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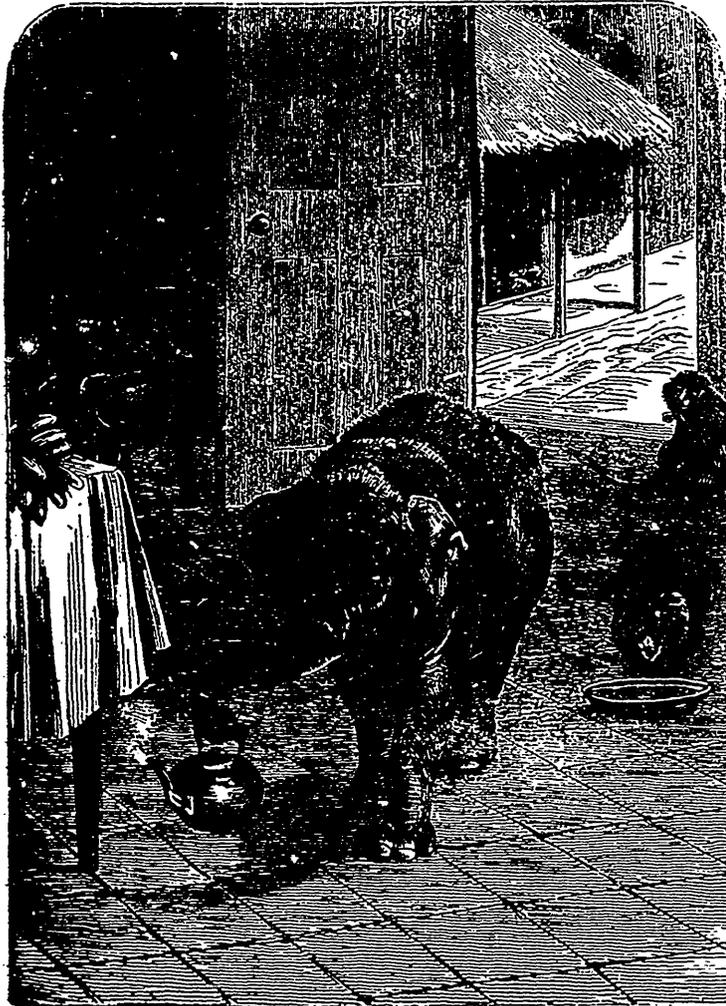
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# THE SUNBEAM

Vol. II.

JANUARY 1, 1881.

No. 1.



THE USEFUL ELEPHANT.

## THE USEFUL ELEPHANT.

**A** GENTLEMAN in India had a present made to him of a young elephant, just six months old. At the end of two months he became thoroughly tame and domesticated, and was allowed to ramble about the house and grounds; but his favourite place was by his master's side, whether he was in the house or out of it. He followed him like the most faithful dog for long distances, and this devotion was at times somewhat troublesome; for he succeeded in following him to places where he was not wanted, as at church, soldiers' hospital, and even the parlours of his friends. When his master was at home in the heat of the day, the elephant generally stood

by him, fanning him and keeping away the flies. Jack, as he was called, delighted to do errands for his master, and often brought the kettle and other things from the kitchen, and bananas, etc., from the storeroom, and he thus saved the Hindoo cook many runnings to and fro. The earliest dawn of day always found Jack wide awake; and the first thing he did was to go and awake his master. All the rooms opening on the verandah, he had only to walk up to open windows and give his trumpet-call; and if that would not do, he awoke him effectually, by putting the end of his little trunk very gently on his forehead. There was no use pretending to be asleep after that; and after being sure that his master really meant to get up, the elephant went to see about breakfast.—*From True Stories of Real Pets.*

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## The Sunbeam.

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TORONTO, JANUARY 1, 1881.

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### NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS.

**N**OW, my dear little Sunbeams—for such I hope you all will be—we stand on the door-step, as it were, of another year. As you lift the latch and enter in, ask God's good guidance down the unknown future that stretches before you. Put your hand trustfully in His, and He will lead you in the right way. The new year comes pure and stainless like the snow in the fields—each day like a fresh white page in your life. Oh, keep those pages pure and free from sin! ask God's help every day to live spotless, pure, and holy lives, and thus the glad new year will be the happiest and best that ever you have known! Read often and practise carefully the following new year's advice by that friend of children, Alice Cary, and it will save you from many sins and many sorrows during the whole year:

Children, who read my lay,  
This much I have to say,  
Each day and every day,  
Do what is right!  
Right things in great and small;  
Then, though the sky should fall,  
Sun, moon, and stars, and all,  
You shall have light!

This further would I say:  
Be you tempted as you may,  
Each day and every day,  
Speak what is true!  
True things in great and small;  
Then, though the sky should fall,  
Sun, moon, and stars, and all,  
Heaven would show through!

Figs, as you see and know,  
Do not out of thistles grow;  
And though the blossoms blow  
White on the tree,  
Grapes never, never yet  
On the limbs of thorns were set:  
So, if you a good would get,  
Good you must be!

