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THE SUNBEAM

ENLARGED SERIES—VOL. VIII.]

TORONTO, JULY 16, 1887.

[No. 15.

THE FUNERAL AT NAIN.

THE Bible narration of events in the life of our Lord is necessarily concise in character, the nature of the work precluding introduction of those details which would so add embellishment. Other than the inspired writers have left records and traditions which men of letters and students of life in the East have used to give us vivid portrayals of these acts of God, as, in the flesh, he walked with men through favoured but ungrateful Judea. One of these descriptions, including a sketch of our Lord's general appearance, and the miracle of raising from the dead the widow's son at Nain, we take from the famous work of a contemporary writer, as follows:

"As the funeral procession wound mournfully out of the gate of the city, down the road stretching forth from it, a much larger gathering of people might be seen approaching. The multitude were either being led by or following a man of striking figure some distance in advance. The leader moved slowly; a form slightly above the average in stature, and slender, even delicate. His action was calm and deliberate, like that habitual to men much given to serious thought upon grave subjects; and it well became his costume, which was an undergarment, full-sleeved and reaching to the ankles, and an outer robe called the 'talith.' On his left arm he carried the usual hand-

kerchief for the head, the red fillet swinging loose down his side. Except the fillet and a narrow border at the lower edge of the talith, his attire was of linen, yellowed with dust and road-stains. Possibly the exception should be extended to the tassels,

reddish golden where most strongly touched by the sun. Under a broad, low forehead, under black, well-arched eyebrows beamed eyes, dark-blue, large, and softened to exceeding tenderness by lashes of the great length sometimes seen on children, but

seldom, if ever, on men. As to the other features, it would have been difficult to decide whether they were Greek or Jewish. The delicacy of the nostrils and mouth was unusual to the latter type; and when it was taken into account with the gentleness of the eye, the pallor of the complexion, the fine texture of the hair, and the softness of the beard which fell in waves over his throat to his breast, there were never a warrior but would have laughed at him in encounter; never a gentler who would not have confided in him at sight; never a child that would not, with quick instinct, have given him its hand and whole artless trust; nor might anyone have said he was not beautiful.

"The features, it should be further said, were ruled by a certain expression, which, as the viewer chose,

which were blue and white, as prescribed by law for rabbis. His sandals were of the simplest kind; he was without scrip, girdle or staff.

"The head was open to the cloudless light, except as it was draped with hair—long, slightly waved, parted in the middle, and auburn in tint, with a tendency to

might with equal correctness have been called the effect of intelligence, love, pity or sorrow; though, in better speech, it was a blending of them all—a look easy to fancy as the mark of a sinless soul doomed to the sight and understanding of the utter sinfulness of those among whom it was passing; yet, withal, no one could have



THE FUNERAL AT NAIN.

observed the face with a thought of weakness in the man, so, at least, would not they who know that the qualities mentioned—love, sorrow, pity are the results of a consciousness of strength to bear suffering, oftener more heroic than the will to do great deeds. Such, indeed, has been the might of the martyrs and the myriads written down in saintly calendars; and such, pre-eminently, was the air of him you can scarcely wonder we have claimed your patience to so fully describe.

"Slowly he drew near; the distance more rapidly lessened by the even slower pace of the advancing procession. Then upon his meditations broke in the wailing cry of a woman in great sorrow, and he turned his gaze toward her, as, almost overcome with her emotion, she tottered after the bier. Upon the benignant countenance of the stranger the expression of tender compassion suddenly deepened; into the large, soft eyes crept a look of still more intensified pity, he stopped, moved quickly to the side of the weeping woman, bidding her dry her tears, and then, resting his hand upon the bier, said to him who lay upon it, dressed for the burial—quietly as a mother might speak to awake her sleeping child: 'Young man, I say to thee arise!' and immediately he that had been dead sat up and began to talk to those about him.

"The worker of the miracle lingered yet an instant, apparently unconscious of the growing excitement, even the presence of the throng, but with face slightly flushing, as though his ready sympathy, still enthralled with feelings of its object, was sharing also in the revulsion of joy his act had won. But an instant he stayed, then, in seeming, recollecting himself, he turned again toward the gate of the city, and went steadily on.

"To that heart, divinely original, yet so human in all the better elements of humanity, going with sure prevision to a death, of all the inventions of men the foulest and most cruel, breathing even then in the forecast shadow of that awful event, and still as hungry and thirsty for love and faith as in the beginning, how precious and ineffably consoling the farewell exclamation of the grateful woman:

"To God in the highest, glory! Blessed, thrice blessed, the Son whom he hath given us!"

