

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



OUR YOUNG PEOPLE



PUBLISHED BY THE
TORONTO WILLARD TRACT DEPOSITORY.

Vol. II.

TORONTO, CANADA.

No. 18.

How a Little Boy was Saved.

ON one of the railroads in Prussia a switchman was just taking his place, in order to turn a coming train, then in sight, on to a different track. Just at this moment, on turning his head, he saw his little son playing on the track of the advancing engine. What could he do? Thought was quick at such a moment of peril! He might spring to his child and rescue him; but he could not do this and turn the switch in time, and, for want of that, hundreds of lives might be lost. So he called out in a loud voice to his son, "Lie down." His boy, accustomed to obedience, did as his father commanded him, and the heavy train thundered over him. When the train had passed, the father rushed forward to where his boy lay, fearful lest he should find only a mangled corpse; but, to his great joy and gratitude, he found him alive and unharmed.

The boy was saved from a horrible death. What was it that saved him? *Prompt obedience* to his father's command! He did not hesitate; he did not wait to ask *why* the command was

given; he simply heard and obeyed and was saved! Dear little readers, if you are still unsaved, may you learn a lesson from this simple tale.



God not only tells people *how* they may be saved—He not only *invites* them to come to Him, and even *beseches* them, to be reconciled to Him, but God also **COMMANDS!** "And this is His commandment, that we should *believe* on the name of His Son Jesus Christ." (1 John 3: 23.) Just as the switchman, in that moment of fearful peril, *commanded* his son to do that which alone could save him from death, so God, in infinite compassion, *commands* you to believe in Jesus—to trust in Him as your Saviour, because there is no other way by which you can be saved.—*Dublin Tract.*

Kept.

WHAT a happy thing it is to have a faithful guardian! God, the Great God, promises to be such. He is always near you—a Gracious Shepherd ever watching His lambs! Again, how nice it is, on a hot, burning day, to get under the shade of a big rock or tree, away from the sun! God says He will be such a shade.

The Penny Offering.

A CHILD a penny gave,
With it a tract was bought,
By which a heathen chief
Was to the Saviour brought.

A little church was built,
Men turned from idols cold,
Till fifteen hundred souls
Were gathered in the fold.

How many more shall come
In joy with Christ to dwell,
The fruit of this small seed,
Eternity must tell.

Oh; many a man has sought
To do some mighty deed,
And yet no change has wrought
Like this one tiny seed.

When every little hand
Shall sow the Gospel seed,
And every little heart
Shall pray for those in need.

When every little life
Such fair, bright record shows,
Then shall the desert bud
And blossom as the rose.

A Child's Sermon to Children.

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15 : 13).



VERY simple story is told of a nursemaid, who one day was walking in a square, round which there was no pavement, and which was very narrow. She was wheeling a perambulator before her in which was a child of about one year. Presently a waggon, heavily loaded, with five or six horses to pull it, came along. There was no time to run to the gate of the square and go in, no time for thought. The waggoner did not see her, or all would have been well. Quickly she flung the child over the paling into the square.

There was no time for her to follow. The waggon passed a living woman and left a dying one. The child was unhurt. If the humble, devoted nurse gave up her life for the child, did not Christ, the King of Heaven, give up His life to save us?

A minister one Sunday earnestly besought all the congregation, every one, however small, to give up their lives to Christ. A little boy rose up and said, "Am I too small to serve Christ?" The minister smiled and answered, "A little child shall lead them; none are too small or too weak to serve God." Many who smiled at the time thought to themselves afterwards, "If that little boy was not too young to serve Christ, cannot I, who am so much older, do something too?" Children, will not you, too, do something for the Saviour who died to save you? Give yourself up willingly, devote your whole life to Him. That is the most acceptable gift you can possibly give Him. A missionary box was passed at a meeting till it came to a group of boys. The first, who had plenty of money, dropped sixpence in, thinking, "I suppose I must, as every one else does." His brother dropped his in without thinking at all. The third dropped threepence in, thinking, "Poor little heathen, this will help to buy you some clothes." The last, a poor boy, dropped a penny in, thinking, "Lord, I have no more to give but myself, and I give myself willingly to Thee." Which was most acceptable to God? Was not the last most pleasing in His sight?
EDITH.

