



T. CARLSON

GLEAMS OF LIGHT

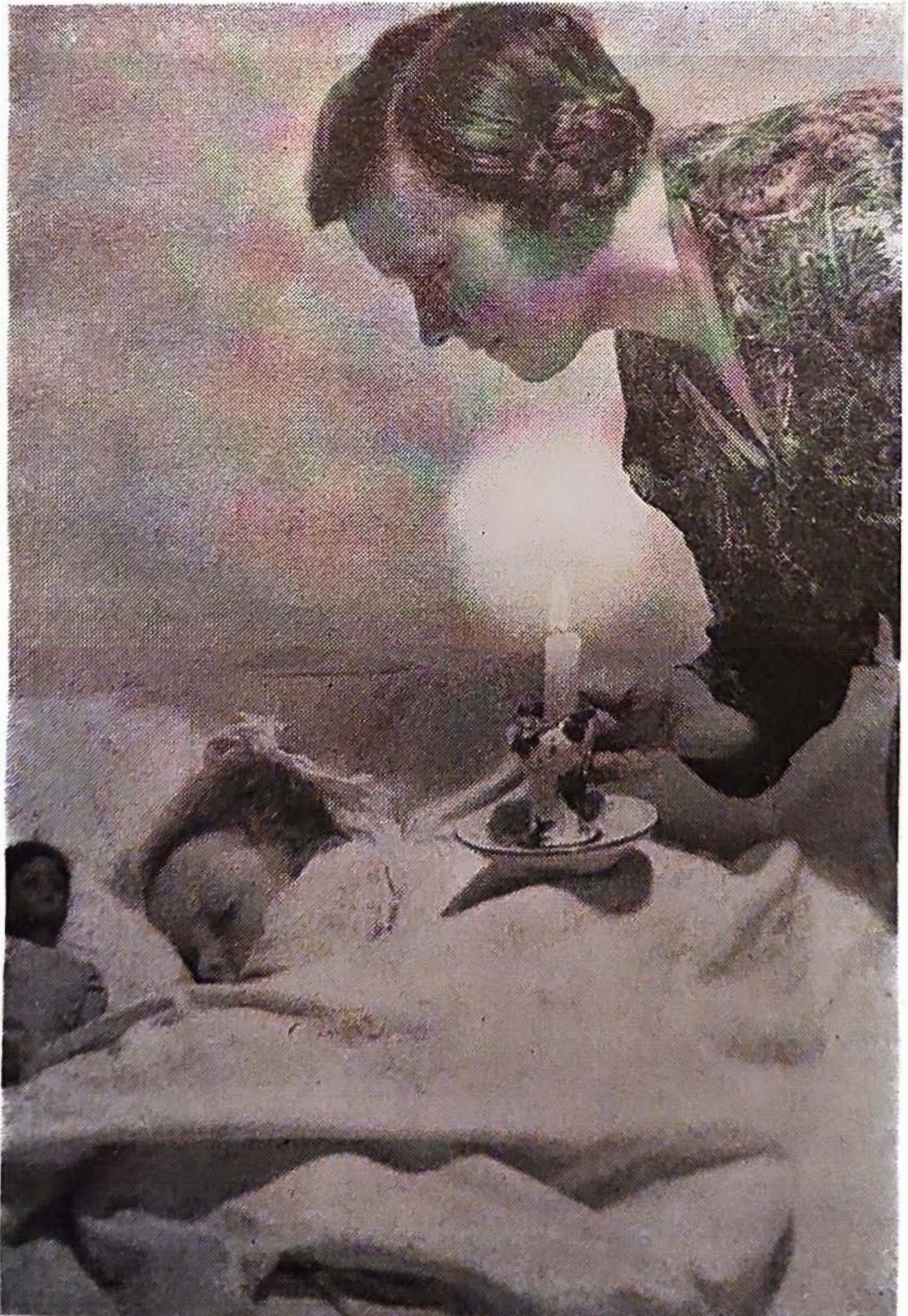
Vol. 1



G. MORRISH

114 CAMBERWELL ROAD, LONDON, S.E. 5

GLEAMS OF LIGHT



“Like a little candle burning in the night”

Editorial

THIS little book, which has been the subject of much prayer on the part of the editor, is sent forth, dear young readers, with the earnest desire that it may prove of real interest and value to you all, and that under the good hand of God it may be used in bringing many to the Saviour.

I have no doubt that many of you are already shining for Jesus, so that it can be said of you as it was of the believers at Philippi, "among whom *ye* shine as lights in the world." Our picture reminds us of the beautiful little hymn, which I am sure most of you know and can sing from memory:

"Jesus bids us shine with a clear, pure light,
Like a little candle burning in the night;
In this world of darkness so we must shine—
You in your small corner, and I in mine."

In the world to-day there are many things that are damaging to our souls, and in many ways the god of this world, Satan, is blinding "the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

May the Lord graciously bestow His blessing upon this little book and through its pages cause the light to flood into many young hearts, attaching them firmly to Himself, that they may grow up to love and serve Him.

"For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." (Read 2 Cor. 4. 3 to 7.)

Communications, which will be acknowledged by the editor, should be addressed to:

W. J. Taylor,

"Fieldgate," 5 Paddocks Road,
Burpham, Guildford, Surrey.

The Unheeded Warning

“ I set watchmen over you, saying, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken.” (Jeremiah 6. 17.)

THE prophet is greatly concerned as to the judgment of God against Jerusalem and its inhabitants, and is found constantly calling attention to its imminence, revealing also that the desire of a Saviour God is that they should take heed to the danger in which they stand, and attend to the warning notes of the trumpet.

And so to-day, dear young friend, God in His grace and mercy has lengthened out the day of salvation until this present moment, that *for you*—away from Him if still in your sins and knowing not the Lord Jesus Christ as your own personal Saviour—the GOSPEL TRUMPET is being sounded forth in no uncertain manner, that you might be brought to realise the peril in which you stand.

It may be that, like the ostrich burying its head in the sand at the approach of danger, you have vainly imagined it will pass you by, but GOD IS JUST. Or perhaps you have not given sufficient heed to earlier speakings by your Christian parents or friends, and do not realize that the trumpet is sounding its warning for YOU. Satan, the enemy of God and of the soul of man, will seek to persuade you in this. An instance occurred recently, to the knowledge of the writer, which fully demonstrates this possibility.

At a well-known railway station in Southern England, a new employee had been engaged for work on the permanent way, and fully instructed as to the warnings in use. The gang were working on one of the main lines running through the station, when the look-out man sounded the warning note on his horn to indicate that a train was approaching on that particular section. The men were unable to see the train coming, but three of them gave heed to the warning sound and climbed to safety on the platform. The fourth, the new man, heedless, continued walking in the direction of the oncoming train, which was still obscured from view. The horn sounded loud and long. The three men who stood in safety, with

others aware of the danger, shouted to their companion, but without avail.

Almost in the last second the man reached the sloping end of the platform and, all unconscious of approaching danger and death, calmly stepped from the track on to the platform, the train rushing by as he drew his second foot to safety! God in His mercy had given that man a further opportunity.

A Saviour God, desirous of blessing you, is still sounding out the warning note through His servants as the glad tidings are preached, and through the message of this little book. Will you not, ere it be too late, take heed and turn to Him, confessing your sins and accepting the Lord Jesus Christ as your own personal Saviour? He alone is the One through whom you may receive God's salvation. Consider the warning given through the apostle in the Epistle to the Hebrews, chapter 2 and verse 3, "HOW SHALL WE ESCAPE, IF WE NEGLECT SO GREAT SALVATION?"

P. WALDRON.

Obedience

DO you know who the little boy was who lived away from home, like some children do when they go to boarding school?

He was so obedient that he got out of bed three times in the night, and ran to his friend and guardian because he thought he had called him. He had been called, but not by his guardian as he thought, for he had been called by the Lord. For the third time that night he returned to his little bed, and there he heard the call again, his name repeated twice, and then he knew that it was the Lord calling and he answered, "Speak; for thy servant heareth."

This obedient little boy became a devoted servant and prophet of the Lord, and throughout his life the Lord spoke to him many times and told him many things.

There is one book in the precious library God has given us—the Bible, the Holy Scriptures—where you can read about the life of this little boy who gave his heart to the Lord and devoted his life to His service.

Questions

1. What was the name of this little boy?
2. Where in the Scriptures do we read of the Lord calling him?
3. What were the names of his mother and his guardian?
4. Where in the New Testament are we told that obedience is pleasing to the Lord?

(Answers will be found at the top of page 8.)

J. F. PREECE.

Whither Bound?

WHERE are you travelling to, my friend?
Along the path of life,
Where nought that satisfies is found
Amid its toil and strife.

Where are you going, whither bound?
Have you an end in view?
Or is it that this solemn thought
Has never troubled you?

For know you not each passing day
Means this to you and me—
We're one more step along the road
Towards eternity?

A solemn thought indeed is this,
As on our way we go;
For that eternity is one
Of endless bliss, or woe.

Dear reader, face the question now,
Make you no more delay,
But come and join us on the road
That's called "the narrow way";

That brings us, when our journey's done,
And travelling days are o'er,
To von bright heavenly courts above,
With joys for evermore.

B. BARTER.

The Lion

HAVE you ever seen a lion, boys and girls? No doubt many of you have at the Zoo, and have admired this handsome animal, although you have been glad that it was in a cage and could not reach you, it looked so fierce. The lion is known as the King of Beasts, and this is not surprising when we think of its great strength.

We find the lion mentioned a number of times in God's word, and in various connections; you can probably remember several instances. The most important is that of the Lord Jesus being the Lion of the tribe of Judah, which speaks of His majesty, power and might. You may have sung the chorus:

“For the Lion of Judah shall break every chain,
And give us the victory again and again.”

We read in Judges 14 that Samson, who was exceedingly strong, killed a young lion which roared against him. When he returned from his journey he was surprised to see a swarm of bees and honey in its carcase. He asked the Philistines a riddle which they could not guess, and if you look at verse 14 you will see that it was like this: “Out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness.” This makes us think that out of the death of the Lord Jesus has come forth sweetness, for we could never have known eternal life if He had not died for us.

There was a prophet in 1 Kings 13 who disobeyed God, and when he was riding his ass he met a lion in the way which slew him but did not kill the ass, and stood by the carcase of the man until men came by and found them. You will see from this how solemn it is to be disobedient, and particularly not to heed God's word. We deserve to be punished if we do not obey what is right.

Then we come to the story of Daniel, who, as you all know, was cast into a den of lions because he prayed to God three times a day, and was watched by wicked men who influenced the king in order to destroy Daniel. However, God had heard Daniel's prayers and honoured his faith by shutting the mouths of the lions, so that although Daniel was all

night in their den, they did not touch him. This is a most remarkable instance of God's care for one who loved Him, so that we may be assured He will watch over us and protect us no matter how difficult the circumstances we may be in.

