join this army of Christ, battling against sin and wrong, and trying to bring in right-

eousness and peace in all the earth? Perhaps you say—“It is little I can do.” But there is one little fortress which you ought to ask strength from Him to take and keep. It is mentioned in Proverbs 16: 32; and to take and keep it may be harder than to take a strong city. But Jesus can enable you to overcome, and to drive out the Pride, Selfishness, Hatred, Envy, and other enemies that are lurking there.

Sins Forgiven.

ALL children like to get a letter of their very own. How they look out for the postman, and how glad they are when they can say, “Here it is at last—a letter for my own self!” What a precious letter this is we now bring you! We like letters best that have cheery news. What news can be more so than this, “My dear little children, I write to tell you that your sins are all forgiven you for the sake of Jesus.”

Most ble-sed thought which the Bible has brought,
My sins are forgiven and taken away!
O beautiful letter!—no news could be better,
It will mak• me feel happy and joyous all day.

The Two Ways.

TWO boys used to sit on the same form at school, on the same bench in God's house—used to hear the same sermons and sing the same hymns. One decided to follow Jesus and be a Christian, the other thought the world's pleasures and gay company preferable.

Years passed away, and a dying man, in a poor, delapidated house, sent for the clergyman to see him. He came, and strange to say, the two men were the former schoolmates of years gone by. One a happy and honored servant of the Lord Jesus; the other dying a wretched death—a disgrace to his name, and a ruined soul! What made the difference? One chose to follow Jesus, the other decided to follow the world.

Our Shepherd.

EVEN the most watchful of the shepherds of Palestine, of old, sometimes got drowsy and fell “asleep.” God's eyes are never closed. “He that keepeth thee shall not slumber.” Night by night He takes you to His own fold of love, and watches over you with a Shepherd's care. So you can go to your bed now, and close your eyes with the happy thought—“Thou the Great Shepherd of Israel art with me; and what time I am awake, I am still with Thee.”

In Thine arms of love and mercy
Fold Thy little lamb to-night;
Gracious, ever-watchful Shepherd,
Keep me safe till morning light!

The Pillar of Cloud.

YOU know well enough how clouds look. But you have never seen a cloud standing up straight over a house, have you? The one in the picture does. Though the houses are not at all like ours. They are all tents. One big tent in the middle, and then, as far as you can see, great numbers of little tents. For forty years in the wilderness the Children of Israel lived in tents. God was very good and kind to them, and took care of them.

But what was this wonderful cloud, and what did it mean? When the Children of Israel left Egypt, God led them and showed them the way by this cloud. "The Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light. He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night."

When the Egyptians were rushing after the Israelites by the Red Sea, we read that the pillar of the cloud went from in front, and stood behind them: and it became a cloud and darkness to the Egyptians, but it gave light by night to the Israelites.

After Moses had talked with God on Mount Sinai, he built the tabernacle, exactly as God told him to do. We are told that when Moses finished the tabernacle, the cloud abode upon it. When it was taken up, they journeyed; when it was not taken up, they rested. And this happened through all the forty years. And when the people sinned and God was grieved, and the tabernacle was taken out of the camp, the pillar of cloud came down and "stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the Lord talked with Moses. And all the people saw the cloudy pillar stand at the tabernacle door: and all the people rose up and worshipped, every man in his tent door."

Thus you see the cloud told the Children of Israel that God was with them. He led them in all their wanderings. He helped them against their enemies. He came down to punish them when they were wicked. He never left them. And this loving, leading, protecting God is our Father in heaven. He will guide His little children who love and serve Him safely until He brings them at last to the bright home above, where they will dwell with Him for ever.

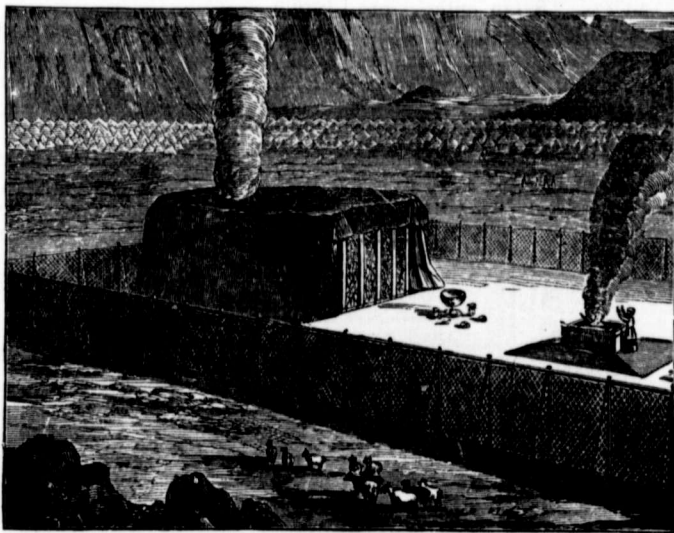
"To Which do you Belong?"

MANY years ago a king of Prussia was passing through a pretty country village and as was often the case, was met by a number of school children, who sang a simple song of welcome. This much pleased the king; and through their head master the children bade his majesty welcome to their village.