The Good Shepherd.

THE prettiest of all sights in Palestine is the shepherd carrying the lamb that had strayed among the rough bushes on the mountain-side, or among the jagged rocks. He first removes the prickly thorns that are clinging to its fleece, or laming its tender feet. Then he lays it in his bosom, or places it on his shoulder, and bears it to the fold down in the valley beside the still waters. Little reader, that is just what the Good Shepherd does to you.

He gathers the lambs with His arm,
And carries them close to His breast;
In danger He shields them from harm,
And folds them at night to their rest.

"Heartily."

IT is always nice when children are bright, and brisk, and hearty, whatever they may be called to do—whether it be to fetch a book, to shut a door, to say their lessons, or even at their play. If boys or girls are dull and lazy, sleepy and selfish, the chances are they will never do anything with spirit when they grow up. Try, especially, to do very heartily the wish and will of God, saying, like little Samuel, when the Lord called him—"Here am I!"

"Heartily," "heartily,"—
Creep not, but run;
That is the truest way
Work should be done!

Waiting to Hear God's Voice.

GOD sometimes spoke to Moses, who told the people God's will. One day, God said He would speak from the top of a mountain,—that the people should hear His voice; but they must not go near. On the third morning, the people stood looking on the mountain. On it there were thunders and lightnings, a thick cloud, and the loud voice of a trumpet. The people trembled; the mountain itself shook.

God's voice was heard calling to Moses to go "up to the top of the mount"—into the smoke and cloud, near to the fire and lightnings. Moses went up. And what words did God speak? What we call the *Ten Commandments*, showing what is our duty to God and to one another. These commands may be put in a very few words

—"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and thy neighbour as thyself." We are to have no other God—no image of God. There must be no taking of God's name in vain—no breaking the Sabbath day which God had appointed—no disobedience to father or mother or those set over us—no hurting others by word or deed—no evil thoughts or desires.

If we obey these laws, we shall love God and love one another—and shall be happy.



The Two Bears.

HAVE you ever heard, children, of "the two bears?" We ought all to know about them from our earliest days, for they are so much connected with our happiness in dealing with those about us. If we keep the bears at home, home will be bright and happy. If we take them abroad, they will free us from many a trouble. They are both of the same nature, but there is a little difference in their names. The one is "Bear," the other "Forbear." Let us think about each of them—

1. *What may we learn about "bear?"* It has two different meanings. (1.) *Support or carry.* "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ." Thus it teaches us to follow the example of Christ in supporting our fellows in their troubles.

What a burden he bore! And how many cares and trials those about us have to bear! Can we not help? (2.) *Put up with.* St. Paul says, "Would to God ye could bear with me!" This is merely asking for the exercise of patience. We know the example Christ set us in this respect: 1 Pet. 2: 20, 21. And what calls there are for it in us through all the tempers and annoyances about us: Eph. 4: 31, 32. The whole lesson from this little word is summed up thus by Paul, "Support the weak: be patient toward all men": 1 Thess. 5: 14.

2. *What are we taught about "forbear?"* We may take it as meaning *abstaining from vengeance.* And thus it is used in reference to God's dealings with sinners: Rom. 2: 4; 3: 25; but it strictly means *abstaining from anything*: 1 Cor. 9: 6; and so "the servant of the Lord must be *forbearing.*" We must

be slow to resent injuries. A spirit of revenge is not Christian. It comes from a spiteful heart. We must keep from all that is contrary to the spirit of Christ: angry words, corrupt words, every appearance of evil. "Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any": Col. 3: 13.

Perhaps, while we have been speaking, some of your hearts have

said, "This word speaks to me." I hope this has been the case. We all of us need to have more of the mind of Christ: Phil. 2: 5.

"Love is more than mere appearance,
Let us learn to love indeed;
Patience, kindness and forbearance
Well become our state and need."

Contentment.

"Be content with such things as ye have."—Heb. 13: 5.

WHAT does "content" mean? It means that a little child should be happy with what it has, and not be greedy in seeking things it has not got, saying—"I wish I had that box of bricks, or that nice humming-top; or that I were bigger, or grander or had that fine house to live in." The little glow-worm does not say, "I want to be a star;" or the flower "I want to be a tree;" or the gnat, "I want to be a butterfly" No; they are "content."