Lastly, Satan is spoken of in 1 Peter 5. 8 as "a roaring lion, walking about, seeking whom he may devour." We might well fear a roaring lion, but, dear children, we need not be afraid if we keep near to the Good Shepherd, the Lord Jesus. You remember David, the shepherd boy, who is a type of Christ; we are told that he killed both the lion and the bear, so that he saved the sheep. If we put our trust in Jesus He will not let the lion hurt us, and we shall prove again and again what a Good Shepherd He is.

M. A. TAYLOR.

Auntie's Clock

BESS was quite a small girl when she went to stay with her Auntie, and she could not help feeling lonely and a little nervous when she was left alone in a strange bedroom in the dark.

What worried her most was a clock in the room that had a very loud tick, because Bess was not used to having a clock in her bedroom, and she felt sure that the ticking would keep her awake all night.

After a little while she prayed, "Please God may that clock stop. Amen." Do you pray to God about things that worry you? He hears and always comforts, although sometimes it is in a different way from what we expect.

Bess hoped the clock had not been wound up properly, and that it would go more slowly until it stopped, but instead of this the regular ticks continued. But presently her Auntie came into the room and said, "I will stop the clock, dear, in case it strikes and wakes you up."

She did not know anything about the little prayer, but Bess, when left alone again, said, "Thank you, God. Amen." Always remember to thank God when he has answered your prayers, won't you? He loves to hear you.

ELISABETH MOUNTER.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON PAGE 5

1. Samuel.
 2. 1 Samuel 3.
 3. Hannah; Eli.
 4. Colossians 3. 20.
-

THE LORD

is

MY LIGHT

and My

SALVATION

(Psalm 27. 1.)

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GLEAMS OF LIGHT



“ My sheep hear My voice ”

David's Mighty Men

(2 Samuel 23. 13-17)

Adullam's cave was David's hold,
While, in the vale below,
Philistia's warriors fixed their tents,
A fierce and watchful foe.

Their stronghold lay in Bethlehem,
Where David's youth was spent,
Where he, a shepherd lad, had kept
The flocks securely pent.

The well which oft his thirst had quenched
Sprang up hard by the gate,
But war did rage, and few would dare
To brave the foemen's hate.

“ Oh, for a draught of that clear spring,”
The exiled king exclaimed:
The words, though scarcely breathed aloud,
Were heard by three unnamed

Of David's mighty men, who brake
Right through the hostile tide,
And drew from out that well so deep
The drink for which he sighed.

Back to their king they brought the draught,
But though in grievous dearth,
He would not drink: instead, he poured
The water on the earth.

“ It is not mine to drink the blood
Of these courageous three,
For they have jeopardised their lives
To bring this draught to me.

“ The Lord Himself shall have this gift,
To Him I pour it forth,
For He it was who prompted them
To do this feat of worth.”

If you will read the chapter to which the above verses relate, you will see that David had many other mighty men, several of whom performed remarkable

deeds of valour, but none of them attained to the first three.

The lesson for us is that, although it is important that we should be victorious over Satan, and the world, and the evil that is within us, there is nothing to compare with loving the Lord Jesus (who is great David's greater Son) for His own sake, and showing it in spite of opposition.

M. H. TUCKER.

The Dyer's Sign

IN THE town of Reading about twenty years ago, a small boy rode on a baker's horse-drawn cart, chatting to the driver, with whom he had become very friendly. Passing along one of the busy streets, the lad noticed a sign over the shop of a dyer and cleaner, which bore the words, "LET ME DYE FOR YOU!" The boy, who was a lover of the Lord Jesus, turned to his companion and, pointing to the notice, testified in simplicity and with some timidity of the Saviour who had died for him upon Calvary's cross.

The baker, though silent, was obviously affected by the lad's earnest words, and a few days later called at the boy's home and told his mother of the incident in the baker's cart. He told her at the same time that as a child he had learnt to know the Saviour of sinners, but that for many years he had lived a life of self-indulgence, and as a result had lost the joy of salvation. He then said that following her little boy's conversation over the dyer's sign, he had turned again to the Lord Jesus, whom he now desired to follow and serve more faithfully.

Dear young reader, does the death of Jesus make any appeal to *your* heart? He died for you, that you might not have to bear the punishment of your sins, if you will but put your trust in Him. What a wonderful thing it is to be able to say with the Apostle Paul, "The Son of God, who loved *me* and gave himself for *me*!"

"He died that we might be forgiven,
He died to make us good,
That we might go at last to Heaven,
Saved by His precious blood."

W. J. T.

God Makes Them Grow

Two little boys were looking into a stagnant pond one day, chatting to each other. "There's lots of things that grow in there," said the elder one, "and when I'm a big boy I'm going to get some frog's spawn in a jar. That turns into tadpoles, and tadpoles grow into frogs."

"Do they?" inquired the younger boy, wanting to know more.

"Yes," went on his playmate, "I don't know how they do it, but God makes them grow."

I often think of God's love to us when I see all the trees and flowers growing, and it fills my heart with thankfulness. Do you ever thank Him for His beautiful creation and for His constant care of you each day?

"All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all."

ELISABETH MOUNTER.

"Come Unto Me"

WHEN Jesus was here on earth some people brought their children to Him that He might touch them. The disciples wanted to send these children away, perhaps because they thought Jesus had not time to think about them. But Jesus showed the disciples that He wanted little children to come to Him, and He took them in His arms and blessed them.

Although Jesus is now in heaven, yet He still wants little children to come to Him. He says "Come" to young and old alike. Will you come to Him? We come to Him because He is the only One who can make us really happy, and He is the only One who can be our Saviour.

If we think about ourselves, we know we do many things that make us feel unhappy, but if we come to Jesus and believe on Him, we can be saved. We can say to Him, like David, "Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow," and we know from the New Testament that this precious blood can wash away all our sin.

Will you come to Jesus, as the children did long ago? You will find in Him One who is ready to bless; you will find in Him a Saviour. Jesus said, "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God." (Luke 18. 16.)

BARBARA J. BROWN.

Books

THERE are many books in the world. Some are worth reading, but others are bad books which may do us much harm if we read them. A wise man said, "Of making many books there is no end"; but there is one book, and only one, of infinite value—the Bible, which is the word of God.

How wonderful it is that God should speak to us in His word, telling us about His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, who came into this world and died that we might be saved.

The Bible also tells us about little children, and how they came to Jesus, and how He took them in His arms and blessed them. He is ready to bless you, too. He is now in heaven at the right hand of God. He went up there with His hands held out in blessing. The blessing is for you.

Paul the apostle, when writing to a young man, said, "From a child thou hast known the holy scriptures [another name for the Bible], which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." This young man when a child had listened to his mother and grandmother, then he learned to read for himself and knew what God had written in His wonderful book.

Read the Bible. Read it often. Read it carefully.

Questions

1. Who was the wise man who spoke of many books?
2. Who was the young man to whom Paul wrote?
3. Who were his mother and grandmother?
4. Where does it tell us that the Lord Jesus blessed little children?

(Answers will be found at the foot of page 15.)

J. F. PREECE.

The Lamb

I SUPPOSE the lamb is mentioned in Scripture more than any other animal. We read of it first in Genesis 4, where Abel brought a lamb of the flock as an offering to God, showing that he realised the necessity of the shedding of blood as atonement for sin.

You will remember that in Exodus we read how King Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not let God's people Israel go out of Egypt, and God visited the Egyptians with several grievous plagues. Last of all, when Pharaoh had again refused to listen to Moses, who pleaded on behalf of the Israelites and, according to God's commandment, God said He would slay the firstborn—that is, the eldest son—in every Egyptian house. But He told Moses that when the destroying angel passed over Egypt he would not harm the children of the Israelites if the blood of a little lamb was sprinkled on the lintel and door-posts of their houses. And so it was, dear children, that the father in each house took a lamb without blemish and kept it four days where all the family could see it, and then, as God had instructed Moses, the little lamb was killed and its blood put over and round the door, whilst its flesh was roasted and eaten by those of the household. You can look it up and read it for yourselves in Exodus 12. The father, mother and children in each house could go to bed and feel perfectly safe, as they knew that God would see the blood and pass over them.

This speaks to us of the Lord Jesus, who is the Lamb of God's providing, who shed His blood for us, that we might rest in the shelter of it and live for ever. Peter speaks in his first epistle, chapter 1. 19, of our being "redeemed . . . with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." All the sacrifices that we read of in the Old Testament are types of the death of the Lord Jesus, but now that Jesus lives again at God's right hand for us, it is not necessary to offer up little lambs, rams or bullocks any more, for His was an eternal sacrifice.

Some of you may have learned by heart Isaiah 53, as I did when I was a little girl, and will know that

it says of Jesus in verse 7: "He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth." It also says in verse 6: "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him [Jesus] the iniquity of us all." We are just like lost sheep if we have not come to the Good Shepherd.

In John 10 we read: "He calleth his own sheep by name . . . and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow." (Verses 3-5.) "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep." (Verse 11.) In Isaiah 40. 11, it says, speaking of the Lord Jesus: "He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom." Would you not like to be carried in the bosom of the Lord Jesus, dear young reader? Then kneel down and tell Him now that you want to be His little lamb, and He will bless you and keep you safely.

There were two of Jesus' disciples who came to hear John the Baptist preaching, and he said to them: "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1. 29), pointing them to Jesus.

In the last book of the Bible the Lamb is mentioned several times. It says that there are those in heaven clothed in white who have been washed in the blood of the Lamb. It also says that "the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters." (Rev. 7. 17.) It is worth your while looking through this book for the references to the Lamb, as it is one of the titles of the Lord Jesus, and it will help you in your appreciation of His love for you.

M. A. T.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON PAGE 13

1. Solomon. (Ecclesiastes 12. 12.)
2. Timothy. (2 Timothy 3. 15.)
3. Eunice and Lois. (2 Timothy 1. 5.)
4. Mark 10. 16.

THE LORD

○
is my

SHEPHERD,

I SHALL

NOT WANT

(Psalm 23. 1.)

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GLEAMS OF LIGHT



“A Clear Shining After Rain”

A Wonderful Discovery

ONE SEPTEMBER day just over twenty years ago a very wonderful thing happened. A scientist walked into his workroom at a big London hospital to look at a tiny dish—like a doll's tea-plate—of jelly. On this jelly he had placed a drop of pus which had been taken from a boil on a man's leg. In this yellow droplet mixed up with some dead soldier-cells of the man's blood were some of the tiny germs that had invaded his leg and caused the boil. The scientist wanted to know what these germs were. He knew that the jelly was food that all germs like, and that they would grow and split up into more germs very quickly, until there were whole colonies of them which he could examine under his microscope. From the shape of the colonies he could name the germ. Just as farmyard geese walk in single file, sheep huddle together in a flock, and wild geese fly in a V-shaped wedge, so one type of germ is found in long strings, another in pairs, and a third in clusters. What would he see on this dish?

He was disappointed at first sight. The dish had been left uncovered, and by what men call chance a tiny spore in the air had settled on the jelly and grown into a spot of mould. As he looked again something extraordinary caught his eye. The rest of the jelly was covered with clusters of germs, but all round the mould was a clear space. That mould had killed the germs near it. A startling idea flashed into his mind. Would this mould kill disease germs in human bodies without harming the living tissues? Other things had been discovered that would kill disease germs—great heat, severe cold and antiseptics such as iodine; but, alas! not one of these could be used in a festering wound in great enough strength to kill the hateful germs without destroying the healthy tissue.

