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# THE SUNBEAM

ENLARGED SERIES—VOL. IX.]

TORONTO, JANUARY 28, 1888.

[No. 2.

## PUT SOME SALT IN IT.

"MOTHER, what makes you put salt into everything that you cook? Into everything you make you put a little salt, and sometimes a great deal." So spoke observing little Annie, as she stood looking on.

"Well, Annie, I'll make you a little loaf of bread, and see if you can't find out."

"O, mother! it doesn't taste a bit good," said she, after she had tasted it.

"Why not?"

"You didn't put any salt in it."

"Mother, said Annie," a day or two afterwards, "Jane Wells is the worst girl that I ever saw. She slaps her little brother, and pulls his hair, and acts real hateful, and when I told her that it was naughty for her to do so, and that if she would be kind to her brother he would be kind to her, she only spoke



roughly to me, and hit him again. Why won't she take advice, mother?"

"Perhaps you did not put any salt in it. Season your words with grace, my child. Ask the help of God in all that you say and do; and then your words, spoken in the spirit of Christ, will not fall to the ground. Do not forget to put it in, or else it will not taste good."

## LITTLE THINGS.

SPRINGS are little things, but they are sources of large streams; a helm is a little thing, but we know its use and power; nails and pegs are little things, but they hold the parts of a large building together; a word, a look, a smile, a frown, are all little things, but powerful for good or evil. Think of this and mind the little things.

## HUSH, BABY, HUSH.

HUSH, baby, hush! Mother is ill:  
You must be good now, you must be still;  
You must not worry, you must not fret,  
But act like a good little lady, my pet.

After you've had a nice little nap,  
You shall have on your mantle and cap,  
And we will go where the wild flowers grow,  
And birds in the tree-tops flit to and fro.

Then you shall pluck a fine nosegay for mother,  
And for the vase in the parlour another;  
And you shall make of the daisies and leaves  
A chain such as Ellen the milk-maid weaves.

Come, my own darling, to sleep now, to sleep!  
Those little eyes must stop trying to peep;  
The sooner you sleep on this bright sunny day,  
The sooner, my darling, we'll go out to play.

## LITTLE THINGS.

If little falling drops of rain  
The lakes and rivers fill;  
If little grains of earth and sand  
Make mountain, plain, and hill.

If little moments as they pass  
Make hours and days and years,  
Then little sins of every kind  
Should fill our hearts with fears.

For little sins, if once allowed,  
To greater sins will grow,  
And, if not stopped by grace divine,  
Will lead to endless woe.

Great God, then fill each of our hearts  
With love and fear of thee,  
And to us all thy Spirit give,  
That we may holy be.

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## The Sunbeam.

TORONTO, JANUARY 28, 1888.

## SWIMMING TO CHURCH.

A LITTLE girl who lived in Africa, one Saturday afternoon came in her little canoe with two bunches of plantains to sell to the missionary. When she was going away, Mrs. B. said to her, "Now you must not forget that to-morrow will be the Sabbath day, and you have already promised to come every time." "Yes," she said; "I will surely come if I am alive." And so she did; but no one knew how she got there, until at the close of the service she told the girls that in the night her canoe had been stolen, and none of her friends would lend her one; but she had promised to come to church, and so she felt she must. How did she come? Well, she swam! The current was swift, the water deep, and the river fully a third of a mile wide; but by swimming slant-ways she succeeded in crossing the river.

If this little heathen girl, who knew only a little about the gospel, could take so much pains to keep her word, and to keep holy the Sabbath day, how much more should favoured Canadian children keep the fourth and ninth commandments!

## LITTLE FEET FOR JESUS.

LITTLE boy or girl, do you not often wonder what you can do for Jesus? You hear grown people talking about going as missionaries to countries far away, and then, no doubt, you think, O if I could go and work for Jesus amongst the heathen, I would then be doing something; but what can I do for Jesus here? Do not be discouraged: there is plenty of work for you to do right at home. Now you may wonder what it can be. Well, I will tell you some ways in which you can work. Perhaps there is some sick little boy or girl not far from your own happy home, who is poor, and cannot have all the good papers and books and other little things that you have. Jesus will smile upon you and bless you if you share with that little child. Take some nice paper or book, full of bright pictures, something nice to eat; or if you have flowers, pick a pretty bouquet of the brightest and nicest, and take them, and try to look as cheerful as you can, and say in a pleasant voice, "See what I have brought you; I thought you would like some of my nice things." God loves the cheerful giver.

