

"REMEMBER NOW THY CREATOR IN THE DAYS OF THY YOUTH."



OUR YOUNG PEOPLE



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Rev. W. C. Burns.

WE wish our paper were large enough to allow us to print a long article about that wonderful country called China. Perhaps our little readers will be astonished when we tell them that at the time Jonah was sent to Nineveh (as told on the 4th page of this paper) the Chinese nation was one of the greatest in the world. One of the books studied in their colleges was written by a man called Wun-wang, who lived 100 years before David was king over Israel. Or still further back, when Abraham was called by God (Gen. xii.) the astronomers of China had told about certain stars and planets, which our own great men now say is true. This country, again, is such a great one. Only think that it is 44 times larger than all England, Scotland and Ireland together.

Or again, think of its population! About two hundred and fifty millions, or fifty times as many people as there are in the whole Dominion of Canada. Again, think of the deaths in that land. Twenty thousand

every day. And yet, dear children, remember, that in all that great land of idolators, there are only 500 missionaries to tell of the blessed Jesus, and that He died for the poor Chinaman.

Now, we give you a picture on this page of one of the early missionaries who went to tell this people about God. Mr. Burns was born in Scotland, on the 1st day of April, 1815. His father was a Presbyterian minister, and he

brought up young William and the rest of the family to love God.

It was while William was studying to be a minister that he was led to think of giving himself up to the work as a missionary, but it was not till the year 1847



GREAT WALL OF CHINA.

MISSION HOUSEHOLD.



WILLIAM C. BURNS.



A CHINESE BRIDGE.

CHINESE WHEELBARROW.

that he was called to go to China as missionary from the English Presbyterian Church. When asked in the Synod when he would be ready to start, he replied, "To-morrow." He sailed for China on June 9, 1847, reaching that country in due time, never again to return to his native land. He laboured earnestly to lead the people of China to believe in Jesus. His whole heart was fixed upon the work, and he became so deeply interested, that he made himself as one of the people, wearing the same kind of clothing and adopting their style of living. Our picture shows him in his Chinese dress, while around are scenes in the wonderful land where he lived for 21 years, and where he died April 4th, 1868. We hope some of our young readers may be led by the Lord to decide that when they grow up they will, like William C. Burns, go and preach Jesus to the heathen.

The Bright and Morning Star.

"I am . . . the Bright and Morning Star."—REV. xxii. 16.

THIS name of the Lord Jesus seems as if it must be meant especially for children; for it is those who get up early who see the beautiful morning star, shining in the quiet sky that is just beginning to be touched with a promise of dawn, and He says, "They that seek Me early shall find Me" (Prov. viii. 17.) A star shines out in the dark sky, and the darkness can not put it out, but only makes it all the brighter. So if we look up to Jesus as our Star, even if there seems nothing else to make us happy, and nothing to be seen but some dark trouble all around, He will shine in our hearts (2 Cor. iv. 6); and we shall have light and gladness in them (Ps. iv. 7).

A star is always true. If we were going in a wrong direction across a wide moor, directly we caught sight of a star that we knew, we should be shown our mistake. So when we think of Jesus we shall see whether we are going right or wrong, whether we are following Him or going away from Him. When we stop and say to ourselves, "what would Jesus do?" it is like looking up at the star to see which way to go.

Jesus calls Himself the Bright Star, for He is the brightness of the Father's glory (Heb. i. 3). Nothing makes anyone look so bright as looking at His brightness and beauty. You could not possibly have a dismal face while you are really "looking unto Jesus" (Heb. xii. 2), any more than a little mirror would look dark if you held it up to catch the rays of a bright light.

He calls Himself the Morning Star too, because when we see that shining clear and still, we know that the darkness is passing, and very soon the day will break and the shadows flee away (Cant. ii. 17). The sight of the morning star is the promise of the day. And so if you get a little glimpse by faith of the brightness of the Lord Jesus Christ now, it is only a beginning of clearer sight, and a pledge of the glorious day that has no night, in the land where you shall see the King in His beauty (Isa. xxxiii. 7).—*Selected.*

Be Thankful.

For beauty in this world of ours,
For verdant grass and lovely flowers,
For song of birds, for hum of bees,
For the refreshing summer breeze,
For hill and plain, for streams and wood,
For the great ocean's mighty flood,—
In everything, give thanks!

For the sweet sleep which comes with night,
For the returning morning light,
For the bright sun that shines on high,
For the stars glittering in the sky,—
For these, and everything we see,
O Lord, our hearts we lift to Thee:
For everything, give thanks!

ELLEN ISABELLA TUPPER.

How to Overcome.

A YOUNG girl said the other day to a friend "Since I gave my heart to Jesus my lessons seem easier, and everything at home moves more smoothly." Yes, everything is different when Jesus is in the heart. Rough places are made smooth, crooked places straight, and hard things become easy because we have such a wondrous Helper.

Lying or Stealing.

A LITTLE girl came in her night-clothes, very early one morning, to her mother, saying, "Which is worse, mamma, to tell a lie or steal?" The mother replied that both were so bad she could not tell which was worse.

"Well," said the little one, "I've been thinking a good deal about it, and I've concluded it's worse to lie than to steal. If you steal a thing you can take it back, 'less you've eaten it, and if you've eaten it you can pay for it. But"—and there was a look of awe in her little face—"a lie is forever."

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 learned once in Sunday-school: 'Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.'"

What a beautiful prayer! And here is a sweet promise to go with it: "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow." And what can wash them white—clean from every stain of sin? The Bible answers,—"They have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

The Little Boy who Died of Sunstroke.

THERE was a rich lady, who was called Shunammite, because she lived in a village named Shunem. She was very kind to one of the Lord's prophets, Elisha, and built a room on her house, where he could stay, as he went preaching among the people. Because of her kindness to the prophet, God gave her a little boy, whom she loved very much, for she was old, and had no other children.