Straight away the scientist set to work to find out more about this mould. In time it was proved that it would indeed kill disease germs without doing the least harm to the living cells that make up our bodies. Since then, experiments have been made with hundreds of moulds. Some have been found to kill

germs, some have not, but this mould, *Penicillium Notatum*, seen by the scientist, Alexander Fleming, on that September day in 1928, is the only one that can be used to fight disease without hurting the patient. Was it not indeed marvellous that it should have been a spore of this mould, out of all the hundreds floating in the air, that settled on that dish of jelly?

The mould was allowed to grow, and Penicillin, the substance made from it, has saved thousands of lives. I myself have seen a badly festering wound full of pus and dead tissue, smelling vile and looking horrible. Scarcely daring to hope, I dressed it with Penicillin ointment. It was the first time I had used it. When some hours later I removed the dressing it was like a miracle. In place of the foul decaying matter was pink healing tissue, new living cells ready to form healthy flesh!

What a picture of the sinner cleansed by the blood of Christ! I think I am not going too far in saying that we find this picture in the Bible. The mould, *Penicillium Notatum*, grows on a small, fern-like plant—the hyssop. If you read Leviticus, chapter 14, you will find that God ordained that this plant should be used by the children of Israel for purifying rites when they had been attacked by disease. Then in Psalm 51. 7, we find David imploring God to cleanse him from his sin, saying, “Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.”

Perhaps some of you readers have not the joy of knowing your sins are forgiven! Maybe you know you are naughty, know that your heart is vile and black with sin, as each one of us finds out some time, but remember, the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth from all sin. Just turn to Him now as you read this and ask Him to cleanse you. Tell Him that you put your trust completely in Him and His work on the cross. Say, if you like, in the picture-language of the Psalmist: “Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.” Do it now. You may not have another chance.

D. M. B.

My Beautiful Saviour

(Lines recalling a Message delivered in Bathgate many years ago by a passing stranger.)

“ My Beautiful Saviour,”
A title most sweet,
Once spoken aloud
In a quiet country street.
With face all aglow
And cap in his hand,
He told forth the glories
Of that Happy Land.

Earth's riches and favours
Had been him denied,
But an Heir of Salvation
Was worth all beside:
And workmen returning,
Their day's work all o'er,
Stood spellbound and listened,
Still thirsting for more.

The message, though short,
Was simple and sweet,
As “ My Beautiful Saviour ”
Again he'd repeat:
And though many years
Have since come and gone,
The word still remains
In some hearts of His own.

M. A. M.

Faith

FAITH is a short word, easy to say, but not so easy to understand. We must try to understand it, for the Bible says, “ Without faith it is impossible to please God.” We should all like to please God, and if we ask Him He will help us to learn what faith is. If we have faith we know that God can do

everything, for it says, "With God all things are possible." He has done the most wonderful thing He could do in giving His dear Son to die for us on the cross of Calvary. He died for our sins, according to the Scriptures, but God the Father raised Him from among the dead, and He is now at the right hand of God in heaven. He is the Saviour of the world, and He will be your Saviour, too, if you will put your trust in Him.

In the early days of Christianity, hundreds of years ago, there was a devoted servant of God who was put in prison by a wicked man who hated the Lord Jesus. This was in Jerusalem, and there was a very large number of people there who loved the Lord, and they all prayed. In one house there was a young girl at the prayer-meeting, and suddenly a knock was heard at the door and she went to it. She then heard the voice of the servant of God, and was so glad that she did not stop to open the door, but ran back to tell the people at the prayer-meeting that the one for whom they were praying was out of prison and was knocking at the door of the house. God had answered their prayers, but they could not believe it. Though they had prayed, they had very little faith, but the young girl had, for she maintained that what she had told them was true and that he was at the door.

Some girls and boys who read this are old enough to be at the prayer-meeting, like this young girl so many years ago. She had no doubt at the first indication of God's answer, for she had faith and she pleased God.

Questions

1. What was the name of the servant of God?
2. How did he get out of prison?
3. In whose house was this prayer-meeting?
4. What was the name of the young girl?
5. What did the people say to her when she first told them the news?

(Answers will be found at the foot of page 23)

J. F. PREECE.

The Ass

IN EASTERN lands the ass was used as a beast of burden or to ride on from one place to another, in the same way as we used the horse in this country before motor-cars were invented. It was, perhaps, not quite so tame as the donkey you have been accustomed to riding on at the sea-side.

I think the first mention of the ass in Scripture is in Genesis 22. 3, where we read: "And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass." You will remember the story of the journey he took with his boy Isaac, his only son, when Isaac was to have been offered as a sacrifice. But just as Abraham took the knife, the angel of the Lord called to him out of heaven, saying, "Lay not thine hand upon the lad," and a ram was offered in his stead. That is a picture of God not withholding His only Son, Jesus, but offering Him as a sacrifice in your place and mine.

There was another man who "rose up in the morning and saddled his ass," but he was making a different kind of journey from Abraham's. He was not at all pleasing to God, as he was against His people, and that man's name was Balaam. Suddenly, Balaam's ass turned aside from the way as there was an angel there holding a drawn sword in his hand. The ass could see the angel, but Balaam's eyes were so blinded with his own evil works that he did not see the angel, but smote his ass several times in his attempts to turn her back on to the path.

Whenever Balaam tried to force his ass to proceed the angel stood in front of her, until she fell down under him. Then Balaam was very angry and smote his ass with a staff, but a most remarkable thing happened: the ass spoke. God had opened the mouth of the ass and she said to her master, "What have I done unto thee, that thou hast smitten me these three times? And Balaam said unto the ass, Because thou hast mocked me: I would there were a sword in mine hand, for now would I kill thee. And the ass said unto Balaam, Am not I thine ass, upon which thou hast ridden ever since I was thine unto this day? was I ever wont to do so unto thee? And he said, Nay. Then the Lord opened the eyes of Balaam,

and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and he bowed down his head, and fell flat on his face. And the angel of the Lord said unto him, Wherefore hast thou smitten thine ass these three times? behold I went out to withstand thee, because thy way is perverse before me: and the ass saw me, and turned from me . . . surely now also I had slain thee, and saved her alive. And Balaam said unto the angel of the Lord, I have sinned.” (Numbers 22. 21-34.)

You see, dear children, how God caused a dumb animal, often considered a stupid beast, to open its mouth and speak to a man who was acting against His people. May we see that we never try to go against God, or He may have to speak to us in this solemn way that He spoke to Balaam by His angel.

The ass was also ridden on by the Lord Jesus when He was on this earth. Jesus told two of His disciples to go into the village which was near them and loose an ass and its colt which were tied, and bring them to Him. He said that if any man asked them what they were doing, they were to answer, “The Lord hath need of them.” Then He quotes that beautiful prophecy of Himself riding upon an ass from Zechariah 9. 9. The disciples did as Jesus commanded, and He rode into Jerusalem, the multitudes spreading their garments and branches of trees in the way. (Matt. 21. 1-11.)

I would say to you, dear children, what the Lord said of the asses, “The Lord hath need of you.” He wants you to give your heart to Him while you are young, so that you can be useful in His service.

M. A. T.

Answers to Questions on Page 21

1. Peter. (Acts 12. 1-3.)
2. Through the Angel of the Lord. (Verses 7-10.)
3. Mary, the mother of John. (Verse 12.)
4. Rhoda. (Verse 13.)
5. “Thou art mad.” (Verse 15.)

THE LORD

is

MY ROCK,

and MY

FORTRESS

(Psalm 18. 2)

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GLEAMS OF LIGHT



The Camel

WHAT a strange-looking animal this is, with its odd hump and unusual shape of head and legs! Yet it is so formed in creation as to be most suited to travelling long distances across hot, sandy deserts in Eastern lands, and it can go a long time without food and water. The camel can carry goods on its back or suspended from its sides, as well

as one or two persons. Therefore it is a most useful animal, and is sometimes called "the ship of the desert," partly, perhaps, because of its peculiar rolling walk. Its rough, hairy coat is used for making garments, and we are told in Matthew 3. 4 that John the Baptist wore raiment of camel's hair.

The camel is mentioned many times in the Bible, but we will refer to just a few instances. Job at one time had 3,000 camels, and the Queen of Sheba must have had a great many. We read of the latter in 1 Kings 10, how she came to see the glory of Solomon, of which she had heard in her own country, and wished to see for herself if the reports were true. She brought presents to him loaded on camels. King Solomon is a type of the Lord Jesus, and if we, like the Queen of Sheba, come to Him, as by faith we can, we shall get a view of His glory, and will be bound to exclaim that "the half was not told me."

Abraham, too, possessed camels, and when the time came for his son Isaac to have a wife, he sent his chief servant to the land out of which God had called him, to seek a suitable bride for Isaac. We read in Genesis 24. 10: "And the servant took ten camels of the camels of his master, and departed." After a long journey he came to a well in the evening near the city of Nahor, and made his camels kneel down by the well. He then prayed to God a beautiful prayer of faith, and asked Him for guidance in choosing a wife for his master's son, that the damsel who should come to the well and give him a drink from her pitcher when he asked, and offer drink for his camels, that she should be God's choice for Isaac.

It came to pass that a fair damsel named Rebekah came to the well, and it happened just as the servant had asked of God. When he had drunk of the water, and his camels had finished drinking, Rebekah told him who she was, and took him to her father's house to lodge. The servant bowed down his head and worshipped the Lord, who had led him in such a wonderful way. The end of this lovely story is that Rebekah's father, mother and brother agreed that she should go with the servant and be the wife of his master's son, Isaac. And when Rebekah was asked, she said, "I will go."

So they set out on the camels to the south country where Abraham and Isaac lived, and Isaac was looking for them in the field at eventide. "He lifted up his eyes, and saw, and, behold, the camels were coming." And Rebekah saw Isaac and got down from her camel to meet him, and she became his wife.

The teaching of this beautiful story is that God desires a bride for His beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom Isaac is a type, and the Holy Spirit, typified in the servant, seeks out persons in this world, that is, men, women, boys and girls, and all of them together, as brought to know Jesus, are formed into a suitable bride for Him, to give Him joy and delight now and throughout eternity. Do you, dear boy or girl, want to give pleasure to Jesus by saying to Him, "I will go," as Rebekah did when she went to Isaac?

Lastly, the Lord Jesus spoke about it being easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God, after a young man had gone away from Him sorrowfully because he preferred his possessions to following Jesus. (Matt. 19. 16-26.) Now in Palestine the eye of a needle is the name given to a window or aperture beside the city gate, through which a man can climb after the gate has been shut at dusk, but a camel cannot get through it. The Lord Jesus was showing to His disciples that earthly riches are not worthy to be compared with the inheritance God has for us of eternal life, if we will leave all, and trust in Him.

M. A. T.

THINGS FOR THE YOUNG BELIEVER IN THE LORD JESUS TO REMEMBER (1)

WHO forgives me? **GOD** does. (Ephesians 4. 32.)