The Mission of the Spirit.

John 16: 5-20.

IN a former lesson we saw how Jesus comforted the sad disciples. But the greatest comfort of all we did not then talk over. It was a comfort to know that by and by Jesus was coming again and would take them to the home He had prepared for them. But what were they to do in the meanwhile? They felt like orphans left alone in this world. By and by seemed far off; what would they do without their dear friend to help them, and tell them what to do. Then Jesus made them a wonderful promise. Read John 14: 18. This verse means, "I will not leave you orphans." It was not only that He would come back, but He would send them another Friend, one who would *stay* with them. Jesus even on earth had to be absent from His disciples sometimes, and often the twelve would be scattered. But this new Friend would be with all everywhere. See John 14: 16 for what He was to be called. Besides, the lesson verses, John 14: 26, will tell you what He would do for them.

Jesus died the next day. The third day after He rose from the grave. He stayed on earth forty days and then ascended to His Father. What would the disciples do now? The last thing Jesus did while on earth was to tell the disciples that the promised Comforter should come before many days. Just ten days after, the promise was kept. Read the story in Acts 2: 1-4.

If you take time to search your Bible you will find what the work of the Holy Spirit is.

There are a great many passages speaking of His work, but we will call your attention to three important points:

1st. He makes us feel how sinful we are. He takes God's Word, and bringing it to bear upon the conscience, making us feel our guilt, and our need of a Saviour.

2nd. He leads us to Jesus, and gives us a new heart.

3rd. He produces in our lives the fruits of righteousness. If you read Galatians 5: 22, 23, you will find there a list of the fruit of the Spirit. So we are dependent upon the Spirit for the beginning, continuation and ending of our lives as Christians.

Remember, dear children, the Holy Spirit is not a mere feeling, but a person, real though you cannot see Him, for He is equal with God the Father, and God the Son, as you will see by reading Matt. 28: 19. Would you have His strong help? Luke 11: 13 will tell you how you may get it.

Jesus Interceding.

John 17: 1-26.

NEXT to the prayer of Solomon at the dedication of the Temple, this is the longest prayer in the Bible. In this prayer there are three petitions offered by Jesus.

(1) *Jesus prays that His disciples may be kept.* "Holy Father, keep those whom Thou hast given Me," verse 11. Jesus knew full well the dangers, temptations, and persecutions to which they were to be exposed. He longed for their spiritual safety, and hence His prayer for their continued preservation.

(2) *Jesus prays that they may be sanctified.* "Sanctify them through Thy truth; Thy word is truth," verse 17. To sanctify means to make holy. The Master knew well that His apostles were only frail disciples as yet, who needed much grace, in order to fulfil their duties as apostles.

(3) *Jesus prays that they may be united.* "That they may be one," verse 11. There was danger that when He left them, they would not agree. Remember that that very evening at the table of the Lord's Supper they had shown a spirit of strife. Imagine, then, what they would do, were the same spirit to animate them after He had left them. They would simply break in pieces. In this way all the work that Jesus came down from Heaven to do, and for which He gave His life, would be overthrown. Now we can see in a measure how wisely Jesus prayed for His disciples, and how important for them *and for the world* it was that

they should be kept sanctified and made one.

In verse 20, the prayer of Jesus broadens out and takes in all the world. "Neither pray I for these alone, *but for them also which shall believe on Me through their word.*" Dear children, you are included in this if you believe in Jesus, for you have believed in Him through the word of the disciples. Even the feeblest child who comes to God in Jesus' name may know that Jesus takes an interest in him and will present his petitions before the throne of God.

After this long, last prayer, Jesus and His disciples passed over the narrow stream of Kedron; and soon reached the gate of Gethsemane.



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Edited by ALF. SANDHAM. Published on the first and third Saturday of each month, by the Toronto Willard Tract Depository,—S. R. BRIGGS, Manager,—corner Yonge and Temperance Streets, Toronto, Ont.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.—PER YEAR—Single copies, 25c.; 10 copies, \$1.50; 25 copies, \$3.00; 100 copies, \$10.00.