Then, too, you can be kind to father and mother, and be willing to run errands for them when they are tired, and help old people when they are getting feeble, by leading them, or reading to them when their eyes are dim and they cannot see well. Sometimes they lay down their paper or book because they have laid their glasses down somewhere and feel too tired to go and get them, and cannot see without them. Then run quickly and get the glasses. That will be using your feet and hands, too, for Jesus. Remember that once their eyes were as bright as yours; and also, that if you live to grow old, your eyes will become as dim as theirs are now, and then you would like to see someone with a bright pleasant smile run and get things for you.

Then we can speak for Jesus, too. Sometimes at school, or on the street, or in any place where you find an opportunity. Ask someone to come to Sabbath-school with you, or speak a kind word to someone in trouble; or if you have a little friend who does not love Jesus, tell him how much Jesus loves him, and invite him to come to Jesus. Do you know that the face shows

what is in the heart? The boy or girl who has a kind, loving heart will have a good face, although it may not be pretty. And on the other hand, those who are cross and fretful, and always ready for a quarrel, and full of unkind, bad words, will not have a loving, gentle face.

Did you ever think that you can hurt the feelings of another without ever speaking one word? I have seen some children who were dressed in fine clothes give a toss of the head and a haughty look as they passed by some poor child, perhaps with patches on her clothes. O how wicked that is, and how it makes that poor child's heart ache, and sometimes causes a tear to run down her cheek. Yet in all her poor shabby clothes, God will love that child more than you, if she is good, and loving, and kind. Be kind to the poor. Little children, pray to God that he will make you like himself—kind, and gentle, and good—and he will do it. I once knew a little girl when only three years of age who often went in her room to pray. She had been told that God loves the little children. Once when she was found coming out of her room she was asked what she was doing in there so long all alone. She looked up very earnestly, as if she thought people ought to know, and said, "Why, I was praying." Jesus has said, "Suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven." Use your mind, voice, hands, feet, your whole body, all for Jesus.

## ARE YOU SAFE?

"AUNTIE," said little Alice, "when people put their money into a bank do they worry about it because they're afraid it isn't safe?"

Her aunt replied,

"That depends upon the character of the bank. If the officers who manage it are reliable men those who place money there have no reason to fear for its safety."

"I thought so," said Alice. "And auntie, I was thinking about my soul—whether it is safe; and I've given it to Jesus, and I feel as if it must be safe there, and I needn't worry about it. He will take care of it, won't he?"

"Yes, dear; it is perfectly safe in the hands of Jesus," replied her aunt.

## TO-MORROW.

"I'LL do better to-morrow," said a little boy one day to his mother; but this was very foolish. Why not do better to-day! There is not one word in the Bible which calls upon you to do better to-morrow. It is always to-day.

**PERMISSION TO GO HOME.**

Bess went to church one sultry day,  
She kept awake, I'm glad to say,  
Till "fourthly" started on its way.

Then moments into hours grew;  
Oh dear! oh dear! what should she do?  
Unseen, she glided from the pew,

And up the aisle demurely went,  
On some absorbing mission bent,  
Her eyes filled with a look intent.

She stopped and said in plaintive tone,  
With hand uplifted toward the dome,  
"Please, preacher-man, can I go home?"

The treble voice, bell-like in sound,  
Disturbed a sermon most profound;  
A titter swelled as it went round.

A smile the pastor's face o'erspread—  
He paused and bowed his stately head;  
"Yes, little dear," he gently said.

**LESSON NOTES.**

**FIRST QUARTER.**

A.D. 29.] **LESSON VI.** [Feb. 5.