WHEN did **GOD** forgive me?

When I trusted for myself in the Lord Jesus as my own Saviour. (Acts 10. 43.)

Will **GOD NEVER** punish me for **ANY** of my sins?

NEVER—for Jesus bore all the punishment in my stead when He died for me on the Cross. (1 Peter 2. 24.)

But, dear young reader, are **YOU** a believer on the Lord Jesus?

P. A. FARRANT.

An Ugly Thing

I WISH to speak to you, dear children, about the ugliest small word in the dictionary. It is very short, has only four letters, and it begins and ends with the letter "S." The second letter is found on the lips of those who can read and write far too often. It is the letter "I." Now can you put in the third letter and make up the word? Without reading further, please put down this little magazine and think hard and write down the result.

SINS—Yes; quite correct.

Now we are going to speak about four things connected with your sins. To fasten them on your memory we will put them down in the form of an acrostic. That is a large word, but it just means that if the first letters of each line are taken and read downwards they will make a word. What word do they spell?

S ERIOUS
I NDELIBLE
N UMEROUS
S CARLET

You can do nothing more serious than to commit sins, and the sad thing is that while man has almost unlimited power to commit sins he is unable to remove a single one of them. How SERIOUS, then, is sin. Why are there people in prison, sick persons in hospital, and many thousands sad and sorrowful and without happiness? Why have we policemen, judges and law courts, asylums and graveyards? It is all on account of sin. Scripture says, "The soul that sinneth it shall die." Do not trifle with sin. Repent and take your true place before God, and He will bless you and forgive you.

The second thing about sins is that they are INDELIBLE. That means they cannot be blotted out in the same way that other things are effaced. Take a dirty mark on your exercise book—it may be removed with a rubber. A mark on your clothing may be taken away by a clothes brush. One on your shoes, how may it be removed? By blacking them afresh. A mark on your face may be removed by means of soap and water. But what about your sins?

How may the dirty marks of sin be removed from your soul?

“For though thou wash thee with nitre, and take thee much soap, yet thine iniquity is marked before me, saith the Lord God.” (Jer. 2. 22.)

But what man cannot do, God can. Jesus died for all. He gave Himself a ransom for all. “They took him down from the tree, and laid him in a sepulchre. But God raised him from the dead. . . . Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: and by him all that believe are justified from all things.” (Acts 13. 29, 30, 38, 39.)

The third thing about an unbeliever’s sins is that they are **NUMEROUS**. David says of his iniquities, “They are more than the hairs of mine head.” (Psalm 40. 12.) If you want a little sum in arithmetic and have a powerful microscope you might try and count the hairs on a square inch of the head of a friend, but how many would there be on the entire head? If out of Christ, every day you live, yea, every breath you take, you are adding to your sins. How sad. Are you not concerned about their removal?

The fourth thing about sins is that they are **SCARLET**. They may be of little account in your own eyes because they are secret, as you think, but in God’s eyes all sins are scarlet. One sin is far more heinous to God than a thousand in man’s eyes. A person with a scarlet coat may be seen a long way off, and all your sins are seen by God, for everything is naked and open to His eyes. But look, see how comforting this is:

“Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.” (Isaiah 1. 18.)

How can this be effected? There are many verses in the Bible which tell us. One of the most beautiful is, “The blood of Jesus Christ his [God’s] Son cleanseth us from all sin.” This is found in John’s first Epistle. Perhaps you can find the chapter and verse for yourself, and then you will be sure it is God’s own message to you. Do try, commit it to memory, and repeat it to some one else.

A friend was living in a watering-place in the south of England, and one night when in bed he heard a loud report. What do you think it was? A bomb? No; a rocket. On looking out of the window he saw a ship in distress, and the sailors had sent up a rocket, saying, as it were, "Landsmen; save us: landsmen, save us!" By-and-by a lifeboat was launched, and all the men were taken off the sinking ship and brought safely to port by means of the lifeboat. If you are in soul distress send up this little rocket to heaven:

S AVIOUR
I
N EED
S ALVATION

Jesus is both willing and able to save. Nobody ever truly sent up this little cry to the Saviour from the depth of the heart but it was heard and received the blessing of salvation. When you do come to Jesus, you will be able to say, like the Psalmist:

S AVIOUR
I
N OW
S ING

He said, "Thou hast put gladness in my heart, more than in the time that their corn and their wine increased." (Psalm 4. 7.) Moses, Deborah and Barak all said, "I will sing unto the Lord." How beautiful to sing praises to the Lord Jesus. Paul and Silas sang in prison all because they had this wonderful joy in their hearts, and even the lash of the jailor could not deprive them of it. And then every dear boy and girl who sings to the Lord Jesus will want to do something for Him. They will confess His name to others, so that each one will be able to say:

S AVIOUR
I
N OW
S ERVE

The best way to serve is after your heart sings, for then you will serve well. A little boy was once asked, "What is the best thing the Lord ever did for you?"

His heart was singing, and he replied, "The Lord Jesus always does the best for me." What a beautiful service that little lad rendered, all because he knew and loved the Lord Jesus and lived in His love. The Lord has done all the work, and He will have all the glory. God delights in Him, His well-beloved Son, and He is waiting to put all joy and peace into your heart through believing. (Romans 15. 13.)

Kirkwall.

JOHN NELSON.

Sunshine

WE ALL like the sunshine. When the day is dull and cloudy we do not feel so bright and cheery as when the sun comes out brightly. ● Of course, actually the sun is always shining, as many of you will have learned at school; but as the day goes on it gets dusk, and then night comes and we go to sleep. But the sun still shines on the earth, and people in other parts are awake and busy when we are asleep.

There was a young man who saw a light *above* the brightness of the sun. He heard a voice, too: it was the voice of Jesus. The Lord of Glory spoke to him from the glory and made Himself known as Jesus. That voice turned the whole course of his life, he became a lover and follower of Jesus, the Son of God.

You have all *heard* of Jesus, how He was born in Bethlehem, how He went about doing good to all who needed Him and blessed the children who came to Him; how He died on the Cross but is now at God's right hand in Heaven. But do you *know* Him as your Saviour and your Lord?

QUESTIONS

1. Where is the sun first mentioned in the Bible?
2. What is it there called?
3. Who was the young man who saw the light above the brightness of the sun?
4. How many times is his conversion recorded, and where?

J. F. PREECE.

(Answers will be found at the top of page 32)

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON PAGE 31

1. Genesis 1. 16.
 2. The greater light.
 3. Saul (afterwards called Paul).
 4. Three times. Acts 9. 1-6; Acts 22. 1-10; Acts 26. 13-18.
-

THE LORD GOD IS A SUN AND SHIELD

(Psalm 84. 11.)

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GLEAMS OF LIGHT



Milking Time

The Goat

THE goat is a domestic animal, but in some parts of the world there are wild goats which live in the mountains. Its flesh is sometimes eaten as meat, and there are some people who keep it for its milk. The skin of the kid is often used in the manufacture of gloves and shoes, and the Angora goat, which is found in Palestine, has an abundance of long, white, silky hair, from which a strong cloth is made, called mohair.

In Genesis 27. 9 we read that Rebekah told her son Jacob to go to the flock and fetch two good kids of the goats, that she might make savoury meat for his father, Isaac, such as he loved. You will remember how Jacob took the dish to his father, and got the blessing which was intended for the elder son, Esau. Because Jacob's hands were not hairy like Esau's, his mother put the skins of the kids upon them, so that when Isaac, who was blind, felt them, he thought they were Esau's hands. How very deceitful this was, and it caused bitterness with Esau when he found what his brother had done. And yet this was overruled by God, who intended Jacob to have the special blessing. It is the second man, Christ, who is God's choice, and if you look at His genealogy in the beginning of Matthew, you will find Jacob's name there, not Esau's.

We are told in the Books of Leviticus and Numbers that a kid of the goats would be taken by the priest, usually Aaron, and offered on the altar as a burnt offering for sin to God. God saw the blood and heard the confession of Aaron for the people, and He pardoned their sins. Goats' hair was used for making the curtains of the tabernacle where these sacrifices were made, and it meant that blood had to be shed in order that God might get His portion from His people.

Let us read what God commanded Moses in Leviticus 16. 20-22. "And when he hath made an end of reconciling the holy place, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar, he shall bring the live goat: and Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all

the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness: and the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited: and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness." This goat was called the scapegoat, because it bore the sins of the people. How beautifully it speaks of our Lord Jesus Christ, who Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree!

There is now no need for any more sacrifices for sin, because Jesus has put it away by the sacrifice of Himself. Will you look up Hebrews 9, where you may read: "But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" (Verses 11-14.)

M. A. T.

THINGS FOR THE YOUNG BELIEVER IN THE LORD JESUS TO REMEMBER (2)

What does Scripture tell me about what GOD has done with my sins?

1. GOD says: "I am He that . . . WILL NOT REMEMBER thy sins." (Isaiah 43. 25.)
2. Hezekiah says: "THOU hast cast ALL MY SINS behind Thy back." (Isaiah 38. 17.)
3. David says: "As far as the east is from the west, SO FAR hath He removed our transgressions from us." (Psalm 103. 12.)
4. God says about all who trust in the Lord Jesus: "Their sins and iniquities will I remember NO MORE." (Hebrews 10. 17.)

P. A. FARRANT.

Talks at Tuck-up Time (1)

“WHY JESUS DIED”

IT WAS tuck-up time, and a little boy was lying snugly in his bed. We will call him Henry. He was staying at his Grandfather's house, where he was always happy and pleased to be. The light was still burning in the room, and as he lay in bed that night, perhaps he was listening for the sound of footsteps coming up the staircase; and he did not have to wait for very long.

Soon his Aunt came into the bedroom to tuck him up and give him the good-night kiss, but thinking of the Lord Jesus who said, “Suffer the little children to come unto me,” she sat down beside the bed to talk to him about the living, loving Saviour. Although Henry was very young, like most boys and girls in this country of England he had heard about Jesus all his short life; how He came from the heavenly glory and became a man on this earth where “he went about doing good.” But he was hated and crucified and died, yet He, the Son of God, rose again from the tomb and is now in heaven. All those things Henry had heard about, and more besides, but that night his Aunt tried to explain to him why it was that the Lord Jesus died.

She told him that it was because of our sins and our sinful nature that Jesus died for us; that God is holy and must punish sin by death; how Jesus came into this world to live, and died for us lost sinners, that we might be forgiven; how it was on the Cross that He bore the punishment for sin instead of us, and all who believe on Him are saved from punishment; He died to save us! In words like these she tried to explain God's wonderful plan of redemption. Henry had listened very quietly and attentively to all his Aunt said, and suddenly he looked up and exclaimed, “I always wondered why Jesus died!”

And now he knew. A gleam of heavenly light had shone into his mind, and he knew why Jesus died. Have you ever thought and *wondered about* Jesus like this little boy? Henry had heard about Jesus,

and His death upon the Cross, and he had been wondering why it was that He had been crucified. He had been wondering about Jesus! The Lord knows all the thoughts of every one, and He knew that Henry had wondered why He had died, and now he knew. But it is not only to know it in our minds, like so many thousands of children and grown-up people too; we must believe it in our hearts, and that He rose again and is alive for ever more. Then we shall be able to say, "I know that Jesus died instead of me."

