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THE SUNBEAM

ENLARGED SERIES.—VOL. V.]

TORONTO, SEPTEMBER 13, 1884.

[No. 19.

DAVID AT THE BROOK.

IN the days of old in the Holy Land the men of Benjamin were celebrated as being very skilful with the sling. The sling was made of two strings, the sinews of animals fastened to a piece of leather that formed the middle of the sling. In this was placed a smooth round stone; then the sling was swung once or twice round the head, after which the stone was discharged by letting go one of the strings. In battle the sling-stones were either carried in a bag that hung round the neck of the slinger, or were placed in a heap at his feet.

Taking only his scrip, and shepherd's staff, David went from Saul's tent to the water-course that flowed through the valley. Then from the bed of the stream he carefully chose five round and smooth pebbles. He put these stones into his scrip, but he carried the sling in his hand, and then, crossing the brook, he went toward the Philistine camp to meet Goliath. No doubt as he drew near to the enemy's tents he lifted up his heart in silent prayer that God would enable him at the right moment to hurl the stone with a sure and deadly aim.



DAVID AT THE BROOK.

HOW HE HELPED HIS FATHER.

SOME years ago, a boy whose name was Webster, living in Bridgeport, Ct., then nearly four years old, was taken from his own home to that of his grandpa, where he

remained several weeks. His grandpa was a Christian man, and always asked God's blessing upon the food before eating, and read a chapter and prayed in the morning, when the breakfast was finished.

When little Webster was taken home, the first time he sat at his father's table in his high-chair, he said, before he began to eat, 'Papa, why don't 'ou talk to God before you eat, as grandpa does?' And the father said, 'Oh, grandpa is a good man.' 'But, papa,' said Webster, 'a'nt 'ou a good man? Why don't 'ou talk to God as grandpa does?'

And the good mother, sitting on the other side of the table, said, 'Father, that is God's voice to you.' And it was; and then, for the first time, the father, as the head of his own house, and mother and child, bowed their heads, while a blessing was brokenly asked on the food. That was the beginning. After the breakfast, the father read and prayed, and continued the practice as long as he lived.

'MARION,' he asked, in that style which a big brother assumes when patronizing a little sister, 'Do you know that the earth turns round?' 'Of tos I does,' answered Marion, resenting the imputation of ignorance; 'that's the reason I tumbles out of bed.'

OPEN rebuke is better than secret love.

WAIT AND SEE.

WHEN my boy, with eager question,
Asking how, and where, and when,
Taxes all my store of wisdom,
Asking, o'er and o'er again,
Questions oft to which the answers
(Give to others still the key,
I have said, to teach him patience,
"Wait, my little boy, and see."

And the words I taught my darling,
Taught to me a lesson sweet;
Once when all the world seemed darkened
And the storm about to beat,
In the "children's room" I heard him,
With a child's sweet mimicry,
To the baby-brother's questions,
Saying wisely, "Wait and see."

Like an angel's tender chiding,
Came the darling's words to me,
Though my Father's ways were hidden,
Bidding me still wait and see.
What are we but restless children,
Ever asking what shall be!
And the Father, in his wisdom,
Gently bids us "Wait and see."

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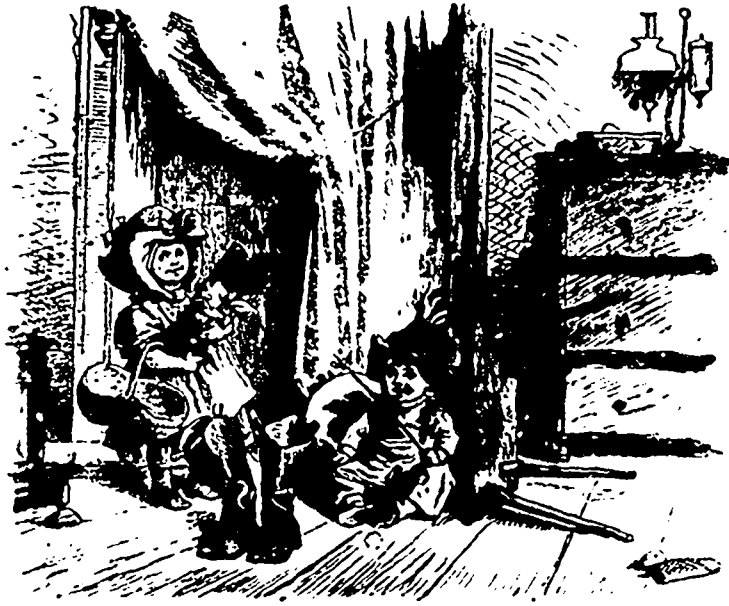
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The Sunbeam.

