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TORONTO, MARCH 27, 1886.

[No. 7.



BABYLON AND ITS TOWER.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

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TORONTO, MARCH 27, 1886.

DID NOT KNOW ITS WORTH.

A NEWSBOY in the streets of London found a diamond worth two thousand dollars, and carried it in his pocket for a month without knowing its value. Once in awhile he took it out to look at it, or to show it to some companion; but not a thought of its great price ever flashed into his mind. To him it was a smoothly-polished stone, with many reflecting sides that flashed out the light with a power of dazzling brilliancy; but beyond this the boy saw in it nothing of special interest. So there are boys, and some older persons as well, who carry in their minds shining fragments of truth from God's word, without any conception of their wonderful value.

What boy, too, has any proper idea of the value of the immortal soul he carries in his bosom? As diamonds in their burning splendour seem almost like fragments struck from the sun, so the soul burning with the fires of immortality is an emanation from God himself, the offspring of the divine mind and being.

What supreme care each of my young readers should exercise lest possibly, in the dark turn of sin, this priceless gem should be lost. Queen Victoria has placed her most valuable diamonds behind strong iron bars in a great castle, and there are always soldiers there to guard them. I will tell you how you can best secure the safety of this most precious gem which God has given you. Take it again to God, put it wholly in his hands, and he will keep it for you.

HOME is the centre of attraction in this world, if ruled by love. God is the centre of attraction in heaven, because he is love.

BABYLON AND ITS TOWER.

(This picture illustrates a recent lesson.)

BABYLON was the capital of the ancient land of Shinar or Chaldea. It was a vast square, built on both sides of the Euphrates river, and was enclosed with a double line of high walls, the outer one being about fifty-six miles long, eighty-seven feet broad, and three hundred feet high. In it were one hundred gates and two hundred and fifty towers. Some say it was more than forty-two miles around the city. It was nearly or quite five times the size of London. There was a royal palace on each side of the river, and these two palaces were connected by a stone bridge over 100 yards long and thirty feet broad, and by a tunnel under the river. It was indeed a great and mighty city.

The beginning of it dates back as far as the times of Nimrod. After the fall of Nineveh in 625 B.C., Babylon became not only an independent kingdom, but an empire. Its downfall was predicted by Jeremiah, and Isaiah had named Cyrus, the Persian, as the leader of the victorious army one hundred and seventy years before it came to pass. These prophecies were fulfilled in 539 B.C. The picture shows the two palaces, the river Euphrates, the bridge, the supposed form of the tower of Babel, and the deadly work of the soldiers. Our Bible-reading SUNBEAM family need scarcely to be told about the tower of Babel and the purpose for which it was built. Its story is a warning to those who try to resist God and to escape from him. Confusion and shame always follow such a course.

The places above named, once so well known, are now only marked by great mounds in which are the ruins of grand palaces. There is one mound called Birs-Nimrod, which the Jews in captivity thought was the ruins of the tower of Babel. Another mound, six hundred feet square and one hundred and forty feet high, may be the ruins of the ancient temple of Belus. The ruins of those places, and their great desolation, are proofs of the truth of God's word.

THE HAPPY BOY.

A DEAF and dumb boy was once asked if he was happy. His answer was:

"I have God for my Father, Jesus for my Saviour, the Holy Spirit for my sanctifier, and heaven for my home. Yes, I am happy."

Dear little friend, can you say as much?



LITTLE LINNET.

LITTLE LINNET.

WHEN the sun has gone to rest,
At the close of day,
And the twilight wraps the earth
In its mantle gray,

Linnet waits for papa's coming,
And will gladly greet him;
When she hears his footsteps near,
She will spring to meet him.

If there were no little Linnet
At the window there,
All the world would seem to papa
Very cold and bare.

Linnet is but four years old,
Yet her smiling face
Gives the sweetest welcome:
None could fill her place.

Little daughters, don't you see
Something you may do?
If to others you are loving,
They will love you too.

WHY HE DIDN'T SKATE.

"HELLO, Tom! Why don't you skate?"
"Because I loaned my skates to
Roberts, who had none." "You were
great goose to do that. Why don't you
him buy his own skates?" "Because
mother is poor, and I don't believe he
"Well, good-bye, Goosie. I hope you
enjoy looking at the rest skate!"
Frank dashed off on his skates. But
do you think, was the happier of the two?



A MORNING RIDE.

A MORNING RIDE.