We like to hope that Henry did truly believe in Jesus as his own precious Saviour, and that he is now already with Him, for he did not live in this world for very long. If, like Henry, you have been wondering why Jesus died, perhaps this little talk will help you to understand that He died to save us from the punishment for our sins; He bore the punishment for all who believe in Him; He died to take away the sin of the world.

Be sure to believe these things in your heart, because "with the heart man believeth unto righteousness"; which means that his sins are forgiven; his soul is washed "whiter than snow" with the precious blood of Jesus; he is fit for the presence of God. That was a never-to-be-forgotten tuck-up time, for his Aunt was so glad that she had been able to explain to Henry "why Jesus died."

A. S. I. L.

The Rainbow

MOST of us have seen a rainbow with its beautiful colours. Every rainbow reminds those who know God of His wonderful goodness to us, for there is always a harvest of good things from the earth every year as He promised.

A very long time ago men in the earth were so wicked that God had to destroy them by a great flood. In one of the early chapters of Genesis you can find how he told one man who was righteous to build an ark, and He also told him exactly how to build it. All the man's family were saved in it, and also two of every kind of animal. When the waters

dried up from the earth he opened the door of the ark, and he and his family and the animals all went forth.

This man then built an altar and offered up an offering to God. That altar and offering spoke of the offering and sacrifice of the Lord Jesus at Calvary's cross, and God was well pleased with it because of this. Afterwards God told the man about the rainbow and gave His promise of good for us all. He said, "I do set my bow in the cloud." Whenever you see a rainbow think of God and how good He is to all His creatures!

Questions

1. What was the name of the man who built the ark?
2. What wood did he use?
3. How many windows were there?
4. How many persons were saved?
5. Where does it say they were few?
6. What is the meaning of the man's name?

(Answers will be found at the top of page 40)

J. F. PREECE.

David and Goliath

ON A previous occasion I wrote a few lines on the worthy deed performed by three of David's mighty men who broke through the host of the Philistines to fetch him a drink of water from his native well.

This time I want to tell you what it was that caused David's mighty men to show him such affection. It was because earlier he had taken his own life in his hands and entered into conflict with an enemy they were themselves unequal to meet. You will find the story in 1 Samuel 17, and I am sure you will be interested to read it. The following eight verses describe what happened in the early part of the chapter, and on another occasion I hope to finish telling you about it. Meanwhile, I would like to say that the great enemy David met, namely, Goliath, is really a type of Satan who, like him, would keep us all our life-time in bondage through fear of death. David, on the other hand, is a type of the Lord Jesus Christ who in the love of His heart would meet this

toe in the very stronghold of his power and overcome him completely, and deliver us from the authority of darkness.

What means this tumult heard afar
From Elah's vale so fair?
What armies throng the mountain slopes?
Whose voice is this we hear?

On either side the vale is seen
A host in battle line,
While in between a champion huge,
Who speaks in tones malign.

"A Philistine am I," said he,
"And ye are men of Saul,
Choose ye a man and let us fight
Till one of us shall fall.

"If I prevail, then shall ye serve
As bondmen under thrall;
Should he prevail, we then shall be
The servants of King Saul.

"This day do I defy the host
Of Israel and of God."
'Twas thus he spake, and all his words
Struck terror as he trod

The vale, for his great height and arms
Intimidate them all;
His spear and shield and greaves of brass
The Israelites appal.

But hark! another voice is heard;
A shepherd lad draws near,
'Takes up the gage, and says to Saul,
"Let no man's heart show fear.

"The God who saved me when I fought
And slew the lion and bear,
Will surely keep me when I now
To meet Goliath dare."

M. H. TUCKER.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON PAGE 38

1. Noah. (Genesis 6.13.)
 2. Gopher wood. (Verse 14.)
 3. One. (Verse 16.)
 4. Eight. (Verse 10, also chapter 7, verse 7.)
 5. 1 Peter 3. 20.
 6. Rest, or comfort. (Genesis 5. 29.)
-

THE LORD IS THY KEEPER

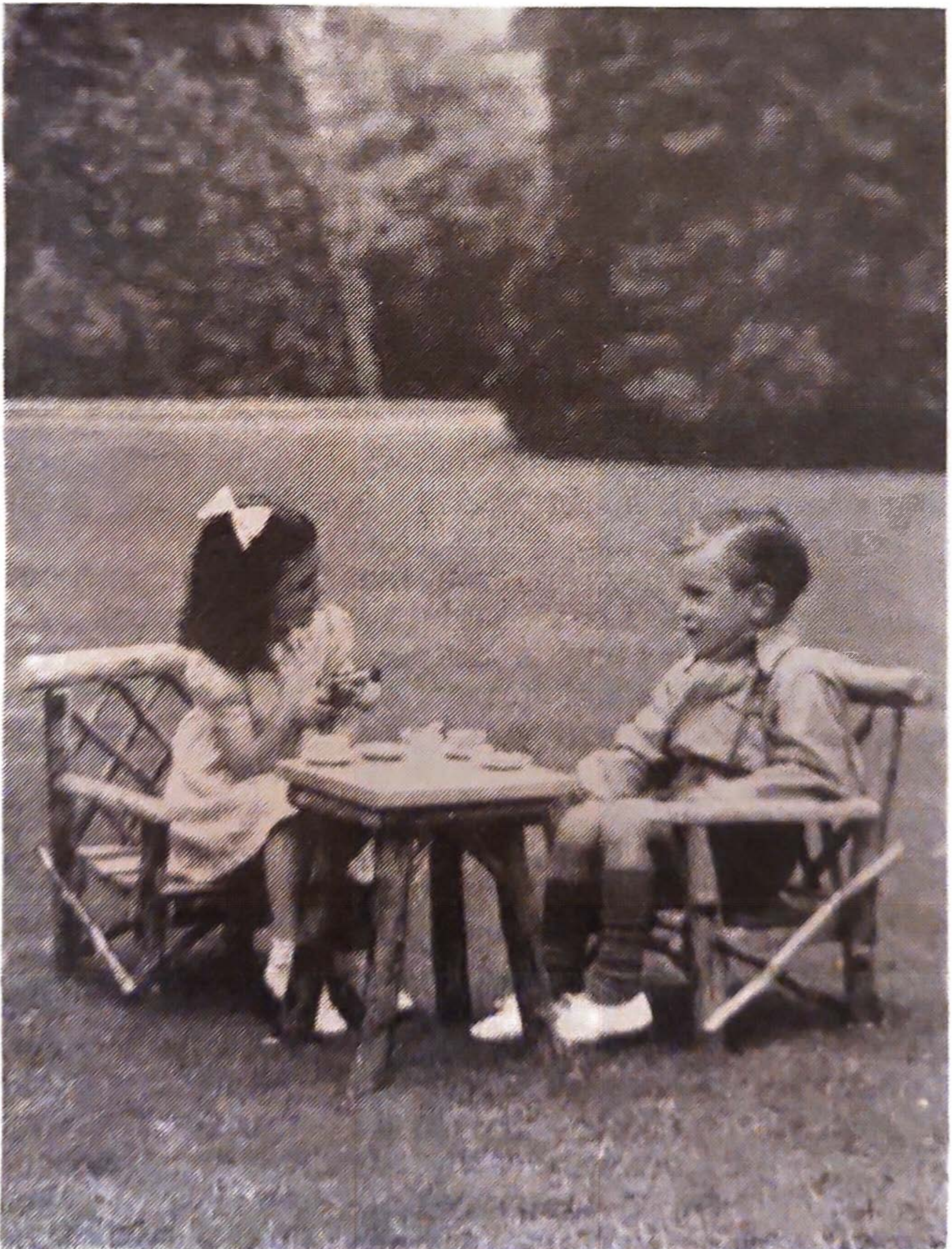
(Psalm 121. 5.)

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GLEAMS OF LIGHT



Tea for two

The Coney

THIS little animal, which is mentioned three times in the scriptures, is something like a rabbit, but instead of burrowing in the sand, it makes its home in the rock. It is sometimes referred to as a "rock badger."

In Proverbs 30 verses 24 and 26, it is spoken of as being one of four things which are little upon the earth, but are exceeding wise. "The conies are but a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks." Now that is a very sensible place to make a house, as the rock is durable, cannot easily be broken into, and will withstand the wind and rain.

When the Lord Jesus was on earth, He told the multitude who listened to Him that whosoever heard His words and did them, He would liken him to a wise man who built his house upon a rock. "And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock." (Matt. 7. 25). The man who heard the Lord's words, but did them not, he is likened unto a foolish man who built his house upon the sand, and when the rain, and the floods, and the winds came against it, the house fell, and great was the fall of it.

You will see, dear children, that it is important, not only to hear the Lord's sayings but to do them. As James says in his epistle, chapter 1. 22, "Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only." Read the next three verses also, and you will see the kind of man whom James likens one to who is a hearer only. And then he says that one who hears, and continues, is not forgetful, and is a doer, he shall be blessed in his deed. Would you not like to be wise then like the conies?

In Psalm 104. 18 David speaks of the high hills being a refuge for the wild goats, and the rocks for the conies. The rocks therefore are a refuge, or a safe retreat. The coney is secure there from its enemies.

David, the King of Israel, had known the safety of the rocks; he had hidden from his enemies in a cave. But he would not have been safe there if he had not looked to God to preserve him. He speaks several times in his beautiful psalms of God being a refuge.

and in Psalm 94. 22, he says: "The Lord is my defence; and my God is the rock of my refuge." In Psalm 78. 35, speaking of the children of Israel, he says: "They remembered that God was their rock." Moses, in his song, ascribes greatness to God and exclaims, "He is the Rock, his work is perfect." (Deut. 32. 4.) Hannah in her prayer (1 Sam. 2. 2) says: "Neither is there any rock like our God." David also sings a song (2 Sam. 22) and says: "The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; the God of my rock; in him will I trust: he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence." (Vers. 2, 3.) Isaiah prophesies of Christ that He is as the shadow of a great Rock in a weary land. (Isa. 32. 2.) Paul speaks of Him as the Rock in 1 Corinthians 10. 4. Jesus said, "Upon this rock [speaking of Himself] I will build my church"—or assembly. (Matt. 16. 18.)

May you know the blessedness of fleeing to the Rock, that is, coming to the Lord Jesus and trusting Him as your Saviour before the storms come, for in Him alone is perfect peace and safety. Then will you be able to say in the words of the hymn,

"On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand."

M. A. T.

THINGS FOR THE YOUNG BELIEVER IN THE LORD JESUS TO REMEMBER (3)

What is the next thing to remember when I know that all my sins have been forgiven?

I should seek to please the God who has so freely forgiven them, and the Lord Jesus, too, who shed His blood to wash them away, and He has told the children how they can begin to do it.

Colossians 3. 20 says: "Children, obey your parents in ALL THINGS; for THIS is well pleasing unto the Lord."

