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THE CHIMBEAM

ENLARGED SERIES—VOL. VII.]

TORONTO, APRIL 24, 1886.

[No 9.]

GIDEON'S ARMY.

AMONG the men whom God raised up to deliver the children of Israel out of the hands of their enemies was Gideon. These warriors were called judges, of whom Gideon was fifth, who lived about two hun-

years after Joshua.

The Lord gave Gideon a sign that he would be with him. One night Gideon spread a fleece on the earth and in the morning it was wet with dew, while the ground around was dry. He spread it again the next night and in the morning the fleece was wet while all the ground around was dry.

One night Gideon divided his men into three companies who surrounded the camp of the enemy. Each had a trumpet, and a torch hidden under a vessel. Gideon with his trumpet and all the men broke through their trumpets, and cried, "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon." They stood still and blew on their trumpets and the Lord was with Gideon. And the men were so fright-

ened that they commenced killing one another and fleeing for life. The children of Israel gathered together as quickly as possible and pursued them. For forty years Gideon ruled Israel in the name of the Lord.

"SMILES WHEN SHE SPEAKS."

THE power of unconscious influence was illustrated by the following incident:

A lady called at the house of a neighbour on an errand; but, as the family were away, she asked the man in charge of the

"Who was it?" inquired Mrs. H.

"O, I don't know her name," replied the man.

"But you should have asked her," said Mrs. H., "so we should know who had been here. Can't you tell me anything by

which I can tell who came? Where does she live?"

"I don't know," said the man, "but she's the one that always smiles when she speaks."

The pleasant look and the courteous manner in which this lady had spoken to the servant had been noticed, and remembered, leaving a sunbeam in that man's heart. Let us each remember that religion is recommended by the way in which we treat even the servants. The command, "Be courteous," reaches to all with whom we have to do.

A BRAVE BOY.

SOME boys were once trying to make fun of the Bible and of the people who go to church and try to do as God bids them in the Bible. But there was one brave boy in that crowd. He

went to the house to tell his employer that she would call again. Being in a hurry, and not thinking but that the man knew who she was, she did not leave her name. The lady of the house returned before the rest of the family, and the man told her that a lady had been there who said she'd call again.

said, "Boys, I don't see anything to make fun of in the Bible or these people. They are far better off than you are who can talk this way about Jesus and his book. And more than this, boys, I don't want to hear any more such talk about him, for he's my best friend, and I can't stand to hear his name abused."



GIDEON'S ARMY.

Modesty suppresses no virtue.

THE EASTER HYMN.

"CHRIST, the Lord, is risen to-day,"
Sons of men and angels say;
Raise your joys and triumphs high;
Sing, ye heavens; thou earth, reply.

Love's redeeming work is done;
Fought the fight, the battle won;
Lo! the sun's eclipse is o'er,
Lo! he sets in blood no more.

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal,
Christ hath burst the gates of hell,
Death in vain forbids his rise,
Christ hath opened Paradise.

Lives again our glorious King;
Where, O death, is now thy sting?
Once he died our souls to save;
Where's thy victory, boasting grave?

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The Sunbeam.

TORONTO, APRIL 24, 1886.

HELEN'S VERSE.

ONE morning Helen's verse was: "Whatever ye would that men should do unto you, do ye also unto them." She had repeated it to papa, and he had told her how even little people could be helpful, and loving, and gentle, as they would wish others to be to them. That day baby cried a good deal; and mamma had the headache, and was all tired out. Then Helen thought: "Why, yes, if I were a mamma, and my baby cried, I'd want my little girl to help me." So she took baby while mamma went and laid down, and was as gentle as she would have wished others to be with her. Don't you think she was happier for practising her verse?

"AND how old are you my little man?"
"I'm not old at all. I'm nearly new."



STRANGE COMPANIONS.

STRANGE COMPANIONS.

I PRESUME you have all heard of Barnum's "happy family." In a large cage he keeps a number of animals that are natural enemies—cats, birds, rats, monkeys, and snakes—I believe. It seems very singular that such animals could be taught to dwell together in peace. But in our picture we see a thing which is even more remarkable—the prairie dog, the owl, and the rattle-snake, all dwelling together, of their own free choice, in one home, and in perfect peace. One wonders that the owls do not fall a prey to the snake, and that the little dogs do not worry the life out of the snake; but no quarrels, I believe, ever arise in their happy homes.

