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# THE SUNBEAM

ENLARGED SERIES.—VOL. VII.]

TORONTO, APRIL 10, 1886

[No. 8.

## THE GIRAFFE.

Of all the strange creatures to be seen in zoological gardens, none more remarkable than the giraffe, the tallest animal in the world. It was called the camelopard by the ancients, because it had long legs like the camel, and was spotted like the leopard; but it is not really like either animal, though it has some resemblance to the camel, as in the shape of its nostrils and upper lip it is more nearly allied to the deer; but its most striking peculiarities are all its own, and in general when it is unlike any other quadruped. The spots with which it is adorned are totally different to those of the leopard, being large, and of irregular shape, and are arranged in a geometric pattern along its sides. The small horns with which its head is armed are made of horn, like those of the ox or deer, but are of bone, and seem like a prolongation of the bones of the skull; they are terminated by a tuft of stiff bristles.

The singular shape of the giraffe is adapted to its habits of life; it



THE GIRAFFE.

feeds on the young branches and top shoots of the trees, and its long fore-legs and neck enable it to browse at a far greater height than any other animal.

In feeding it stretches up its neck, and with its long prehensile tongue, which it can protrude to a surprising distance, hooks down the tender shoots and leaves into its mouth. But the creature's peculiar form, though enabling it to feed on what it likes best, is sometimes the cause of its destruction. The fore-legs are so long that to reach the ground it has to stretch them wide apart, and bend down its back in a semi circle, and while drinking in this defenceless attitude the lion or leopard springs upon it, and overpowers it before it can recover itself. The giraffe is rather a timid animal, and as it runs with great swiftness it usually seeks safety in flight; but when hard pressed it will turn and beat off even the lion by striking out with its strong fore-hoofs. Its horns, too, though they are so small, are capable of inflicting severe injuries.

THE HARVEST.

A few little seeds by the wayside  
Were sown with loving care;  
A few little seeds by the wayside  
Dropped with a silent prayer.

Though I may not see the springing  
Where in other hearts 'tis sown,  
But, oh, what a golden harvest  
I've gathered within my own.

So a little work for the Master,  
Though love's reward be dim,  
Yet the world is pure and better  
For a single thought of him.

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The Sunbeam.

TORONTO, APRIL 10, 1896

TWO PENNIES.

It was a bright spring evening when little Polly stole softly into her father's room, with shoeless feet, and her golden hair falling lightly over her white night-gown; for it was bedtime, and she had come to say "Good-night."

"Father," said the little one, raising her blue eyes to his kind face, "father may I say my prayers beside you, for mother is too ill for me to go to her to-night?"

"Yes, pet," he answered, tenderly stroking the curled head.

And reverently the child knelt down beside him, and repeated her evening prayer, adding at the close with special earnestness, "God bless my two pennies."

What can the child mean? thought her father in surprise, and when the little white-robed figure was gone, he went and asked her mother if she knew what their little daughter meant.

"Oh, yes!" said the lady, "Polly has prayed that prayer every night since she

put her two pennies into the plate at the last missionary meeting."

Dear children, have you ever prayed to God for a blessing on the pennies you have put into the missionary box? If not, be sure you never forget to do so in the future.

A DEAR BARGAIN.

"It is a jolly knife!" said Ted admiringly.

"There are three blades beside the cork-screw," said Tom; it could not have cost less than half-a-dollar."

"What made him give it to you?" said Ted. "I wish he had taken it into his head to give it me."

"Why, I'll tell you," said Tom, laughing. "He's so green, you know. I gave him my red alley for it, and the medal I picked up in the road; and I told him the medal was silver and the alley was real marble and worth a lot of money, and he thinks he's got a great bargain."

"Oh," said Ted, "that alters the case. I would not have it at that price if you gave me a hundred pounds as well."

"Why not," said Tom, "if he's such a soft as to believe everything you tell him?"