Ephesians 6. 1 says: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord; for THIS IS RIGHT."

May all who read these lines not only believe on Him, but seek to please Him, too.

P. A. FARRANT.

Talks at Tuck-up Time (2)

“AND MINE TOO!”

IT was tuck-up time and little Itha was settled cosily in bed. Usually it was her mother who came to do the tucking-up and to give her the “good-night kiss”: but this evening she was not at home, so her Aunt Mary came up with her Bible and sat down by Itha’s side. She opened the Bible and found the beautiful Psalm given to us by the Lord through King David long ago. Then she began to read it, “The Lord is my shepherd . . .”

“And mine too!” quickly said little Itha.

Her Aunt was very pleased to hear those three little words so unexpectedly, and when that happy tucking-up time was over she left Itha, but she carried the three little words with her and safely treasured them in her heart. How glad she was to find, when Itha was older that she could still say, and from her heart, “The Lord is my shepherd.”

How happy it is to know that Jesus is our shepherd! How could Itha know this? It was because she believed that she was a lost sheep, and that Jesus, the Good Shepherd, had found her. It cost Him His life to find her and to bring her back to God, who raised Him up from the dead. How glad she was to let Him put her on His shoulders, and how safe she was there!—and she would never want any good thing if she kept closely to Him. Some day every sheep and lamb will be together with the Good Shepherd for ever in that bright and happy place which is prepared for them—for every one who can say “The Lord is my shepherd.” And can you, dear child, say, “And mine too”?

Old Rye could say, “And mine too!” He loved the Good Shepherd and he loved his Bible. He knew the shepherd psalm and knew the Good Shepherd had died to save him: that His precious blood cleanseth all sin away if we believe in Him. He knew that the Lord cares for His sheep and little lambs which are His people, the grown up ones and children too: he knew that He leads them, and if they love Him they will follow Him very closely: that He lets them

rest and feeds them and leads them by the still waters: He brings them back if they wander, and leads them in the safe right paths, and they can always say as they walk through the valley of this world, shadowed by the cross of Jesus, by the gleams of heavenly light beyond it, "Thou art with me," and "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever." Old Rye knew and thought about these wonderful things as he sat in his cottage. He had been a shepherd to the squire's sheep, but he was now too old and ill to care for them any more. That it different from the Good Shepherd whom Rye loved and followed in the green pastures. Jesus is always the same. He never changes. His watchful eyes will keep guard over His flock until each sheep and lamb is with Him safely folded in heaven.

One day old Rye had a visitor who was a very happy Christian, and who like Rye also loved the Good Shepherd, and could say, "He is my Shepherd." Then as they sat together in the cottage they had a talk like this when old Rye told about his troubles, about pains in his legs, no doubt, and about not minding the sheep any more. "Well, Rye," said Mr. Cheerful, "the Lord knows all about it; He will help you, and care for you!"

"Aye, that's true, Sir, He will never fail me!"

"No, he will never leave you nor forsake you, and all your wants will be supplied. Your two footmen will see to that!"

"Beg pardon, Sir, my two footmen did you say?" Old Rye's thoughts flew to the Hall and the squire's smart footmen who waited upon him, and sometimes followed him in case he wanted anything.

"Yes, Rye! you have been provided with two excellent footmen. They will see that you want nothing!"

"I don't understand you, Sir."

"It's true enough, my good man, they have been following you already for many a year, and will still follow you all the days of your life! Did you never read of 'goodness and mercy'?"

"Well to be sure! You'll think me a dull old sheep, Sir, but I never saw that before, and many and many

a time I've read them beautiful words. As it says, 'Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.' Aye! they'll follow me, sure enough!"

Old Rye and Mr. Cheerful had a very happy time that day in the shepherd's cottage, and Rye's daughter, Maria, enjoyed those words about the two footmen all the rest of the days of her life, and now in the house of the Lord she needs those footmen no more, for in that bright and happy place there is no want. Oh! it is so happy to be able to say, "The Lord is my shepherd." Can you, dear child, like little Itha at her tuck-up time long ago, say as she did, "And mine too"?

A. S. I. L.

A Golden Rule

Begin and end the day with God
In prayer and reading in His Word,
Forget not too to sing thy praise
To Him who watcheth all thy ways.

J. L. M.

David and Goliath

(continued)

THIS month I wish to finish the interesting story of David's victory over Goliath, which is intended to remind us of a still greater and more glorious victory which was gained by our Lord Jesus Christ over Satan at Calvary. It will be noted that David did not use weapons like Goliath, although when he had slain him with one of his five smooth stones he did use the enemy's own weapon (the sword of Goliath) to cut off his head. This would teach us that the Lord Jesus triumphed on the principle of human weakness, for we read that He was crucified through weakness. We read also that He destroyed or annulled him that had the power of death, that is, the devil. This would be like using Goliath's sword.

Another thing I would like to mention before adding the seven verses needed to complete the story,

is that in 2 Samuel 21. 15-22 we read of four other giants who were slain at different times by David's mighty men. Does this not show that by using the power of God's Holy Spirit, which He gives to all who obey Him, we shall be able ourselves to overcome the enemy in the same power that marked the Lord Jesus as man? Perhaps this is where David's other four stones come in.

Saul's coat of mail and brazen helm
He dons at first, but said,
"I cannot go in these unproved,
I'll trust my God instead.

"I'll take my sling and shepherd's scrip,
And choose me five smooth stones;
They will suffice, for I am sure
Confiding trust God owns."

Was ever conflict seen like this?
A giant in panoply
Towers o'er a stripling all unarmed :
What will the issue be?

With sling and stone runs David now,
And, like a shaft from bow,
Straight to its mark the missile flies
And lays the champion low.

Guided by power divine, the stone
Deep in his forehead breaks :
Prone on the earth the giant lies;
David his sword now takes.

With its keen edge he cuts but once,
The body headless lies;
The stricken field is fully won,
The Philistine now flies.

All Israel knows the Lord saves not
With javelin, spear or swords;
His arm alone avails in war;
The battle is the Lord's!

M. H. TUCKER.

THE LORD
IS NIGH
UNTO ALL
THEM THAT
CALL UPON
HIM

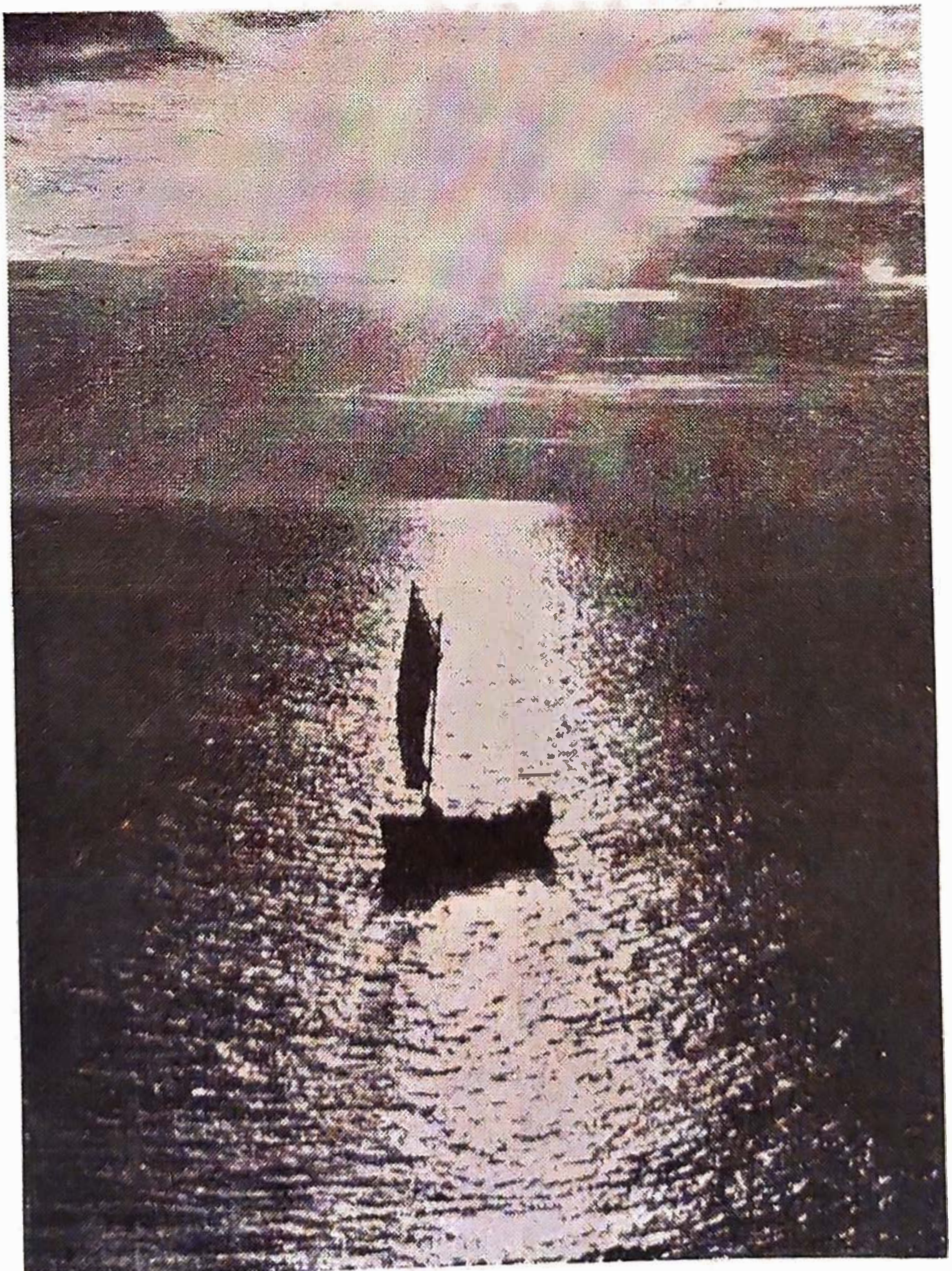
(Psalm 145. 18.)

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GLEAMS OF LIGHT



“ He maketh the storm a calm ”

The Sea

IF I were to ask you, dear young reader, whether you like going to the sea, I feel sure your answer would be "Yes; I always look forward to my seaside holiday." Or perhaps you live near the sea, and if so, you will have seen it in all its moods: great thundering waves breaking upon the shore in stormy weather, and the gentle ripples sparkling in the sunshine on a calm day.

In the first chapter of Genesis, you will remember, where we read of the creation, it says: "And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called the seas." (Ver. 10.) That is the first mention of the sea in the Bible, and you will note that it is in the plural, which means, as you will understand from your geography lessons, there is more than one sea. Although they all meet or merge together, they have different names, such as the North Sea, Atlantic Ocean, Black Sea, and so on.

David speaks a good deal about the sea in his beautiful Psalms. No doubt he had learned much of the beauties of God's creation while he minded the sheep as a shepherd boy, and he had learned to know God, too, and so in Psalm 104. 24-26 he breaks into a note of praise: "O Lord, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches. So is this great and wide sea, wherein are things creeping innumerable, both small and great beasts. There go the ships: there is that leviathan, whom thou hast made to play therein." Also in Psalm 95. 5 he says: "The sea is his, and he made it; and his hands formed the dry land."