THE day is warm, and the sunshine is bright and sweet. And so Dolly must have a ride in her nice new cab. Jennie enjoys the sunshine more than Dolly does.

A TALK ABOUT SHEPHERDS.

"MARY," said Walter one day, "do you want to learn a hymn about the good Shepherd? It is very like your Bible verse." So Mary nestled into Walter's lap and began to repeat after him—

'The Lord is my Shepherd, no want shall I know,
I feed in green pastures, safe folded I rest—'

There she stopped. "But, Walter, *safe folded*, I don't like that word. I know I am folded safely under the blankets when the winter wind blows cold; but the little lambs, nobody folds blankets about them; they are not safe folded." Walter took from his pocket a pencil and a scrap of paper. He drew a picture of a large pen, with a close, all fence all around it; the door was standing open, sheep were going in, and the shepherd was standing ready to close the door. "That yard," said Walter, "is a sheep-fold; the shepherd will fasten it all tight, then the tired sheep sleep; the wolves and foxes may try to reach them, but the sheep are safe in the fold."

"Yes," said Mary, "*safe folded* they rest."

"I KNOW IT."

A LITTLE boy ten years old wanted to join the Church, and went up to be examined and to tell his experience. He told how he had felt troubled and guilty on account of his sins, and how he felt his need of a Saviour. The question was asked: "What did you do when you felt yourself to be such a great sinner?"

"I just went to Jesus and told him how sinful I was and how sorry I was, and asked him to forgive me."

"And do you hope that Jesus heard you and forgave your sins?"

He answered promptly: "I don't only hope so, sir; I know he did."

There was a confidence in the tone with which the word "know" was uttered that startled the hearers. The oldest of them raised his glasses and peered into the face of the little candidate, and said: "You say that you know that Jesus forgave you your sins?"

"Yes, sir," was the prompt and unhesitating answer. There was a pause in the examination.

"You mean, my son, that you hope Jesus had pardoned your sins?"

"I hope he has, and I know it too," with a bright smile on his manly face.

"How do you know it, my son," every one being intent on the little fellow's reply.

"He said he would," said the boy, with a

look of astonishment, as if amazed that any one should doubt it.

"He said he would do what?"

"He said that if I would confess my sins he was faithful and just, and would forgive them; and I did confess them to him, and I know he forgave them, because he said he would."

The deacon took off his glasses to wipe them, for the moisture from his eyes had made them dull, and he turned to the pastor and said: "He's got hold of the right end of it, sir. Flesh and blood have not revealed it to him. I move that he be received."—*Excerpt*

TAKE CARE.

LITTLE children, you must seek
Rather to be good than wise,
For the thoughts you do not speak
Shine out in your cheeks and eyes.

If you think that you can be
Cross or cruel, and look fair,
Let me tell you how to see
You are quite mistaken there.

Go and stand before the glass,
And some ugly thoughts contrive,
And my word will come to pass
Just as sure as you're alive!

What you have and what you lack,
All the same as what you wear,
You will see reflected back,
So, my little folks, take care!

And not only in the glass
Will your secrets come to view;
All beholders, as they pass,
Will perceive and know them, too.

Out of sight, my boys and girls,
Every root of beauty starts;
So think less about your curls,
More about your minds and hearts.

Cherish what is good, and drive
Evil thoughts and feelings far;
For, as sure as you're alive,
You will show for what you are.

—*Alice Cary.*

THE SNOW PRAYER.

A LITTLE girl went out to play one day in the fresh, new snow, and when she came in she said: "Mamma, I couldn't help praying when I was out at play."

"What did you pray for, my dear?"

"I prayed the Snow Prayer, mamma, that I heard in Sunday-school."

"The Snow Prayer. What do you mean, little one?"

"I mean the beautiful Snow Prayer in the Bible, mamma; you know it: 'Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.'"

A LITTLE CHILD'S HYMN.

Thou that once, on mother's knee,
Wert a little child like me,
When I wake or go to bed,
Lay thy hands about my head;
Let me feel thee very near,
Jesus Christ, our Saviour dear

Be beside me in the light,
Close by me through all the night;
Make me gentle, kind, and true,
Do what mother bids me do;
Help and cheer me when I fret,
And forgive when I forget.

Once wast thou in cradle laid,
Baby bright in manger shade,
With the oxen and the cows,
And the lambs outside the house;
Now thou art above the sky -
Canst thou hear a baby cry?