TORONTO, SEPTEMBER 13, 1884.

THE GOOD SHEPHERD.

OUR Lord calls himself the Good Shepherd, and he cares for his people as a shepherd cares for his sheep. He loves the children, whom he calls his "lambs." This expresses his great love for the children. He said to his disciple, Peter, just before he ascended to heaven, "Feed my lambs." It is the duty of all who represent the blessed Saviour with love and care for the religious instruction of the children. Every pastor of a church is a shepherd—that is what the name "pastor" means.



HANS AND GRETCHEN.

HANS AND GRETCHEN.

LITTLE Hans in this picture is taking a ride, and sister Gretchen is going to market. Hans has a common wooden chair for a carriage, and papa's boots for horses; but he will ride just as well, and be carried just as fast and as far as if he had parlor chairs and a hobby-horse.

Gretchen looks very smiling with her market-basket on her arm, and mamma's hat, upside down, on her head. She has a boot-jack for a baby, and has it carefully wrapped up so that it will not take cold. She looks very smiling and happy, and Hans is a perfect picture of contentment. He ought to look out for his horses, however. One of them has his head down rather low. Perhaps he has the horse influenza. If so Hans must take care of him.

WORD NOT IN VAIN.

JOHN WESLEY was once stopped by a highwayman, who demanded his money or his life. Wesley, after giving him the money, said: "Let me speak one word to you: The time may come when you will regret the course of life in which you are now engaged. Remember this, 'The blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth from all sin.'" No more was said, and they parted.

Many years after, as Wesley was going out of a church in which he had been preaching, a stranger introduced himself and asked Wesley if he remembered being waylaid at such a time. He said he recollected it. "I was that man," said the stranger; "and that single verse you quoted on that occasion was the means of a total change in my life and habits. I have long since been in the practice of attending the house of God and of giving attention to his word, and trust that I am a Christian."

A CROWN FOR THE YOUNG.

A TRUE INCIDENT.

A TOUCHING incident was related to me the other day of a little girl's faith in God's promises. She had always been very precocious, loving the Saviour from the time she was taught to lisp his name.

When she was just six years old, a malignant disease broke out in the neighbourhood where she lived, and her dearest playmate and friend fell an early victim to its ravages. For a long time she was inconsolable at her loss, feeling that she wanted to die too, that she might go to be with Jesus and her little friend.

Fearing the consequences of such violent grief, her friends took her away for a visit, and one day after her return, as she sat deep in thought, her mother proposed her finishing a motto, "No Cross, no Crown," that she had been working for a present for her papa, thinking that busy fingers might divert her mind.

She worked a few moments; then, bursting into tears, exclaimed, "I can't work that motto to-day."

"Why not, my child?" the mother asked, holding the dear one in her arms.

"Because, mamma dear, it makes me think so much of Jennie. When I look at the cross I think of Jesus, and when I look at the crown I think of Jennie, for of course, mamma, she has now a crown of life, and is happy with Jesus."

She had recently learned the beautiful promise, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life," and showed by the application of it that she understood its meaning, and that the truth had sunk deep into her heart.



THE BROKEN KITE.

THE BROKEN KITE.

POOR Tommy Tompkins has met with a serious trouble. His beautiful new kite got torn on a tree, and he brings it to grandpa to mend. His sister Mabel brings the paste pot and brush, and Toby the dog looks on to see what will come of it. I guess between them they will get the kite fixed up and be made happy all round.