CARLO.

How well we all remember Carlo! He was a dear old dog, and belonged to Mr. Rhodes, the constable of our town.

Carlo always made a point of attending all the fires in the town. He could mount a ladder like a fireman, and well do I recollect the last of his adventures.

It was toward evening on a holiday, and few people were in the place, as most of the citizens of the town were absent on a popular excursion.

I remember feeling sadly disappointed at having to miss the excursion myself. At about five o'clock the bells in the churches began to ring very loud and fast; and Carlo, who had been lazily sleeping and watching the place, started up, and, with two or three expressive growls that summoned his master, ran with all speed for the fire.

The dog was very busy and intelligent all the time, dragging down the stairs, with great speed and care, things of every description.

As the last house was burning, the cry of a child was heard in the upper story.

Of course it was out of the question for any one to go up and expect to come back, but Carlo seemed to take in the situation at a glance. Knowing in his dog mind that the first stories were already in flame, he leaped up the ladder and jumped in through the window. The fire and smoke soon drove him back, but his master who appeared at that moment, shouted him to go in, and the people cheered. Whether he understood or not, he again entered the window, and when all hope of return had been given up, a loud shout announced his arrival. He was terribly burned, and fell before he reached the ground; still holding with wonderful firmness a little babe.

The child did not prove to be greatly harmed; but poor Carlo's injuries were fatal. The brave dog received every credit but he died the next day.—*Effie Squier, "Dog Stories," St. Nicholas for March.*

THE NEW KEY.

"AUNT," said a little girl, "I believe I have found a new key to unlock people's hearts and to make them so willing."

"What is the key?" asked her aunt.

"It is only a little word: guess what."

But her aunt was no guesser.

"It is please," said the child. If I am one of the great girls in school, 'Please show me my paring lesson,' she says, 'Yes,' and helps me. If I ask Sarah, 'Please do this for me,' no matter, she will take her hands out of the suds and do it. If I ask my uncle, 'Please,' he says, 'Yes, Puss, if I can.' And then if I say, 'Please, aunt—'

"What does aunt do?" said aunt herself. "Oh, you look and smile, just like mother, and that is the best of all," cried the little girl, throwing her arms around her aunt's neck, with a tear in her eye.



HARRY AND PRINCE.

EASTER DAY.

world itself keeps Easter day,
 or happy birds are singing;
 from the earth so cold and gray
 the tiny blades are springing;
 the seeds that in their graves have lain—
 are silently abiding
 an hour when spring-time's sun and rain
 could call them from their hiding—
 to rise again to bud and bloom,
 and fill the earth with gladness;
 these are the days of wintry gloom;
 for spring is no time for sadness.

the tree and shrub the new life feels
 through every vein warm-glowing;
 the buds burst forth—the promise sure
 of leaves and fruit soon growing;
 the little streams—ice-bound so long—
 flow onward gaily singing;
 and from their fetters, join their song
 with Easter joy-bells ringing.

Christ is risen,—as all things tell:
 when let all hearts warm-glowing,
 all doubts and sorrows rise as well,
 with love and faith o'erflowing,
 hope again rise from the tomb
 of earthly griefs and losses;
 the blossoms spring from dust and gloom,
 and crowns are won by crosses.

IN A MINUTE.

CHILDREN, don't say, "In a minute,"
 when mamma or papa tells you to do some-
 thing.
 It is a very bad habit, and gives
 you a great deal of trouble. It does not
 allow you any longer to pick up a basket of chips
 on your way to the store as soon as you are told
 the first time than it will after you have
 spoken to half a dozen times. And
 remember God, your parents nor yourself will
 be well pleased with work done that way.
 Work that done cheerfully and promptly.
 Promptly means *right off*, you know.

HARRY AND PRINCE.

"WHOA! ho, there! Aunt Amy, see
 how nicely I've got Prince hitched to my
 express waggon! May I go out into the
 street with him?"

"I think it is much nicer in your pleasant
 yard, Harry. There are rough boys and
 quarrelsome dogs in the street, and you
 might get into trouble. Prince looks well
 harnessed up; doesn't he?" she added, see-
 ing that Harry still turned longing eyes
 toward the street, and anxious to divert his
 attention some other way.