"He's welcome to sell his knife how he likes," said Ted, turning on his heel, "but I would not sell my character for all the knives of the world."

NOT AFRAID.

Two little boys were talking together about a lesson they had been receiving from their grandmother on the subject of Elijah's going to heaven in a chariot of fire.

"I say, Charlie," said George, "but would not you be afraid to ride on such a chariot?"

"Why, no," replied Charlie, "I should not be afraid if I knew that the Lord was driving."

That was what David felt when he said, "What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee." He knew that nothing could hurt him if God was present as his protector and friend.

PRESERVED SUNSHINE.

LITTLE Edith watched her mother putting up strawberries, and asked her what they were. Her mother told her "preserves," and explained how they would keep to be used next winter.

A few days afterwards Edith was out in the field gathering wild-flowers. When she came in, she said: "Now, mamma, I have some preserves too—preserved sunshine. I think God preserved it so." And what do you think she had? Why, a handful of dandelions! But that was a pretty name for them—wasn't it?



"YOU THIEF."

He is helping himself to candy raisins. The storekeeper's back happened just then to be turned, and he made a jump for the counter. He did not stop to ask if he was doing right. People who do wrong never stop to ask questions. They would be afraid to do that. If they should ask questions, they would hear a voice under their jackets, saying, "You thief!" If you wish, you can try this and see. The next time you are going to do anything wrong, just stop and listen to the voice under your jacket. This is the voice that God has within us. Some day, if you do wrong, you are wicked—some day, by and by, you will hear that voice like a lion roaring. You cannot stop it.

This boy in the picture stops and touches his head. This is because he feels guilty and is afraid he hears some one coming. A rat gnawing in the wall would make you run like a coward; or if you should knock the door suddenly and say, "Boo!" you would come down as quickly as if he had been shot.

The way to be brave is to do right. Then you do not care who sees you. So long as you do wrong you will always be a coward. The world does not care to be pleasant to a man who does wrong. You do not see the beauty of the sunlight, the green hills, and the dewdrops. The song of the bird is no music to his ears. Oh, how much he loses! He loses everything.

W. O.



THE LOG HORSE.

## THE LOG HORSE.

THESE three little folks have found a log horse. The horse lets them all ride at once. He does not trot fast. He is very gentle, and will not rear up or throw them off. Charlie cracks his whip, and says, "Go along," and Effie has put up her bonnet on a stick for a flag. Carlo enjoys the fun and keeps up a lively barking. I hope the horse will take the children where they want to go.

## A BOY'S CONFIDENCE.

A LITTLE boy came to his father, looking very much in earnest, and asked: "Father, Satan bigger than I am?"

"Yes, my boy," said the father.

"Is he bigger than you, father?"

"Yes, my boy, he is bigger than your mother."

The boy looked surprised, but thought again and then asked: "Is he bigger than Jesus?"

"No, my boy," answered the father, "Jesus is bigger than he is."

The little fellow, as he turned away, said with a smile: "Then I am not afraid of him."—*Selected.*

## "GOOD-MORNING."

DON'T forget to say "Good-morning!" say it to your parents, your brothers and sisters, your school-mates, your teachers; and say it cheerfully and with a smile. It will do your friends good. There's a kind of inspiration in every "Good-morning!" heartily and smilingly spoken that helps to make hope fresher and work lighter. It really seems to make the morning good, and to be a prophecy of a good day to come after it. Such greetings cheer the discouraged, rest the tired ones, and somehow make the wheel of life run more smoothly. —*Bible Banner.*

## PLAYTHINGS OF THE INDIAN CHILDREN.

THE Indian children, living in their wigwams in the west of the United States and Canada, love playthings as well as other children. The boys play with bows and arrows, and the girls with dolls or substitutes for them. The dolls are of rags, with hideous faces painted on them, and daubed with streaks of red in a style admired by them. To these, however, they prefer a live plaything—or a "meat baby," as the little girl once said; so they make pets of ravens, young eagles, and puppies. A young Indian girl is often seen with the wise head of one of these birds or the fat, round face of a poppy sticking out of her blanket behind. They also imitate the life of their mothers, and rig an arrangement with two poles crossed on the back of a dog, as the squaws do on the back of a horse, on which queer vehicle they carry jars of water or anything they choose. The babies of the Indians, strapped into their cradles, play with the dangling strings of beads or other articles which are hung before their faces to make them squint, that being considered a great beauty.