A NOBLE BOY.

A CRIPPLED beggar was striving to pick up some old clothes that had been thrown from a window when a crowd of rude boys gathered about him, mimicking his awkward movements and hooting at his helplessness and rags.

Presently a noble little fellow came up and, pushing through the crowd, helped the poor crippled man to pick up his gifts, and placed them in a bundle. Then, slipping a piece of silver into his hands, he was running away when a voice far above him said:

"Little boy with a straw hat, look up!" A lady, leaning from an upper window, said earnestly: "God bless you, my little fellow! God will bless you for that!"

As he walked along he thought how glad he had made his own heart by doing good. He thought of the poor beggar's grateful look; of the old lady's smile and her approval; and last, and better than all, he could almost hear his heavenly Father whispering, "Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy."

KNOCK, AND IT SHALL BE OPENED.

WHERE are we to knock? "I am the door," says the Saviour. "No man cometh unto the Father but by me."

When are we to knock? "Evening, and morning, and at noon," says King David, "will I pray, and cry aloud."

For what are we to knock? "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness." Heaven in the soul—that is what

we want; heaven must first come to us before we can go to heaven.

How must we knock? We must knock in faith. We must knock in earnest. We cannot knock too loud. Good Jacob said "I will not let thee go except thou bless me;" and he got a blessing. We must knock perseveringly too. The Lord does not always come immediately. "I waited patiently for the Lord," says David, "and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry."

Here is the command—"Knock." Here is the promise—"It shall be opened." Have you found it so?

NOT FIT TO BE KISSED.

"WHAT ails papa's mouf?" said a sweet little girl, Her bright laugh revealing her teeth white as pearl; "I love him and kiss him and sit on his knee, But the kisses don't smell good when he kisses me.

"mamma"—her eyes opened wide as "Do you like— smoke? nasty kisses of 'bacco and They might do for boys, for ladies and girls I don't think them nice," and she tossed her bright curls.

"Don't nobody's papa have moufs nice and clean? With kisses like yours, mamma, that's what I mean.

I want to kiss papa, I love him so well, But kisses don't taste good that have such a smell.

"It's nasty to smoke, and eat 'bacco and spit, And the kisses ain't good and ain't sweet—not a bit!" And her blossom-like face wore a look of disgust, As she gave her verdict so earnest and just.

Yes, yes, little darling! your wisdom has been seen That kisses for daughters and wives should be clean; For kisses lose something of nectar and bliss From mouths that are stained and unfit for a kiss.

—Selected.

God will give us nothing for our sakes; but will deny us nothing for Christ's sake.

ONLY A LITTLE SUNBEAM.

ONLY a little sunbeam,
But it fell on an op'ning rose;
Only a tiny rain-drop,
But it helped a green leaf unclose.

Only a robin singing,
But the song reached to heav'n above;
Only a lovely blossom,
But its mission was one of love.

Only a gentle hand clasp,
But it made grateful tear-drops start;
Only a look of pity,
But it fell on an aching heart.

Only a kind word spoken,
But it reached a poor outcast one,
Only a word that told her
Of the dear loving Father's Son;

Only the cry, "Forgive me!"
But the Saviour approving smiled,
Only an outcast praying,
But the Father calls her his child.

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER

[Sept. 21.]

B.C. —.] LESSON V. PRAISE.

A SONG.

Commit to memory verses 1, 5.

Psa. 103. 1-2.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. Psa. 103. 2.

OUTLINE.

1. The benefits of the Lord, v. 1-7.
2. The mercy of the Lord, v. 8-18.
3. The praise of the Lord, v. 19-22.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

When do we bless the Lord? When we praise him.

How should we praise him? With all our heart.

What do we sometimes forget? All that God is doing for us. [Repeat GOLDEN TEXT.]

What is God constantly doing? Forgiving our sins and healing our diseases.

How does God deal with all? In righteousness and loving-kindness.

To whom will the Lord make known his ways? To all his children.