"Don't he, though?" exclaimed Harry
 with energy. "Prince is the finest dog in
 the land; he's a regular Newfoundland St.
 Bernard greyhound."

"Are you sure of that?" asked Aunt
 Amy, with a smile at Harry's remarkable
 mixture of dog families.

"Well, not quite, auntie. But it sounds
 big to call him so, and Prince's such a
 splendid fellow no name is too good for him."

"That is true. You may hold to the
 Newfoundland for him, but I would let the
 St. Bernard and the greyhound go. Prince
 is very little like a greyhound, and there
 are very few St. Bernard dogs left in the
 world now, so people might feel inclined to
 doubt his being one."

"Why, Aunt Amy, I thought the St.
 Bernard dogs were very famous dogs."

"So they have been for hundreds of years,
 but they are dying out as a dog race."

"I'd like to train a dog to save people,"
 said Harry thoughtfully as he led Prince
 out; "I know I could do that."

Aunt Amy heard nothing more of going
 out on the street. An hour later she went
 to look for the boy and dog, and saw a rest-
 less pile of dried leaves, the restlessness of
 which she soon perceived to be caused by
 Harry's movements under them. Prince

was frolicking about him, giving short barks
 and sniffs as if greatly enjoying the fun

"Now, Prince," said Harry's voice from
 under the leaves, "you've found me where
 I was buried, and you must dig the snow
 all off me and lead me up to your home.
 Do you hear, doggie? Prince! Prince!
 stop! Don't you know you're going to be
 a Leonberg dog?"

But Prince had just heard the dinner-
 bell, and with a quick "Wough! wough!"
 he dashed away, leaving the poor traveller
 in the leafy snow to find his way out as he
 best might.—*Selected.*

"THAT BOOK."

"NELLIE, toss me that book," said a boy
 to his little sister.

"It isn't a book," said Miss Three-year-
 old. "It is the Bible, and it isn't to be
 tossed."

That was a lesson in reverence for her
 older brother to learn. Charlie's Latin
 grammar, the stories and histories on the
 centre-table, even the illustrated edition of
 Longfellow's poems—all these were books,
 according to the little maiden's idea; but
 the big volume out of which papa read in
 the morning and the morocco one with gilt
 clasps that mamma carried to Sabbath-
 school were not books—they were Bibles.
 Sometimes, perhaps, when mamma was not
 looking, she might venture to toss a book
 that did not have pretty covers, but the
 Bible never. We like the way this little
 girl revered the book. When we
 receive little presents from our friends, we
 value them very much in proportion as we
 love the givers. So should we value the
 Word of God, his present to us, so highly
 that no matter how simple the covers that
 enclose it, we shall always desire to take
 the best care of it, and allow it to serve
 no ignoble purpose.

A SWIMMING LESSON IN VENICE.

If the day is warm we shall see plenty
 of Venetian boys swimming in the canals,
 wearing nothing but a pair of light trousers,
 and they care so little for our approach
 that we are afraid our gondolas will run
 over some of them. The urchins are very
 quick and active, however, and we might
 as well try to touch a fish as one of them.
 I once saw a Venetian girl about sixteen
 years old, who was sitting upon the steps of
 a house teaching her young brother to swim.
 The little fellow was very small, and she
 had tied a cord around his waist, one end of
 which she held in her hand. She would
 let the child get into the water and paddle
 away as well as he could. When he seemed
 tired or when he had gone far enough, she
 pulled him in. She looked very much as
 if she were fishing, with a small boy for
 bait.

AN EASTER CAROL.

EASTER Day, Easter Day,
Sing, O children, while you may,
As the angels sing who love you,
As the birds sing high above you
On this heavenly day.
For the birds know spring is nearer,
And the angels heaven is dearer,
While the singing children say,
"Jesus lives and lives away."

Easter Day, Easter Day,
Do not linger where he lay
From the loving and the scorning,
Till this glorious, golden morning,
Hidden awhile away.
That the darkness may not hide us,
Nor the long, green sods divide us
When we're tired of work and play
From this Jesus, risen to-day.

Easter Day, Easter Day,
Ah! the dawn was cold and gray,
But the King in beauty waking,
All his sad, old earth is breaking
Into hope of May.
And the children sing forever,
Knowing death nor life can sever
Love from love—they sing and say,
"Jesus lives and lives away."