**THE TRANSFIGURATION.**

*Matt. 17. 1-18. Commit to mem. vs. 4-5.*

**GOLDEN TEXT.**

And there came a voice out of the cloud,  
saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him.  
Luke 9. 35.

**OUTLINE.**

1. The Three Disciples.
2. The Two Saints.
3. The One Saviour.

**QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.**

Where did Jesus take Peter, James and John? Up in a mountain to pray.

What happened while he was praying? He was transfigured, or changed before them.

How was Jesus changed? His face shone like the sun and his garments were white as the light.

Who came and talked with him? Moses and Elijah.

What can you tell about these men of God who had been dead many years? Moses was the giver of the law, and Elijah, the chief of the prophets.

What did Peter say to Jesus? "Lord, it is good to be here."

What did he want to do? Build three tents, for Jesus and Moses and Elijah, that they might stay there always.

What did he forget? The sick and sinful people below who needed Jesus.

What came down about them? A bright cloud.

What did the disciples hear? The voice of God speaking out of the cloud. (Repeat the GOLDEN TEXT.)

Why did they fall upon their faces? They were filled with great fear.

Who came and told them not to be afraid? Jesus.

What did they see when they lifted up their eyes? The brightness gone and Jesus alone before them.

What did Jesus command them? That they tell no man what they had seen until he was risen from the dead.

What did he explain to them? That he must suffer and die.

Why was this hard to believe? Because they had seen him glorified and heard God call him his own beloved Son.

Why did Jesus leave all his glory to suffer and die? To save us from sin and the punishment of sin.

**WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.**

"We know that the Son of God is come"—  
To save us from sin.

To make us useful and happy.

To give us eternal life.

Who will hear his words and follow him?

**DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.**—Immortality.

**CATECHISM QUESTION.**

*What is it to be holy in heart?* To be holy in heart is to be changed by the Holy Spirit, so as to be saved from sin and to love God.

A.D. 29.] **LESSON VII.** [Feb. 12.

**JESUS AND THE LITTLE ONES**

*Matt. 18. 1-14. Commit to mem. vs. 3-4.*

**GOLDEN TEXT.**

But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me; for of such is the kingdom of heaven. Matt. 19. 14.

**OUTLINE.**

1. The Children's Friend.
2. The Sinner's Saviour.

**QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.**

What question did the disciples ask Jesus? "Who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

What did Jesus do? He called a little child to him.

What answer did he give the disciples? "Whosoever shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

What did Jesus want to teach them? That they must lose all pride and selfishness.

What command did he give them? (Repeat the GOLDEN TEXT.)

What did he say of those who tempted his little ones, or caused them to stumble? That it was better for them to be drowned in the depths of the sea.

What does he pronounce upon those who try to make his people do wrong? Woe, or sorrow and punishment.

Of what did Jesus warn his disciples? Of the awful dangers of sin.

What did he command them? "If thy hand or thy foot cause thee to stumble, cut it off."

What does this mean? That we must give up everything, however dear to us, that causes us to sin.

What will sin surely do? Keep us out of the kingdom of heaven.

Whom did Christ come to save? All who are lost and in the power of sin.

Why did Jesus come to seek and save the lost? Because it is God's will that not one shall perish.

Who are God's little ones? All who love and obey him.

**WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.**

Do you want to be great in the kingdom of heaven?

Learn to think of others first and yourself last.

Learn to love God and his will BETTER than you love yourself and your own will.

Learn to be kind and helpful to the poor, the aged, and the sick.

Do not be afraid that you cannot learn to do these things. Jesus will help you and teach you every day.

"For I will hold thy hand, saying unto thee, Fear not, I will help thee."

**DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.**—Humility.

**CATECHISM QUESTION.**

*What is it to be holy in life?* To be holy in life is to do my duty to God and man, according to God's holy word.

**THE BIRTH OF JESUS.**

"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is he that is born King of the Jews?' for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. And when they were come unto the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh."



A YOUNG IDOLATOR.

## DO IT NOW.

If you're told to do a thing,  
And mean to do it really,  
Never let it be by halves;  
Do it full and freely.

When father calls though pleasant be  
The play you are pursuing,  
Do not say, "I'll come when I  
Have finished what I'm doing."