THIEVES are not made at once. The boy who steals a penny now may rob a bank ten years hence, and die in the penitentiary. Boys, mind that, and never take other people's things.

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The Sunbeam.

TORONTO, JULY 16, 1887.

A PIOUS DAUGHTER.

CHILDREN, says Rev. W. Jay, have conveyed religion to those from whom they ought to have derived it. "Well," said a mother one day, weeping, her daughter being about to make a public profession of religion by going to the Lord's table, "I will resist no longer. How can I bear to see my dear child love and read the Scriptures while I never look into the Bible; to see her retire and seek God while I never pray, to see her going to the Lord's table while his death is nothing to me" "Ah," said she to the minister, who called to inform her of her daughter's intentions, wiping her eyes, "Yes, sir, I know she is right, and I am wrong. I have seen her firm under reproach, and patient under provocation, and cheerful in all her sufferings. When in her late illness she was looking for dissolution heaven stood in her face. Oh, that I was fit to die! I ought to have taught her, but I am sure she has taught me. How can I bear to see her join the Church of God, and leaving me behind—perhaps forever!" From that hour she prayed in earnest that the God of her child would be her God, and was soon seen walking with her in the way everlasting.

DOES GOD CARE.

"Now, do you suppose," said Johnny, as his little cousin laid away her largest, rosiest apple for a sick girl, "that God cares about all such little things we children do? I guess he is too busy taking care of the big folks to notice us much." Winnie shook her head and pointed to mamma, who had just lifted the baby from the crib. "Do you think mamma is so busy with the big folks—helping the girls

off to school and papa to his office—that she forgets the little ones? She just thinks of baby first, 'cause he's the littlest and needs it most. And don't you think God knows how to love as well as mamma does, Johnny Gray?"

LITTLE LIGHTS.

JESUS bids us shine
With a pure, clear light,
Like a little candle
Burning in the night.
In the world of darkness,
So we must shine,
You in your small corner,
And I in mine.

Jesus bids us shine,
First of all for him;
Well he sees and knows it
If our lights be dim.
He looks down from heaven
To see us shine,
You in your small corner,
And I in mine.

Jesus bids us shine,
Then, for all around,
For many kinds of darkness
In the world are found.
There's sin, and want, and sorrow,
So we must shine,
You in your little corner,
And I in mine.

"I DON'T CARE."

BERTIE is a little boy who has a bad way of saying, "I don't care." One day Aunt Nell said to him, "Bertie, will you do an errand for me?"

"Oh, yes, ma'am!" cried he, "what is it?" "Take your naughty 'don't care' away up in the garret, and hide it."

Bertie laughed, and then looked sober. Then he said, "I will, Aunt Nell," and away he ran. I think he must have hidden it very carefully, for he hasn't found it yet! Now, if any more of my little ones have such naughty things, I hope they will hide them, too.

WHAT TIDDIE DAY SAID.

A LITTLE four-year-old girl went one day up to her teacher's friend, whom she dearly loved, and said, "Mr. Hastings, has you dot a new heart?"

He was compelled to answer, "No, Tiddie, I am afraid not."

"Well," continued she, "didn't you know that you tan't do up to the dood heaven and see Dod?"

Mr. Hastings, although an unbeliever in the Bible, could not resist the little pleader, and Tid's simple question was the means of bringing him to Jesus. Here was a case in which strength came from the lips of a babe.

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THE KING AND THE CHILDREN.

DON'T! DON'T!

"Don't! don't!" a little voice seemed to say clear and strong in Harry's ear.

The two cents lay on the window-seat; some one had forgotten them. Two cents' worth of candy came right up before Harry's eyes, and in a moment he had put out his hand to take the cents.

But that "Don't! don't!" Who spoke?

He turned and looked. No one was in the room. The door was open, but no one was in the entry.

"Nobody can see," he said to himself.

"Thou, God, seest me," said the voice.

"Nobody'll know where they've gone," said Harry.

"Thou shalt not steal," the voice said again.

Harry was frightened at himself, and ran away as fast as he could. He was saved from a great sin and trouble. If he had taken those two cents, he would most likely have taken more another time, and not been so scared about it, either.

I knew a boy who stole a ten-cent piece once. He felt very badly about it. He was so ashamed that he did not know what to do. Not long after he had a chance to steal again. He did, and that time it wasn't half so hard. So he went on and on, and at sixteen years of age he was in prison.

What voice was that which said, "Don't! don't?" That was conscience—God's voice in the soul. Always listen to the voice that bids you to keep God's commandments.