When you look at the sea, does it not remind you of God's great love for you, not only in creating such wonderful things in and around it for your use and pleasure, but His love in giving Jesus to be your Saviour? The waters of God's judgment upon your sins and mine passed over the head of Jesus when He died upon Calvary's Cross, as it says, speaking prophetically of Him in Psalm 42. 7: "Deep calleth unto deep at the noise of thy waterspouts: all thy waves and thy billows are gone over me." He has

won the victory over death, and waits in the glory for you to trust Him as your Saviour.

The prophet Micah could say, speaking of God's people Israel, "Thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea." (Chap. 7. 19.) That means they will never rise again; they are gone for ever. It can be true of yours, too, if you will put your trust in the Lord Jesus, and thank Him for what He has done for you.

Wide, wide as the ocean,
High as the heaven above,
Deep, deep as the deepest sea
Is my Saviour's love.
I, 'though so unworthy,
Yet am a child of His care;
For His Word teaches me
That His love reaches me
Everywhere.

M. A. T.

Talks at Tuck-up Time (3)

WILLING AND ABLE

ONE night Lucy, as we will call her, went upstairs to tuck up a little boy who was staying in her home on a visit from the country. He was quite small, only about six years old, and being so far away from home, when the sun had set, and bedtime came, he felt rather sorrowful and homesick. He missed his mother and everyone at home, and to be in a town instead of the country was a great change, and everything seemed so strange around him.

Lucy found him lying cosily in his little bed with the light still burning in the room, but when she came to his side she noticed some stray tears on his sad little face; then she knew how Bertie, as we will call him, was feeling because she could remember that as a little girl, she had felt just as sad at her tuck-up time when she was staying in a strange house away from her mother and everyone she loved best. So Lucy sat down by his side to comfort him, and they were soon talking about all kinds of things, till he forgot all his troubles and began telling Lucy

about the pets at home, where there were many kinds of animals and birds, the garden and meadows where he played, and then there was the pond too. At last there came his little story of Mother Hen which Bertie told so well that Lucy never forgot it, and you too may like to hear it in her own words. Here it is!

Mother Hen was very fond of a soft fluffy little brood of ducklings, although she may have thought them curious little chicks with their long bodies, large bills and clumsy spreading feet on which they waddled along from side to side, as well-bred ducklings should! But she loved them with all her heart whatever she may have thought of them. One day when they had grown a good size, she took them all for a walk, and it happened that their way led by the pond. They were all waddling quietly along with Mother Hen, when suddenly, as they neared the pond, they all darted off to the edge of the water. This put Mother Hen into a great fright, because she knew that the little chicks might be drowned if they ventured into a pond! We can imagine how she ran after them, clucking and crying as loudly as she could, but they took no notice, and soon she saw them all on the water moving along as easily as possible! She cried, and clucked and clucked. "Come back, come back, you'll all be drowned!" she seemed to say. But still they took no notice. They were very happy on the water. Then what do you think good Mother Hen decided to do? She decided to try and save them herself, and at once, at the risk of her life, she struggled into the cold, dreadful water to try to reach and save her little ones! But poor thing, she could not do it. She was *willing* but not *able*. For although she managed to struggle towards them for some distance, her efforts were useless. She suddenly sank and was seen no more!

What a sad story, you say. Yes, it is a sad little story, but it interested Lucy very much, because, as Bertie thought too, it must be a wonderful thing for a hen to venture across a pond. It proved that she loved her little ones so much that she was ready to forget herself in order to save them from death.

"And do you know," said Lucy as Bertie finished

his story, "that your story reminds me of another, far more wonderful one! Would you like to hear it?"

Then he listened while Lucy told him of the One who is not only willing to save those whom He loves, but He is *willing and able too* to save them. Who is He that is willing and able to save us? It is Jesus, the Son of God, of whom you must often have heard. What a wonderful and loving Saviour He is. Yes, He saw us all lost and ready to perish in the dark waters of eternal death and judgment: so, out of love and pity for us, and for God's glory, He came down from heaven to this dark world, and "in the likeness of men" He lived here and died for us that we might, if we believe in Him, be saved. He wants even children to let Him save them! Jesus wants you to trust in Him; He wants you to belong to Him. If you do believe that He died for you, that His precious blood was shed for you, your sins are washed away and you are safe: you will never perish in the waters of death. You belong to Jesus. Then how happy you will be to try to please Him "all the day long," every day!

Mother Hen was willing, and tried very hard to save her little ones, but she was not able to do what she hoped to do: she died for love of them, and could care for them no more. But Jesus *is* able to save, and "He is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him." (Heb. 7. 25.) "To the uttermost" means *quite*, and *perfectly*, and *for ever*, as well as *now*, for Jesus rose from the dark waters of death and is now in heaven which is already our home. How happy and peaceful it should make us to know how much Jesus loves us, and watches over those who belong to Him just as a hen watches over and cares for her little ones. He helps them when they are in trouble and protects them as a hen under His wings, even when in strange places away from those they love best, like little Bertie. He is near although they cannot see Him, but He can see us always, and He says, "I will never leave thee." (Heb. 13. 5.)

Mother Hen was determined to save what she thought were her own little chickens, but she could

not do it. Like all good hens, she took great care of the little ones around her. God it was who gave them that instinct. He who created all things. So a child who belongs to Jesus need never be afraid, for the promise is, "He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust." (Psa. 91. 4.)

If, like little Bertie, you are lonely and feeling strange in a strange place, will you remember about the sheltering care of Jesus?

In the city of Jerusalem there were many disobedient people and children who refused to come to Jesus. One day, as He thought of the beautiful city, He said, (as we read in the twenty-third chapter of Matthew's gospel): "How often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!"

Do not refuse to let Jesus care for you. He is willing and able, and will never let you perish if you come to Him. He says, "They shall never perish." (John 10. 28.) What a great and wonderful promise, the promise of Jesus the Saviour, to all who belong to Him.

Do you, like Bertie, on that night at his tuck-up time, like to hear what a loving Saviour Jesus is? He listened so quietly, and before very long, soothed and comforted, he fell peacefully asleep on his soft, white pillow.

A. S. I. L.

The Ark and The Jordan

NO doubt you all will remember a great event in the history of the Israelites of which we read in the third and fourth chapters of the Book of Joshua. You will see it was a mighty act of God's power in rolling back the swollen waters of the river Jordan in order to make *a way into the land* that He had prepared for them. The central object at such an important time was the ark of the covenant of Jehovah, which remained on the shoulders of the priests right in the bed of the river until the whole nation had passed over.

It is important that we should all understand that the ark is a distinct type of the Lord Jesus, who in His love and grace has been actually into Satan's stronghold, which is death, and this is what we see in the ark of the covenant going into the midst of the mighty river. Think of the blessed Lord Jesus bowing His head in death for the sake of the will of God, and in order that He might bear *our sins* in His own body on the tree, so that we can now be free of them all, as by living faith we believe on Him; yes, and love Him too! But in this picture of the ark in Jordan we understand that by that same precious death the Lord Jesus has opened up for everyone who loves Him, a way into the great and wonderful thoughts of blessing that God has made ready. You will read of these in Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians chapter 2, verses 9 and 10.

Coming back to Joshua 4, God commands Joshua to do a remarkable thing in taking up twelve stones out of Jordan's bed and setting them up on the other side; and more remarkable still, *God has children in His mind* in so ordering. The stones were a memorial celebrating God's power seen in the ark of the covenant, and the waters of Jordan cut off before it, and God expects that we all should be asking more and more about its meaning. (See verses 6 and 7.) The Lord Jesus Christ, the true Ark of the Covenant, has been right into Satan's kingdom and broken his mighty power for ever by His wonderful, precious death, and by His glorious rising again from among the dead, and we can now understand how He is the fulfilment of the type of the ark which stood firm in the Jordan's mighty waters.

I wonder if each young reader has really understood how much God loves him, or her, and I wonder if you know the precious love of His Son, Jesus our Lord, who actually gave His life to cleanse and heal us from our sins and from sin itself. He has also, by His victory over death and Satan, made the way quite clear for the youngest child to love Him, and live for Him till He comes to take all who love him, young and old, to live for ever *with Him* in the place that God's love has prepared.

CYRIL WEAVERS.

SEEK YE
THE LORD
WHILE
HE MAY BE
FOUND

(Isa. 55. 6)

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GLEAMS OF LIGHT



“ I am thirsty! ”

Thirst

IN Britain we do not often feel really thirsty, but in hot countries, if there is not plenty of water near, people suffer terribly from thirst, and sometimes even die through lack of water.

Yet there is a thirst far more terrible than physical thirst, it is soul thirst. A longing for refreshment, for real satisfaction and comfort. I know quite young children sometimes feel this kind of thirst. They hardly know what is wrong with them; they turn to one thing and another, change from one game to another, but nothing is right. Do you know the reason? It is that God is showing them that they need Himself, that they need satisfaction and joy only to be known in Himself. The Lord Jesus, who is God, said when here on earth, "If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink."

Satisfaction and joy are to be known in coming to Jesus. If you come to Him you will know His love, you will know the love of God. God is love. The Lord Jesus shed His own precious blood that you might know His love and the love of God.

Precious, precious blood of Jesus,
Jesus, God's own Son,
Telling that the work is finished;
All is done.

Many of you have sung these words, but let us think about them and understand for ourselves that the work is finished; all is done; that *our* sins are washed away in the precious blood of Jesus.

J. F. PREECE.

The Fall of the Roman Republic— **1849**

A HUNDRED YEARS ago this year Rome capitulated before the combined assault of the corrupt states that surrounded it, and Garibaldi, who had inspired the heroic defence of the tiny Roman Republic against overwhelming odds, was compelled to leave. Koelman, a Dutch artist who was living in

Rome at the time, gives an eye-witness's account of the thrilling scene, which is preserved for us by the historian Macaulay Trevelyan in his "Garibaldi's Defence of the Roman Republic."

Garibaldi had fixed the square of St. Peter as the scene for the meeting of the soldiers who had volunteered to leave Rome with him. The troops were awaiting their leader, surrounded by a tossing concourse of people who had come to bid them God-speed. Suddenly a roar of cheering is heard and all eyes are turned to the mouth of the narrow street where the waving hats and handkerchiefs showed that it was he. Let Koelman take up the tale here:

"In the midst of the swaying crowd which discharged itself from the Via del Borgo on to the Piazza, we saw appear the black feathers of Garibaldi; he was surrounded, not by his staff officers (for they were seen here and there making efforts to reunite), but by citizens and women who stormed him from all sides. He only managed slowly and with difficulty to reach the Egyptian obelisk that stands in the middle of the Piazza. Here he stopped and turned his horse, and when his staff had joined him, he gave a sign with his hand to stop the cheers. After they had been repeated with double force, there was a dead calm on the square."