WHO KNOWS.

A LITTLE boy was once asked: "Who made you?" "God made me," he said. "Well, why do you think God made you?" was asked. "Because," he said, "he wanted a little boy to love him."

I think that is what God wants of all the dear little boys and girls who read THE SUNBEAM. Then if you love him, he has a work for you to do. There was a great work for Esther to do in this lesson, and her uncle told her: "Who knowest whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

LESSON NOTES.

SECOND QUARTER.

A.D. 28.] LESSON V. [May 2.

JESUS AT THE WELL.

John 4. 5-26. Commit to memory vs. 23-26.

GOLDEN TEXT.

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. John 4. 24.

OUTLINE.

1. The Well, v. 5-9.
2. The Water of Life, v. 10-18.
3. The Worship of God, v. 19-26.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

Where did Christ stop to rest on his way through Samaria? By Jacob's well.

Who came there to draw water? A Samaritan woman.

For what did Jesus ask her? For a drink of water.

Why was she surprised at his request? Because he was a Jew, and the Jews never spoke to the Samaritans.

What did Jesus say to her? "If you knew me you would ask me for living water to drink."

How did she question him? "Where will you get that living water?"

What did Jesus answer? "He that drinketh of the living water shall never thirst."

What is the living water? The Holy Spirit that guides and blesses us.

What did the Samaritan woman ask of Jesus? "Give me of this water."

What did Jesus show her? That all her life was known to him.

What was her confession? "Sir, thou art a prophet."

What question did she ask of Jesus? "Where shall men worship God?"

What was Christ's answer? Not in any one place, but in a right spirit.

What did Jesus say of his Father? (Repeat the GOLDEN TEXT.)

Of whom did the woman speak to Jesus? Of their long-expected Saviour, who would do great things.

What did Jesus tell her? "I am he."

What happened? She believed with all her heart.

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

From morning until night, every look and motion meets God's sight. From our earliest breathing to our latest year, every sound we utter meets his ear. And where'er we go, every thought and feeling doth he know.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The way of salvation.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

What has God made? God made everything in heaven and earth; and, last of all, he made man.

How did God make man? God made the body of man out of the dust of the earth.

A.D. 28.] LESSON VI. [May 9.

SOWING AND REAPING.

John 4. 27-42. Commit to memory vs. 35-38.

GOLDEN TEXT.

One soweth, and another reapeth. John 4. 37.

OUTLINE.

1. Sowing, v. 27-34.
2. Reaping, v. 35-42.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

What did the Samaritan woman do? She left the well.

Where did she go? To the city to the people she had seen the Saviour.

Who came to the well where Jesus was? His disciples.

What did they try to have Jesus do? Eat of the meat they had brought.

What did he say to them? "My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me."

What did Jesus mean by this? That to do God's work was his food and life.

What did he tell his disciples? "The fields are ready for the harvest."

What kind of a harvest? The harvest of men waiting to receive their Saviour.

Who had sown the seed? The prophets and John the Baptist.

What was the work for the disciples? Reaping where others had sown. (Repeat the GOLDEN TEXT.)

How could they do this? By winning souls for Jesus.

What is there for both sower and reaper? A heavenly reward.

Who believed on Jesus? Many of the Samaritans.

What did they ask of Jesus? That they would dwell with them.

How long did he stay in their city? Ten days.

What did they believe him to be? That he was the Saviour of the world."

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

Are you sowing seeds of kindness,
Little people, day by day?
Are you helping to point your playmates
To the true and only way?
"Are you sowing in life's bright morning
Seeds that you will want to reap?"
Hear the voice of Jesus saying,
What are you sowing, dear children, to-day?
"By and by the harvest will be gathered,
What are you sowing, sowing, to-day?"

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The spirit of harvest.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

Did his soul come from the dust? No. For the Lord God breathed into his nostrs the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

Why did God make man? God made man that he might know Him and love Him and serve Him, and be happy with Him forever.

A LITTLE girl knelt down to pray. She asked the dear Lord to give her what she wanted, and all was still for a few moments. Then she said, "Thank you, God; you are very Good!" With a light heart she ran away to her play, because she had asked and received.