When the king had thanked them, he began to question several of the children. Plucking an apple from a tree hard by, he said:

"Let me see if you can tell me to what kingdom this belongs?" "To the vegetable kingdom, sire," answered a blue-eyed German child. "And this?" questioned the king, taking his watch from his pocket,

and holding it up before all. "To the mineral," answered several little voices. "Right," said the king. "And now, little maiden," turning to the first child, "to what kingdom do I belong?" The blue eyes fell, and the child's cheeks coloured deeply. She was afraid to say "the animal kingdom," for she thought his majesty might be offended at being called an animal! Just then it flashed across her mind that "God



made man in His own image," and looking up full of joy she said, "You belong to God's kingdom, sire!"

The king was deeply moved. A tear stood in his eye. The child was frightened at the effect of her words; but the king kindly placed his hand on her head, and said earnestly:

"God grant that I may truly belong to His kingdom!"

Two bright thoughts come out of that story for you, children:—

First, a child's words can reach even kings' hearts, if God guide them. Every word we speak does harm or good. How careful, then, we ought to be in what we say!

The next thought, or rather question, is: "To which kingdom do *you* belong?" "You would like to belong to the kingdom of heaven," you say? How are you to belong to it? Jesus tells you how when He says, "Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

Notes on the S. S. Lessons.

Jesus Betrayed.

John 18: 1-14.

WHILE Jesus was sitting with His disciples, one of the number named Judas left the room and went to the priests, who, like himself, were wicked men, and there he made a bargain to betray Jesus, that is, to lead them to where they might take Him prisoner. What a wicked act. What a mean act. Only to think that he should have been so lost to all sense of what was manly or true as to do such a thing. How kind Jesus had always been to him, even to the very hour when he went out to sell his Master, for you remember He had washed his feet too. Then Jesus had honored him by letting him have charge of the little stock of money belonging to the company. If you ask why he acted so shamefully, we say read John 13: 27; "Satan entered into him." But remember, dear children, Satan could not have entered if he had not been willing to let him.

After Satan entered he was ready to do anything, and so he went out and did the most wicked deed that was ever done on the face of the globe. **HE BETRAYED JESUS.** When the soldiers took Jesus, we read that all His disciples forsook Him and fled. Think of the dear Saviour, betrayed by one of His followers and deserted by all the rest.

What we want you to learn is:

1st. The danger of temptation. No doubt there was a time when Judas would have been offended had it been suggested that he should do such a wicked act. But it appears that he yielded to temptation first to steal the money, then to act the hypocrite, and finally to sell his Master. Perhaps his great weakness was love of money. Beware of temptation.

2nd. We learn from the desertion by His disciples that we must not trust to our own hearts. One of them had said he would never forsake Jesus, and yet he did when the time of trial came.

3rd. We learn the love of Jesus. He loved His disciples to the end. When taken prisoner He asked that His disciples should not be harmed (see 8th verse); and after He rose from the dead He never reproached them for what they had done. Let us follow His example.

Jesus Before Pilate.

John 18: 28-40.

YOU must try to understand about the different places and people before whom Jesus was dragged during the long hours of that sad night. The chief court of law of the Jews was called the

"Council," or sometimes the Sanhedrim. It had seventy-two members, all of whom were either priests, learned men, or chief in some way among the Jews. The high priest was the head of this council. Annas used to be the high priest, but the Romans had put him out of office and appointed Caiaphas, who had married the daughter of Annas, in his place. But Annas still had a great deal of power among the Jews; so Jesus was taken there first. But as Caiaphas was now acting as high priest, and so was head of the council, Annas sent him there.

We only know of two men, out of all those seventy-two, who did not hate Jesus bitterly. These were Nicodemus, who had come to Jesus by night (John 3), and Joseph, who lived in Arimathea; and these two did not seem to have the courage to vote against all the others. We shall see more of them in another lesson.

Most of the others, knowing that Judas had been paid to take the soldiers to where Jesus was, had not gone to bed but were eagerly waiting for news. Some of them were in the palace of Caiaphas. So, when Jesus was brought there, some were already there, others quickly came.

Read what happened in that room, in Matt. 26: 59-68; Mark 14: 55-65. They declared Him to be "guilty of death." But though

murder was in their hearts, they must stick to the form of the law; and a sentence passed in the night, and not in their own hall but in the high priest's palace, was not lawful. So they must wait for daylight. It was while they were waiting that Peter three times denied his Master (vs. 25, 27; Luke 22: 59). Also the servants amused themselves by blindfolding Jesus, spitting in his face, and striking Him. The council were so afraid of Jesus getting away from them, they scarcely waited for daylight, but as early as possible met and sentenced Him to death (Matt. 27: 1; Mark 15: 1; Luke 22: 66-71).

But they were not powerful enough to carry out their own sentence: for they themselves were subject to the Romans and had to obey Roman laws. So they took Him to Pilate, the Roman governor, to try to coax or force him to do as they wished.

Although Pilate saw plainly that Jesus had done nothing wrong, instead of letting Him go at once, he gave the Jews their choice between Jesus and another prisoner named Barabbas, who was a robber.

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