One day, in summer, her boy was in the harvest field, when suddenly he cried: "O my head! my head!" They took him to his mother, and she held him until noon on her lap. Then he died, for he had been sun-struck.

The mother took up his little dead body, and laid it on Elisha's bed. Then she went out to her husband

and did not tell him that the boy was dead. She said: "I want to go at once to the man of God, and then come again. Let me have one of the young men and one of the asses;" for in that country the people rode not on horses, but on asses.

So she rode as fast as she could to Elisha. When she came near, he saw that she was in trouble, but God had not told him what it was. She fell down at his feet, and said:—

"Did I ask to have the child given me? Did I not say, Do not deceive me?"

Then Elisha knew, and he said to his servant, whose name was Gehazi, "Go and lay my staff on the face of the child. Do not stop to speak to any one on the way, but go as fast as you can."

The mother said: "O, you must come, too! As sure as the Lord lives, I will not leave you!" So Elisha went to the house. When he came to the door, his servant, Gehazi, met him, and said: "The child is not awaked."

Elisha went into the room, and saw the dead boy lying on his own bed. He shut the door, and knelt down, and prayed to the Lord.

Then he placed his face over the child's face, and his hands upon the child's hands; and, as he pressed against the dead body, its flesh became warm. At last the child sneezed, and opened its eyes.

Then he called in his mother, and said: "Take up your son." She looked, and her boy was alive!

How happy was that good mother, as she took her boy into her arms once more!

So, dear children, from this Bible story you learn that God takes notice of kind acts done to his people. By being kind to Elisha she received a blessing from God. Remember, also, what God says in the Bible, "That a cup of cold water gave in His name shall be rewarded."

God's Word to Children.

HONOR thy father and thy mother, as the Lord thy God hath commanded thee: that thy days may be prolonged and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.—Deut. v. 16.

My son, bear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother: for they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.—Prov. i. 8, 9.

A wise son maketh a glad father; but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.—Prov. x. 1.

My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother.—Prov. vi. 20.

Hearken unto thy father that be-

gat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old.—Prov. xxiii. 22.

For God commanded saying, Honor thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death.—Matt. xv. 4.

Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.—Eph. vi. 1.

Children obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.—Col. iii. 20.

Treasures or Toys.

ALADY asked some children who were amusing themselves with toys, "Are these your treasures, dears?" "No, ma'am," was the wise reply; "these are our playthings; our treasures are in heaven."



Illustrations on the S. S. Lessons.

The Death of Elisha.

2 Kings xiii. 14-25.

ELISHA the prophet, is now an old man and very sick, and must soon die. While he was lying sick King Joash called to see him. He knew that Elisha had saved the land from its enemies, and now that he was dying, he felt that he was losing his strongest helper.

Elisha wished to show him that God would still take care of Israel, even though he were taken away. He said: "Take bow and arrows."

Then Elisha put his dying hands on the hands of the King, as they held the bow, and said: "Open the window toward Syria and shoot!" As the arrows flew out of the window Elisha said: "The arrow of the Lord's deliverance from Syria. You shall have victory over the Syrians and shall destroy them!"

"Now," said Elisha, "take the arrows and strike them on the ground." The king took the arrows, and with them struck the ground three times. Then he stopped, and Elisha said: "You ought to have struck five or six times, then you would have beaten the Syrians over and over and conquered them; and now you shall beat them only three times!"

A little after this Elisha died. The next year they were burying a man near the same place, when a band of enemies suddenly was seen. They thrust the dead body into the cave where the body of Elisha was lying. As soon as the corpse touched the body of Elisha, the man lived again and stood upon his feet. So Elisha had power, even after he was dead.

The secret of all Elisha's power was, that he *knew* God, and kept so near to him that God could talk to him and use him to do these great things for him. God wants his holy, useful life to be an example to you. It may be he intends to make some of you to be great—to use you in advancing His kingdom on earth, and bring glory to His name. Surely He wants you all to be true, noble men and women, and do a great deal of good in *your* place; and you cannot, unless you get acquainted with God, as Elisha did. Will you begin to know Him now?

The Story of Jonah.

Jonah i. 1-17.

THERE was once a very great and very wicked city called Nineveh. Its people worshipped idols, and knew nothing of God.

God spoke to a prophet whose name was Jonah: "Arise, and go to Nineveh, and preach to its people." But Jonah did not want to go. He tried to escape from doing God's will, and went down to Joppa on the sea-shore, where he found a ship about to sail to a land far away in the opposite direction from Nineveh. He paid the fare, and went on board and set sail.

But God sent a storm upon the ship, and it was in great danger. The sailors did not know the true God, and each one called upon his idol-god to help them. Jonah was sleeping in the hold, when the

captain came and said: "Why are you sleeping in such a time as this? Rise up and call upon your God to save us!" The men on the ship said: "There is some wicked man on board, and this storm is on his account. Let us cast lots and see who it is. They cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. He then told them how he had disobeyed God.

They said:—"What shall we do to stop the raging of the sea?" Jonah answered: "Throw

me out into the sea and then it will be quiet." When the men had rowed hard, but found they could not get away from the storm, they took up Jonah, and threw him overboard. At once the sea was quiet, and the sailors saw that this was God's work, so they gave God thanks and worshipped.

Now the Lord had made ready a great fish to swallow up Jonah. Jonah was living inside the fish for three days and three nights, Then the fish threw Jonah up upon the dry land.

Thus you see that it is a dangerous thing *not* to obey God. How many of you will say: "When the Saviour speaks to *me*, I will obey him cheerfully?" Remember that Jesus will help you, and that with His grace in your heart you will love to obey.

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