If you are told to learn a task,  
And you should *not* begin it,  
Do not tell your teacher, "Yes,  
I'm coming in a minute."

Waste not moments nor your words  
In telling what you could do  
Some other time; the present is  
For doing what you should do.

PHOEBE CARRY.

## TWO QUESTIONS.

A GENTLEMAN one time stepped into a Sunday-school, and said to the scholars. "I have two questions to ask you. The first is so simple that you will smile, and wonder why I ask it; but the second is not so easy. First," said he "who made you?"

"God!" "God!" rang out all over the school.

"Second," continued he, "what did he make you for?"

That was not so easily answered. All were silent. Presently a little "cherub," but a few years old, stepped forward in the gallery, and, with almost angelic tones, sung out, "To be good and happy!"

That was the key-note God made us "to be happy," and he knows that we can not be happy unless we are good. So he

made us to be good and happy. Little one, are you trying to be good and happy? If so, give your young heart to Jesus, who said, "Suffer little children to come unto me," and he will help.

## A YOUNG IDOLATOR.

WE give in this number a picture of a mission scene in India. Here you see a little boy being taught by his mother to pray to a stone bull. The god Shiva is said to ride upon a bull, and, therefore, all the followers of Shiva worship it. Is not this like making a polite bow to a horse, instead of the gentleman upon its back? In all parts of India images of the bull are found. They are often very large, more than twenty feet long, and sometimes not more than half an inch. Incense is burned before them; flowers put upon their breasts; garlands and strings of bells round their necks; and the people walk three times round them.

Some devout people consecrate bulls to Shiva. These are stamped with a seal that all people respect, and turned loose. They go in and out of the temples and people's houses at pleasure, help themselves from the baskets of grain and other things in the open shops, no one daring to interfere with them, and get so bold as to be dangerous.

Oxen are used for riding, drawing carriages, common carts, ploughs, harrows, etc., as horses are in Canada. But the followers of Shiva do not work their oxen on Monday. This is their day of rest.

But, oh, how sad to see people bowing down to and worshipping as God a bull made of wood, or stone, or metal, or mud! Millions of children are now being taught to do this. But many of them in Mission-

ary schools learn that "an idol is nothing in this world, and there is no other God but one." These refuse to bow down to an image, and many of their parents, who are pleased to hear what their children learn in the schools, acknowledge that it is wrong to worship idols.

## THE LITTLE GIRL AND HER COPY.

A LITTLE girl went to a writing school. When she saw the copy set before her, she said, "I can never write like that." But she took up her pen, and put it timidly on the paper. Her hand trembled; she stopped, studied the copy, and began again. "I can but try," she said; "I'll do the best I can."

She wrote half a page. The letters were crooked. What more could be expected from a first effort? The next scholar stretched across the desk and said, "What straggly things you make!" Tears filled the little girl's eyes. She feared to have the teacher look at her book. "He will be angry, and scold me," she said to herself.

But when the teacher came, he looked and smiled. "I see you are trying, my little girl," he said kindly; "and that is all I expect."

She took courage. Again and again she studied the beautiful copy. Then she took up her pen and began to write. She wrote very carefully, with the copy always before her. Still she was not satisfied. The letters straggled here, were crowded there, and some of them seemed to look every way. She trembled when she heard the step of the teacher. "I'm afraid you'll find fault with me," she said; "my letters are not fit to be on the same page with the copy."

"I do not find fault with you," said the teacher, "because you are only a beginner. Keep on trying. In this way, you will do better every day, and soon get to be a very good writer."

"Thank you, sir," said the girl, and went on trying to imitate her copy.

And this is the way we are to try to be like Jesus. He is our copy. We must try and make our lives like his. But when we read about Jesus, and learn how holy, and good, and perfect he was, we must not be discouraged if we do not become like him at once. We cannot become like him in a minute, or a day or a year. But if we keep on trying, and ask God to help us, we shall "learn of him to be meek and lowly in heart;" and we shall become daily more and more like him.

"Why should we be timid about telling a man who has some of the Lord's money in his pocket to shell out a little?"