Thou art near us when we pray;
Thou art never far away;
Thou my little hymn wilt hear,
Jesus Christ, our Saviour dear—
Thou that once on mother's knee
Wast a little child like me.

LESSON NOTES.

SECOND QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE WRITINGS OF JOHN.

A.D. 4] LESSON I. [April 4.

THE WORD MADE FLESH.

John 1. 1-18. Commit to memory vs. 15.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The Word was made flesh, and dwelt
among us. John 1. 14.

OUTLINE.

1. The Word With God, v. 1-5.
2. The Word Made Flesh, v. 6-18.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

What is Christ called in this lesson?
The Word.

What is the use of a word or words to us?
To help us express our thoughts and feelings
correctly.

Could we understand each other without
using words? Not distinctly or easily.

How is Christ God's Word? Because
he makes God's love and God's will clear
and plain to us.

Why can he do this? Because he is the
Light of the world.

What does he show us as our Light? The
blackness of our sins.

Of what does he tell us as the Word of
God? Of God's wonderful love and mercy
and forgiveness.

Who refused to receive him as their
Light? The Jews, his own people.

What does he give to those who receive
him? Power to become the sons of God.

What is that power? Power to grow
pure and holy, like God.

Who alone can give us that power?
Christ Jesus.

Whom did God send to bear witness to
the Light of the world? John the Bap-
tist.

What did John proclaim? (Repeat the
GOLDEN TEXT.)

What is the meaning of the "Word
made flesh?" Christ took our weak and
suffering nature to be his own.

What glory did he show the world?
The glory of a holy life and mighty works.

Who came to bring God's law? Moses.

Who came to show us God's love and
truth? Jesus Christ.

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

If you put Jesus in the place of "the
Word" in the GOLDEN TEXT, I think you
will understand it better.

"This is the sweetest story, wonderful,
strange, and true,
Jesus, the King of Glory, once was a child
like you:

Think you not he's forgotten, it was long,
long ago;

No, the dear Lord remembers; O! and he
loves you so!

Loves you for aye and forever; it was to
you he came,

Deep in his heart is graven every childish
name."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The incarna-
tion of Christ.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

Who made you? God.

Who is God? God is our Father in
heaven.

A.D. 27.] LESSON II. April 11.

THE FIRST DISCIPLES.

John 1. 35-51. Commit to memory vs. 40-42.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The two disciples heard him speak, and
they followed Jesus. John 1. 37.

OUTLINE.

1. Pointing to the Lamb, v. 35, 36.
2. Following the Lamb, v. 37-40.
3. Leading the Lamb, v. 41-51.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

What did John the Baptist proclaim
Jesus to be? The Lamb of God.

Why? Because he was slain as a sacri-
fice for sin.

Who heard these words of John? Two
of his disciples.

What did they do? They left him and
followed Jesus. (Repeat the GOLDEN
TEXT.)

How did Jesus receive them? He took
them to his home.

What did they become? His disciples.

What were the names of these disciples?
Andrew and John.

What did Andrew do? He brought
Simon, his brother, to Jesus.

What did Jesus tell him? "Thou shalt
be called Cephas."

What is the meaning of Cephas? Peter.

What did Jesus say to Philip? "Follow
me."

What did Philip tell his friend Nathanael?
"We have found Jesus of Nazareth."

What did Nathanael become? A discip-
le of Jesus.

What did Jesus promise Nathanael?
That he should see great things.

By what other name is Nathanael known?
By the name of Bartholomew.

What does Jesus say to each one of us?
"Follow me."

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

The most important thing to do, after our
sins are forgiven, is to follow Jesus.

To follow Jesus is to love him best,

To follow Jesus is to obey him first,

To do his will instead of my own,

To trust him in everything,

To keep near him always.

What would you ever do, darlings,
Jesus had called only a few, and had taken
the old and wise, and left out you?

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The Lamb of
God.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

What is God? God is a Spirit, One that
always was and always will be.

Where is God? God is everywhere.

THE TRUE SECRET.

At the house where I was staying, there
were two little sisters whom nobody could
see without loving, for they were always
happy together. They had the same books
and the same playthings, but never a
quarrel sprang up between them—no
words no pouts, no slaps, no running away
in a pet. On the green before the door
trundling hoop, playing with Rover the dog
or helping mother, they were always the
same sweet-tempered little girls.

"You never seem to quarrel," I said
them one day. "How is it you are always
so happy together?"

They looked up, and the eldest answered
s'pose 'tis 'cause Addie lets me and I
Addie."