

"REMEMBER NOW THY CREATOR IN THE DAYS OF THY YOUTH."



OUR YOUNG PEOPLE



PUBLISHED BY THE
TORONTO WILLARD TRACT DEPOSITORY.

VOL. II.

TORONTO, CANADA.

No. 13.

John Bunyan.

I SHOULD think there are but few of our readers

who have never heard of John Bunyan; even the little ones will, I daresay, have seen dissolving views about his wonderful book, called "The Pilgrim's Progress."

He himself was the son of a tinker, and followed his father's employment, leading an irregular and wandering life. The dangers he met with as a soldier, serving in the army of the Parliament, in the civil war, were probably the means used by God to bring John Bunyan to

serious thought. He became deeply impressed with religion, his conduct was reformed, and connected himself with the Baptists, in Bedford, and afterwards be-

came a minister among them. Bunyan, by his fearless preaching and teaching, laid himself open to the very severe laws which were then in force, and incurred

the sentence of transportation, but it was happily not carried out; still he was kept in prison for twelve years, till Dr. Barlow, Bishop of Lincoln, exerted his influence to get him liberated.

It was during this time of isolation, in his lonely cell, that Bunyan wrote that wonderful allegory, "Pilgrim's Progress," showing how deeply his ardent imagination was engaged on the mysteries of Christianity. This work has been often imitated, but stands quite

unrivalled among all others. Bunyan published other and valuable works, "The Holy War," and that most interesting autobiography, called, "Grace Abounding



to the Chief of Sinners." On obtaining his liberty, John Bunyan resumed his ministry at Bedford, and became a great and popular preacher. He died during a visit to London in 1688, at sixty years of age.

The Devil's Beans.



THE Rev. Rowland Hill began his sermon one morning by saying: "My friends, the other day I was going down the street, and I saw a drove of pigs following a man. This excited my curiosity so much that

I determined to follow. I did so, and, to my great surprise, saw them follow him to the slaughter house. I was anxious to know how this was brought about, and I said to the man, 'My friend, how did you manage to induce those pigs to follow you here?'

"'Oh! did you not see?' said the man: 'I had a basket of beans under my arm, and I dropped a few as I came along, and so they followed me.'

"Yes," said the preacher: "and I thought, so it is, the devil has his basket of beans under his arm, and he drops them as he goes along, and what multitudes he induces to follow him to an everlasting slaughter-house!"

Dear children, Satan is busy all the time endeavouring to lead little boys and girls (as well as men and women) down to ruin; and to do this our streets are strewn with the "devil's beans." Don't be deceived by him. The only way to escape, and to be really safe, is to become a Christian; then, when you have Jesus as your guide, He will teach you by His Spirit, so that you will know the difference between that which is false and that which is true.

Advice to Boys and Girls.

Be followers of Jesus,
Our dear Saviour, if
You desire to attain true
Success and happiness through life.

Give your heart to the Lord
In your youthful days.
Remember you may put it off until it is too
Late. If you do so,
Sorrow, instead of joy, will fill your cup.

The Queen's Crown.



DID you ever see a diamond! Perhaps you might not have thought much of it till you put it where it could catch the light, and then how it sparkled and shone, and flashed the light back!

Diamonds are very valuable, and people give a good deal of money for them.

As diamonds are so precious, no wonder they should be put into the Queen's crown. And how many do you think there are? Two thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight, large and small! besides pearls and sapphires and rubies, and many other brilliant gems. There is one ruby in the crown which was given to Edward the Black Prince by the King of Castile, more than five hundred years ago, and after that, Henry the Fifth wore it in his helmet at the great battle of Agincourt. So this ruby has had a busy life of it, and has not always been lying idle in a blaze of gold and silver, only to be brought out upon the Queen's high days and holidays.

There are some crowns we read of in ancient history which were not like this, flashing with jewels, but were simple wreaths of green leaves, laurel, or parsley, or olive, and only valuable because of the honor it was to receive them. They were given to racers or to wrestlers when they had won the day: and that is what St. Paul alludes to when he says, "Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown, but we an incorruptible" (1 Cor. 9: 25).