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FAITHFUL IN LITTLE.

I CANNOT do great things for him
Who did so much for me,
But I should like to show my love,
Dear Jesus, unto thee:
Faithful in very little things,
O Saviour, may I be.

There are small things in daily life
In which I may obey,
And thus may show my love to thee;
And always—every day—
There are some little loving words
Which I for thee may say.

There are small crosses I may take,
Small burdens I may bear,
Small acts of faith and deeds of love,
Small sorrows I may share;
And little bits of work for thee
I may do everywhere.

So I ask thee, Lord, to give me grace
My little place to fill,
That I may ever walk with thee,
And ever do thy will;
That in each duty, great or small,
I may be faithful still.

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO
MATTHEW.

A.D. 26.] LESSON IV. [July 24.

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS.

Matt. 3. 1-17. Commit to memory vs. 15-17.

GOLDEN TEXT.

This is my beloved Son, in whom I am
well pleased. *Matt. 3. 17.*

OUTLINE.

1. The Baptism.
2. The Voice.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

Who came to John when he was baptizing in the river Jordan? Jesus.

From where did Jesus come? From his home in Galilee.

For what did Jesus come? To be baptized.

What did John say to Jesus? "I have need to be baptized of thee."

Why did John need to be baptized of Jesus? Because there was sin in his heart.

Why did he hesitate to baptize Jesus? He knew he was the Son of God, holy and sinless.

What did Jesus say to John? "Suffer it to be so now."

Why did Jesus wish to be baptized? That he might obey all the law of God.

What took place immediately after Jesus was baptized? The heavens were opened.

What did John see? The Spirit of God coming down and resting upon Jesus' head.

In what form did the Spirit come? In the form of a dove.

What did Jesus hear? God's voice.

What did the voice say? (Repeat the GOLDEN TEXT.)

How old was Jesus when he was baptized of John? About thirty years old.

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

God was pleased with Jesus because he was obedient to his will.

God will be pleased with you if you are obedient to his will.

Obedience to God will give you more love and joy and faith than anything else in the world.

"Blessed are they that do his commandments."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION. — Christ our Pattern.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

May we all hope for this grace? Yes, through the Saviour who was promised when our first parents fell into sin.

A.D. 26.] LESSON V. [July 31.

THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS.

Matt. 4. 1-11. Commit to memory vs. 1-7.

GOLDEN TEXT.

He is able to succour them that are tempted. *Heb. 2. 18.*

OUTLINE.

1. Temptation.
2. Triumph.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

Where did the Spirit lead Jesus after he was baptized? Into the wilderness.

What did Jesus do in the wilderness? He fasted forty days and forty nights.

Who came to him after his long fast? Satan, the tempter.

Why did Satan come to him? To persuade him to sin against God.

How did Satan first tempt Jesus? He told him to make bread for himself.

How would that have been sin in Jesus? It would have been doubting God's care.

How did Jesus answer Satan? "Man does not live by bread alone, but by the words of God."

What did Satan next try to lead Jesus to do? Throw himself down from a high place in the temple.

How would Jesus have sinned in doing this? He would have gone into needless danger, and obeyed Satan.

How did he answer Satan? "Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God."

What did Satan then want Jesus to do? To bow down and worship him.

How did he try to tempt him? He promised him all the kingdoms of the world.

What would Jesus have broken had he worshipped Satan? God's first Commandment.

What is it? "Thou shalt have no other gods before me."

What did Jesus say to Satan? "Get thee hence."

Who came and comforted him after Satan had left him? Angels.

Why is Jesus strong to help us to overcome temptation? Because he overcame temptation himself. (Repeat the GOLDEN TEXT.)

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

Satan will try to make you think he loves you better than God.

He will try to make you doubt God's care.

He will try to coax you to serve him instead of God.

He will promise you great things if you will obey him.

But to every temptation say, as Jesus did, "Get thee hence, Satan."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Temptation.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

How may we be saved from sin? Only through Jesus Christ, the Eternal Son of God.

LOST AND TIRED.

LITTLE Marjorie went too far from home; walked down one lane and turned up another, and played in a field all alone; and then when she wished to go home she could not find the way. She tried hard to remember how she had come, but could not. There was no one near to help her. She cried much and was very sorrowful, and then sat down to think, and soon fell asleep. But if Marjorie could see no one, some One saw Marjorie. The good God in heaven watched over the little child and guided her brother in his search for her to the very place where she was, and he took her safely home. But little girls should learn from Marjorie's trouble that they should not ramble away from home and friends, or they may get lost and give trouble; and they should always remember that God sees them and loves them.