Life's journey through and through,  
Speaking what is just and true;  
Doing what is right to do  
Unto one and all,  
When you work and when you play,  
Each day and every day;  
Then peace shall gild your way,  
Though the sky should fall.

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### ROB'S PLAN.

ROB never has any trouble with the boys. Every one likes him; so it is not very strange that he gets along well.

"Rob, how is it that you never get into any scrapes?" said Will Law to him one day. "All the other boys do."

"Oh, it's my plan not to talk back. When a boy says hard things to me I just keep still."

Not a bad "plan," is it? If all the boys would try it, what good times there would be in the school-room, on the playground—everywhere. Who will try Rob's plan?

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THE sting of a reproach is the truth of it.  
MEN may be mistaken; the Lord can never be mistaken.



## BUBBLES.

BY SUSAN COOLIDGE.

**A**H! fairy globes of fairy dyes,  
Which rise and fall, above,  
beneath,  
And flutter between earth and skies,  
Blown by a baby's laughing breath,  
Greeted with rapturous cries!

How beautiful and all too frail  
Your little treasure of delight;  
How quickly laughter turns to wail  
As vanishes from baby's sight  
Your many-coloured sail.

The little hands are stretched in vain,  
In vain the blue eyes questioning stare;  
The pretty thing comes not again—

It is not here, it is not there,  
It is not anywhere.

Oh! baby eyes, in future years,  
The same blank look will cloud your blue,  
As, spite of hopes and spite of tears,  
The chosen bubble you pursue  
Eludes and disappears.

You will have learned then not to cry;  
Have learned the art that grown folks  
know,

When pretty bubbles burst and die  
Of smiling grimly as they go,  
As they go sadly by:

But, though they smile, and though they  
joke,  
And though they would have deemed it  
shame

To whimper when the bubble broke,  
They do not like it, all the same,  
These mighty grown up folk!

### LESSON NOTES.

B.C. 7.] LESSON I. [Jan. 2.  
ZACHARIAS AND ELISABETH; or, Righteous Before God.  
*Luke. 1. 5-17.* Commit to memory verses 13-16.

#### GOLDEN TEXT.

And they were both righteous before God,  
walking in all the commandments and ordi-  
nances of the Lord blameless. *Luke 1. 6.*

#### OUTLINE.

1. The Holy Pair, v. 5-7.
2. The Hour of Prayer, v. 8-10.
3. The Heavenly Prophecy, v. 11-17.

#### QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

1. *The Holy Pair*, v. 5-7.—Who were the pair here mentioned? Zacharias and Elisabeth. What was Zacharias? A priest of God's house. When did he live? A little while before Christ was born. Where was his home? Near Hebron, in the mountains of Judea. What is said of Zacharias and his wife? [Repeat Golden Text.] What is it to be righteous before God? To try to obey God in all things. What are the ordinances of the Lord? All his laws.

2. *The Hour of Prayer*, v. 8-10.—What was the duty of Zacharias as a priest? To offer incense. Where did he offer incense? In the temple at Jerusalem. How was the incense offered? It was burned on the altar. Where were the people at this time? In the court

outside the temple. What were the people doing while the incense was offered? They were praying to God. Do you try to pray while you are in the church with God's people?

3. *The Heavenly Prophecy*, v. 11-17.—Who appeared to Zacharias in the temple? An angel of God. How did Zacharias feel when he saw the angel? He was afraid. What did the angel say to him? "Fear not." What good news did the angel bring to Zacharias? That God had heard his prayers. What promise did the angel give? That he should have a son. What was to be the name of this son? John.

B.C. 7.] LESSON II. [Jan. 9.  
THE SONG OF MARY; or, Rejoicing in God.

*Luke 1. 46-55.*

Commit to memory verses 51-55.

#### GOLDEN TEXT.

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. *Luke 1. 46, 47.*

#### OUTLINE.

1. The Singer, v. 46.
2. The Song, v. 46-55.

#### QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

1. *The Singer*, v. 46.—Who was the singer? A young woman named Mary. Where did Mary live? At Nazareth, in Galilee. How was she related to Elisabeth, the wife of Zacharias? She was her cousin. What was the character of Mary? She loved and served God. Who once came to her? An angel of God. What did the angel tell her? That she should be the mother of Christ. What did she say to this message? "Be it according to thy word." Where did Mary go after the angel's visit? To visit her cousin Elisabeth. How long was the journey? About a hundred miles. When did Mary speak the words of this song? When she met Elisabeth.

2. *The Song*, v. 46-55.—What was Mary's song about? The might and the mercy of God. What did her song show? Her thanks to God. For what did she thank God? For the great honour God had given her. How had God given her honour? By choosing her as the mother of the Saviour. How did she begin her song? [Repeat Golden Text.] What words showed her gratitude? "He that is mighty hath done to me great things." How should we receive all God's mercies to us? We should be grateful, and praise his name. What did Mary say about God's power? "He hath showed strength with his arm." How did God show his power in the coming of his Son? By overcoming the plans of the wicked. What did Mary say of God's grace to the needy? "He hath filled the hungry with good things."