We read of the "crown of life" which God will give us if we have been faithful unto death (Rev. 2: 10). Ah! then, it is not given to those who have not earned it. I do not mean that we can ever earn it in one sense. Jesus has died to purchase it for us, and we have only got to accept it; but still it does not come to us by chance: we must "be faithful," we must run in the race, or the victor's crown will never be on our brow.

You know you have often said, in the words of the hymn, "I mean to fight for Jesus, and wear a crown of gold." That means you must struggle against all the naughty tempers that rise up within: you have to "overcome" and to "conquer."

Oh, what hard work for a small, weak child to do! You cannot do it unless Jesus does it for you.

But if Jesus is to do it all for you, you must crown Him in your heart. When Queen Victoria was crowned with this crown of gold and diamonds, it was a token that people acknowledged her as their sovereign, and that they meant to be obedient to her rule. So I mean, you must take the Lord Jesus to reign in your heart as its ruler and its king.

WHEREVER you go, endeavour to carry with you a sense of God's presence, His holiness, and His love. It will preserve you from a thousand snares.

A Leper Cured.

AS Jesus went about doing good, multitudes followed Him. Yonder is a leper—a man afflicted with spots and sores, whom no man would try to cure. He is obliged to leave his house and family, and live alone, no one will come near him; and he must not go near others, lest they also catch the disease. He hears of Jesus—wants to get close to Him. At last he succeeds. "O sir!" he cries, pray heal me: Thou canst if Thou wilt." Jesus in kindness and mercy did not keep him at a distance. He was not afraid of the dreadful disease, but went near to the man and touched him whom nobody would approach, and said, "I not only can but will heal thee; be thou clean:" and the spots, the white marks and the sores, all went away.

Was he really cured? Yes, but he was to be examined, and not to talk about it till the priest said, "Thou art clean." How kind and thoughtful Jesus was!

Sin is the worst leprosy—it is all over us. No man can cure it.

"None but Jesus
Can do helpless sinners good."

Approved.

THE road to success is not an easy one. Hard struggles have to be fought, difficulties overcome, and much patience is required before the desired end can be attained.

Thus it was with a youth who afterwards became a famous artist. He was blessed with a good and kind mother, who helped and encouraged him to persevere at his work. Her smile attached him to the pursuit on which he had entered; her approval was the reward for which he looked.

One of his first attempts at painting he brought to his mother. He himself was disappointed with it, and was unwilling to persevere, declaring that no one would ever give him anything for his work. The mother took the picture, and bending down fondly kissed her boy, saying she gave him *that* for it.

"That kiss made me a painter," was a favorite saying of his during his after-life. Whenever his determination gave way he thought of that loving parent, and it stimulated him to further exertion.

Which of you would like to hear the Master say, "Well done!" by-and-by? Oh, seek His approval, live for Him, work for Him *now*. Give yourselves up to Him, and He will make you what you ought to be, and show you what you can do. Let the love of

Christ reign in your hearts, and life will be bright and service easy. Then your feeble work will not be in vain; the Saviour's smile will be your sweet reward.

"Study to show thyself approved unto God." though written long ago to Timothy, may well be taken as a motto by every young disciple of the Lord Jesus.

What Love Did.

SOME children were playing one day among the ruins of an old castle, running here and there, and peeping into every nook. At last one of them, a little girl, who had climbed higher than the rest, lost her balance and fell from one of the windows. She certainly would have been dashed to pieces had not her dress caught in a bush which grew from the side of the castle. There she hung between

life and death, while the terrified children gathered overhead. What were they to do? Before they could get assistance she would have fallen. Her brother, a brave, strong lad of fifteen, called out to her to hold on and he would save her. Then throwing off his jacket he began to descend the side, resting his feet where a stone had fallen, and making use of every precaution. The children saw him reach her, and then, with her arms round his neck and holding her tightly with

one hand, he ascended. They held their breath with fear, for the weight he bore was nearly too much. However, step by step, he struggled on until he reached the top in safety.