The Esquimaux children have toys in plenty, and they are twice as useful as our toys; for making them entertains and occupies the parents, and playing with them does the same for the children. From ivory they carve the animals of their country—bears, wolves, foxes, geese, gulls, walruses, seals, and whales. These are quite small, —none three inches long, and some not more than one inch,—but so well carved that the animal is easily recognized.

LET us learn upon earth those things which call us to heaven.

## A RAINY-DAY SONG

They wanted to go in the fields to play,  
But the rain-drops dashed and pattered  
away

On the window, all day long,  
So they fretted and cried, little Ralph and  
Ted,

But the baby lifted its shining head,  
And, "Only listen," he softly said,

"The rain is singing a song!"

Then I whispered, "Bless him, the bonny  
boy,

Whose ears are open to sounds of joy

Though rainy days be long.

Our world has many a storm, my dear

But still, through trouble and pain and  
fear,

The heart that listens will always hear

God's rain drops singing a song!"

## NELLIE'S DAILY BREAD.

"MAMMA," said little Nellie one day at breakfast, suddenly, "every morning I pray to God to give me my daily bread, but really it is you who gives it to me—isn't it?"

"Let us think a moment about that, Nellie," replied her mother. "Where do I get the bread I give you?"

"From the baker, mamma."

"And he gets the flour out of which he makes it from the miller, and the miller gets the grain out of which he made the flour from the farmer, and the farmer gets the grain—where does the farmer get the grain, my little girl?"

"Why, out of the ground," said Nellie. "Don't you remember Uncle George was cutting wheat and oats when we were at the farm?"

"Well, now, suppose that Uncle George put grain in the ground, and God sent no sunshine, and no dew, and no rain, would Uncle George have any harvest?"

"Why, no," said Nellie, looking sober.

"Then, you see, it is God, after all, who gives us each day our daily bread, and when we have fruitful seasons and plenty to eat, we ought to be very thankful to our kind Father in heaven who never forgets to give us what we need."—*Our Lambs.*

## HELPING THE MINISTER.

"THERE was one thing that helped me very much while I preached to-day" said a minister, once.

"What was that?" asked a friend.

"It was the quiet attention of a little girl who sat and looked at me all the time I talked, and seemed to try to understand what I said. She was a great help to me."

Think of that, dear little ones, when mamma and papa take you to church, and see if you can't help the minister, too.

"OF SUCH IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN."

Little feet may find the pathway  
Leading upward unto God,  
Little hands may learn to scatter  
Seeds of precious truth abroad.

Youthful hearts may be the temple  
For the Spirit's dwelling-place—  
Childhood's lips declare the riches  
Of God's all-abounding grace.

Little ones, though frail and earth born,  
Heirs of blessedness may be,  
For the Saviour whispereth gently,  
'Suffer such to come to Me.'

And in that eternal kingdom,  
'Mid the grand, triumphal throng,  
Childish voices sweet may mingle  
In the glorious choral song.

*Apples of Gold.*

THE SABBATH A LOVING DAY.

"MOTHER, I suppose one reason why they call the Sabbath a holy day is because it's such a loving day," said a little boy as he stood up by his father's side and looked up into his mother's face.

"Why, is not every day a loving day?" asked his mother. "I love father, and father loves me, and we both love you and baby every day as well as Sunday."