Who are God's children? Those who love and obey him.

Does God punish his children for their sins as severely as they deserve? No; he has great mercy towards those who love him.

How does God forgive our sins? He puts them far away from us, so that they do not belong to us any more.

What is this life? As a flower of that the wind passes over and dries to dust. How long will God's mercy endure to them that keep his commandments? From everlasting to everlasting. Where has God prepared a throne? In the heavens. Over what does God rule? Over heaven and earth. By whom is God praised? By every thing that he has made. Why should we praise God? Because he loves us.

WORDS WITH THE PEOPLE.

Love God—
Because he loves you.
Because he puts your love,
Because he knows what is best for you.

Bless God—
Because he has done so much for you.
Because he wants to do so much for you.
Because he is willing and able to save you from sin.

Thou shalt show me the path of life; in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand are pleasures for evermore."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION—The mercies of the Lord.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

Who was Lazarus? One whom Jesus loved, and raised to life when he had been dead four days.

Who was Martha? The sister of Lazarus, who was too much troubled in making a feast for the Lord.

THIRD QUARTERLY REVIEW.—SEPT. 28.

Repeat the GOLDEN TEXTS for the quarter:

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. I have found— | 7. Whoso curseth— |
| 2. He blesseth— | 8. So the Lord— |
| 3. Thy throne— | 9. Thou hast— |
| 4. Thine own friend— | 10. The Lord— |
| 5. My sin— | 11. I delight— |
| 6. Honour thy— | 12. Bless the Lord— |

REVIEW QUESTIONS.

Lesson I.—Who was anointed king over Israel? David. How long did he reign? Forty years. What did the Israelites take from the Jebusites? The city of Zion.

Lesson II.—What did David try to do? To carry the ark up to Jerusalem on a new cart. Who touched the ark? Uzzah. How did God punish him? With instant death. Where did they take the ark? Into the house of Obed-edom. What did God send to Obed-edom? Blessing and prosperity.

Lesson III.—What did David wish to do? Build a house for the ark of God. What did the Lord say unto him? "Thy son shall build it." What did God promise?

David? "Thy throne shall be established forever."

Lesson IV.—How did David honor Jonathan's memory? He sought out his son, and gave him a place at his own table, as one of the king's sons. What did he restore to him? All the land that had belonged to Saul.

Lesson V.—What does God love? A broken and contrite heart. What always follows true repentance? God's pardon.

Lesson VI.—What was Absalom's desire? To be king over Israel. What did Absalom do? He stole the hearts of the people. How was he disloyal to David? He gathered an army together to fight against him.

Lesson VII.—What took place between the armies of David and Absalom? A great battle. Who was killed? Absalom. Who mourned exceedingly for Absalom? David.

Lesson VIII.—What did the Lord send upon Israel for their sins? A great plague. How many died of the plague? Seventy thousand. What did David ask the Lord to do? To punish him, but spare his people.

What did God tell David to do? To build an altar, and offer sacrifices. Who did the plague? The Lord.

Lesson IX.—What declares the glory of God? The earth and the heavens. What is more glorious than the nearest play-ground? The word of God. What is the greatest merit and our Redeemer? The Lord.

Lesson X.—From what will God protect us? From our enemies. What does God say unto us? Seek ye my face. Who is always with us in your joy sorrow? The Lord.

Lesson XI.—Who are blessed in this world? Those who trust in God. What is more precious in God's sight than sacrifices? Obedience to his will. What is given to us when we trust in him? Joy and peace.

Lesson XII.—How should we bless God? With all our mind and strength and heart. Who are God's children? Those who love and obey him. How does God deal with his children? In love and kindness.

THE CHINESE.

THE Chinese do not use table-cloths, knives and forks, plates and dishes, as we do, nor do they often sit around one table. The men and women seldom sit together. The father and sons first take their meals, and then the mother and daughters come in and take what is left, and the father and brothers leave them to wait on themselves. Are you not glad that you do not live away off in China? Do you ever thank your heavenly Friend that you have a pleasant home, and a kind father and attentive brother?