What led this boy to this daring deed? LOVE. The life of his sister was as dear to him as his own. What a strong motive love is! Love brought the Lord Jesus down from heaven to live a poor life on earth and die a cruel death at last. This He did to save us in His arms from death and sin.

"One there is above all others;
Oh, how He loves!"

WHEN the Breton mariner puts to sea, his prayer is—"Keep me, my God; my boat is small, and Thy ocean is so wide." Does not this beautiful prayer truly express the condition of each of us?

Dear children, remember that God is ready and willing to watch over and guard you during the voyage of life. Will you not put yourself in His keeping?



JESUS HEALING THE LEPER.

Notes on the S. S. Lessons.

Jesus and the Blind Man.

John 9: 1-17.

A LONG while ago there was a blind beggar in Jerusalem. One day Jesus passed by. He saw this blind beggar, and at once he proceeds to cure him.

You will be surprised to hear the strange manner in which He cured him. He made a plaster of the dust of the ground by wetting it with His spittle, and then he put it on the blind man's eyes. You would have thought that by this way his eyes would be made worse. God's way of working is not the way man would adopt.

Then Jesus told the beggar to go and wash in a pool, called Siloam. The beggar went and washed, and when he had washed he found he could see.

Everybody was very much surprised to see him walking along the streets with his eyes open. Some people wondered whether it was the same man who once sat and begged. Other people were sure it was the same man, while others thought it could not be the same, but only a man very much like the blind beggar.

But the Pharisees were mad because Jesus had healed him, and they put a great many questions to try and puzzle the man, but he *knew* what had been done for him; and because he would not speak as they wished him to do, against Jesus, they turned him out of the Temple. But Jesus never leaves a man without comfort who is suffering for His sake—so He came to the man and revealed Himself as the Son of God, and the man was made happy.

Everybody will be happy who believes in Jesus, as this blind man did. If Jesus were to say to you, "Do you believe on the Son of God?" could you say, "Lord, I believe?"

If you believe in Jesus, then you love Him, and you will try to please Him. Can you from your heart sing the beautiful hymn of invitation to others:—

' Come to the Light, 'tis shining for thee;
Sweetly the Light has dawned upon me;
Once I was blind, but now I can see:
The Light of the world is Jesus.'

Jesus the Good Shepherd.

John 10: 1-18.

THE Pharisees were the religious teachers of the people, and they ought to have acted as shepherds, caring for the flock entrusted to them, but instead of doing so they had just turned out of the Temple one who should have been cared for. Instead of leading him and teaching him, they had driven him out, calling him hard names. Jesus had sought for him and encouraged him; and now, in our lesson, Jesus says:

"I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd giveth His life for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; and I know my sheep, and my sheep know me."

That poor blind beggar was one of these sheep.

Jesus knew him first, and afterwards he knew Jesus. He must have felt glad when he heard those words about the shepherd and the sheep.

Very likely the most of the people who heard Jesus speak these words owned sheep themselves, for there were, and still are, many flocks kept in that country. At any rate, they all knew very well how a faithful shepherd cared for his sheep—leading

them out every morning to the greenest pastures and the clearest waters he could find; teaching them to know and follow his voice; carefully defending them from robbers and wild beasts, often at the risk of his own life; going quickly in search of such as foolishly strayed away into the dark woods and tangled thickets, and carrying the feeble lambs in his arms. Did those who listened to Jesus that day remember that Isaiah had written of the Saviour, years before, "*He shall feed his flock like a shepherd*"? Did they know this Saviour's voice and follow him? Alas! then, as now, there were many "wandering sheep," who "did not love the Saviour's voice," who "would not be controlled." Have you entered the Door?



THE BLIND MAN WASHING IN THE POOL OF SILOAM.

'OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.'

Edited by ALF. SANDHAM. Published on the first and third Saturday of each month, by the Toronto Willard Tract Depository,—S. R. BRIGGS, Manager,—corner Yonge and Temperance Streets, Toronto, Ont.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.—PER YEAR—Single copies, 25c.; 10 copies \$1.50; 25 copies, \$3.00; 100 copies, \$10.00.