"Well, you've no time to tell us on week days," said the little boy. "You have to work, and father has to go off early to his work, and he is so tired when he comes home. But Sunday he takes me on his knee and tells me Bible stories, and we go to church together; and oh! it's such a loving day."—*Youth's Temperance Banner.*

LESSON NOTES.

SECOND QUARTER.

A.D. 27.] LESSON III. [April 18.

THE FIRST MIRACLE.

*John 2. 1-11.*

*Commit to memory verses 1-4.*

GOLDEN TEXT.

This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him. John 2. 11.

OUTLINE.

1. The Marriage in Cana, v. 1, 2.
2. The First Miracle, v. 3-10.
3. The Believing Disciples, v. 11.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

When did Jesus go to the marriage feast? Three days after he chose the first five of his disciples.

What happened at the feast? The wine gave out.

Who were with him? His mother and his disciples.

What did the mother of Jesus want him to do? To make some more wine by a miracle.

Why did she want him to work a miracle? That all might see his power.

What was the reply of Jesus? "Mine hour is not yet come."

What did his mother say to the servants? "Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it."

Why did she thus speak to them? She felt that Jesus would show forth his power in his own time.

What command did Jesus then give to the servants? "Fill the water-pots with water."

How were they filled? Up to the brim.

To whom did Jesus command that they be brought? To the ruler of the feast.

With what did the ruler find them filled? With wine.

Why did he call for the bridegroom? To tell him that he had kept the best wine until the last.

What was the turning of the water into wine? Jesus' first miracle. (Repeat the GOLDEN TEXT.)

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

All the money in the world, all the kings in the world, all the armies in the world, or all of these put together, if they had tried a thousand years, in a thousand different ways, could not have changed the water into wine. But Jesus did it in a moment. Do you wonder his disciples believed on him?

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Miracles.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

What can God do? God can do whatever He will.

Does God know all things? Yes, God knows all things; every thought in man's heart, every word, and every action.

A.D. 27.] LESSON IV. [April 25.

JESUS AND NICODEMUS.

*John 3. 1-15.*

*Commit to memory vs. 14-16.*

GOLDEN TEXT.

Ye must be born again. John 3. 7.

OUTLINE.

1. Man's Great Need, v. 1-12.
2. God's Great Gift, v. 13-18.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

Who came by night to see Jesus? Nicodemus, a Jewish teacher.

For what reason? Because he believed that Jesus was sent from God.

What caused him to believe this? miracles that Jesus did.

What did Jesus tell him? "Except man be born anew, he cannot see kingdom of God." (Repeat the GOLDEN TEXT.)

What did Nicodemus believe? That every Jew should see the kingdom of God.

What question did Nicodemus ask Jesus? "How can a man be born again when he is old?"

What was Jesus' answer? A man must be born of water and of the Spirit."

What is it to be born of water? To be baptised.

What is it to be born of the Spirit? To be made pure and sinless by God's power.

To what does Jesus compare the birth of the Spirit? To the wind, that no man understands.

What did God give the Israelites to save them from death? The brass serpent hung upon a pole.

How were they saved? By looking at the serpent.

Whom did God give to save us from death? His only begotten Son, Jesus.

When does he save us? When we believe to him and believe on his name.

What did Jesus tell Nicodemus? That he must die to give the world eternal life.

Why did God give the world his only Son? Because he loved it.

What did the world deserve? Punishment for its sins.

What did God offer it through Jesus? Forgiveness and joy and peace.

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

With our natural hearts first we know we are doing "a lot" of naughty, sinful things. Aren't we? Then we feel ashamed to ask to be forgiven, and try again, but we go on the same old way. What we know what God has promised to give, is—

"A heart in every thought renewed,  
And full of love divine;  
Perfect, and right, and pure, and good,  
A copy, Lord, of thine."

To have a new heart is to be "born again."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Regeneration.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

Will He call us to account for all we do and do? At the last day God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil.

Does God love you? Yes, God loves everything which He has made.