In the stillness that prevailed after the storm, the sonorous, thrilling voice of Garibaldi was heard almost to the outskirts of the vast crowd: "Fortune, who betrays us to-day, will smile on us to-morrow. Let those who wish to continue the war against the stranger come with me. I offer neither pay, nor quarters, nor provisions; I offer hunger, thirst, forced marches, battles and death. Let him who loves his country with his heart and not with his lips only follow me."

And they streamed out after him into the hills to share with him the hardships and the dangers of the perilous escape, and because of his heroism and theirs there is a Republic of Italy to-day.

Garibaldi's appeal, "I offer neither pay, nor quarters, nor provisions," was a paraphrase of the Lord's appeal: "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow

me." And if we answered Him and streamed after Him in true heart devotion to Him and to His cause, what could not be accomplished by us for Him in the world to-day? The Lord is still looking for volunteers to enlist in His victorious army—would you not like to be "a good soldier of Jesus Christ"?

STEPHEN CARRUTHERS.

Talks at Tuck-up Time (4)

"ALIVE FOR EVERMORE"

A GAIN it was little Itha's tuck-up time, but it was a different tucking-up time from the last which you heard about. It was winter time, and the doctor said that Itha and the others had whooping-cough, and must stay in the nursery and not go out for a walk for many weeks. Then came the day when he said that Itha must have a hot poultice on her chest! That was not at all a pleasant remedy to order for a little girl. She was to have it on at bedtime, that was tuck-up time.

The fire was burning brightly behind the high guard and lighting the dim room in which Itha was snugly in bed with her cough, when presently her mother came up. Itha loved her mother very much, and for her to bring the poultice to put on was a great comfort to her little girl. She came to the bedside with a big white lump of sugar in her hand, and gave it to Itha. That was very pleasant; Itha did like a lump of sugar. Then came the hot poultice! But as her mother was putting it on the little girl's chest, she began to tell her a wonderful story.

It was such a wonderful story that Itha quite forgot about the hurting poultice, and as she listened she seemed to be in that garden outside the beautiful city of Jerusalem, and to see the dark, open sepulchre where the body of Jesus had been laid, and which had been hewn out of a rock. Jesus had been crucified: He had given His life for sinners. His blood had been shed and His body had been buried in that garden sepulchre. In case it came true, that as He had said, He would rise from the dead in three days, the people who hated Him had sealed the sepulchre

and placed soldiers to watch beside it. However, it could not hold Jesus. He rose out of it. How wonderful that was! Some women who came very early to the sepulchre, with spices to care for His body, wondered as they walked to the garden, who would roll away that great heavy stone; but when they reached the sepulchre, they found the stone rolled away, and the grave empty. An angel had come from heaven and rolled away the stone and was sitting upon it. The face of that angel was like lightning and his raiment white as snow, and the soldiers who were watching shook with fear and became like dead men!

That bright and beautiful angel said to the women, "Fear not ye: for . . . Jesus . . . is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay." He then told them to go quickly to tell those who loved Him that Jesus was alive and had gone into Galilee, where they would see Him. "Lo, I have told you," he said.

Other angels, shining and beautiful, were there too, and spoke to those who came to the sepulchre, and they said, "Why seek ye the living among the dead?" What a wonderful time that was for those who loved Jesus. Instead of being full of sorrow at His grave, they were full of joy to hear from the bright angels that He was alive again. Soon afterwards He was taken up into heaven; but He is coming again!

It was about these things that Itha's mother talked to her while the hot poultice was doing its work. Itha seemed quite to see the beautiful picture of the bright angels by the tomb in the garden. It was a new tomb and belonged to a rich man who loved Jesus. There was no tomb prepared for His holy body, so Joseph laid it in the tomb which he had prepared for his own. He loved to serve Jesus even after He had died. How glad then must he have been when he heard that Jesus was alive again!

Will you always remember that Jesus is living still? He is in heaven and some day all who belong to Him will rise from this earth to be with Him there. Will you try to please Him now if you belong to Him? Itha never forgot that special tuck-up time, nor the story of the angels, so bright and shining and beauti-

ful, who said that Jesus was not dead but alive! She did not seem to notice the hot poultice, and in the morning no doubt her cough was better. Poultices are not pleasant things. Many things which are good for little children are rather unpleasant. When some one says "It is bed-time," just when you are having a lovely game, that is not pleasant. It is very good to go to bed early, but tiresome to stop your game. If you did not sleep well, you would be weak and ill and give other people trouble. We must not be selfish.

Then comes lesson time, for you cannot play all your life long; you must sometimes sit at lessons in the schoolroom, instead of playing and doing what you like better. It is very good for you to learn to read and write and to do other useful things. You could not read the word of God if you did not learn to read. Also if you never went to bed you would never have any happy tuck-up times, nor hear and learn so often about Jesus, the living Saviour, who is "Alive for evermore," and who says so lovingly, "Suffer the little children to come unto me."

A. S. I. L.

The Fifth Finger

A SERVANT of the Lord Jesus was visiting the sick in one of our infirmaries, and passing up a ward he saw a screen round one bed. On making inquiries he discovered the patient was a boy of about nine years of age who had been seriously injured, and the doctors gave no hope of recovery.

The dear servant was anxious about the lad's soul, and lifting up his heart to God for guidance, he sat down at the boy's bedside. He could see that life was ebbing, so bending over him he whispered in his ear, "Jesus loves you, Jesus died for you, Jesus lives for you." There was, however, no response from the lad. He then took the boy's hand into his and again whispered in his ear, touching one finger in turn at the mention of each word: "The Lord is my Shepherd." This he did several times, and then left.

The following day he again called at the hospital and was told that the boy had died; so he asked the nurse in charge how he had died. She replied that

his death was most remarkable, in that he died holding on to his fifth finger, thus indicating that the Lord was his Shepherd.

The preacher told this incident at a gospel meeting some time afterward, and four young boys confessed Christ as their Saviour that night, much to the cheer of the speaker.

I would remind all who read this little book that Jesus loves you, that Jesus died for you, and that Jesus lives for you.

M. C.

For Jesus

BRIAN, a little boy of four, was busy in the garden with his father. Like most small boys, he had a lot of questions to ask, and wanted to be told what this or that thing in the garden was “really, really for.” His father answered the questions patiently, until at last he decided to ask one himself, so he said, “Well now, and what’s Brian really, really for?”

Brian paused a moment, and then answered, “For Jesus.” What a lovely reply! Can you say, with Brian, that you are “for Jesus”? Jesus came to this world and died for you so that you might be for Him. He died on the cross at Calvary so that now He is able to wash away for ever all the sins—that is, all the wrong and naughty things that you have done—that would not let you be for Him.

Jesus loves you so much that He died for you—think of that! But not only did Jesus die, He also rose from the dead and lives now in heaven, so that as you believe on Him He can give you all the help that you need to be for Him. There is nothing you can want that Jesus cannot give you. Will you come to Him now? Will you be really for Him?

Many of you have mothers and fathers who love Jesus, and when you were small they had you baptised in faith that you might be for Him, and not for this world. Again I ask, will you be for Jesus? Then you can say to Him, in the words of another:

“Take myself and I will be
Ever, only, ALL for Thee.”

BARBARA J. BROWN.

I WILL
PRAISE
THE LORD
WITH
MY WHOLE
HEART

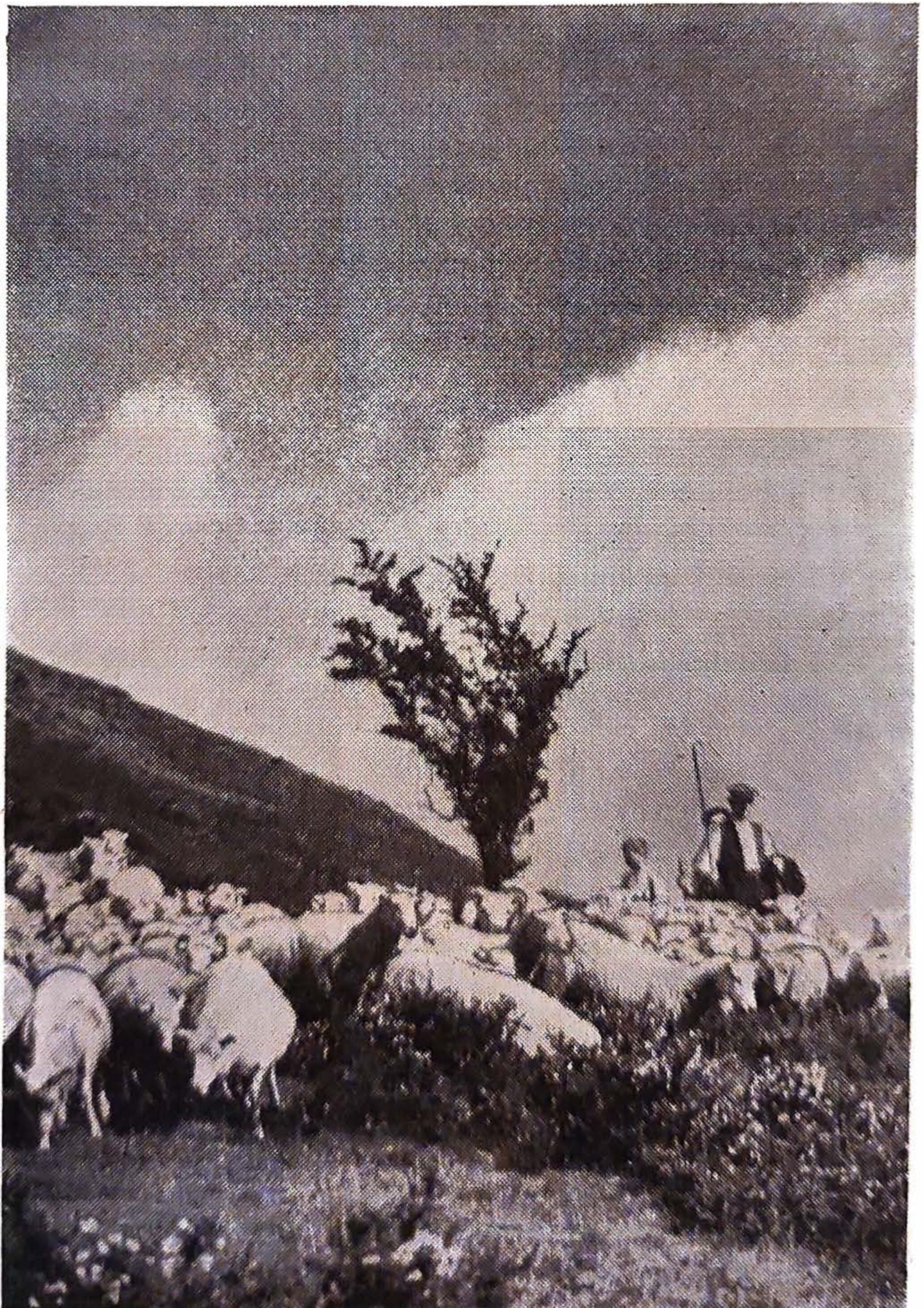
(Ps. 111. 1)

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GLEAMS OF LIGHT



A Shepherd with his Sheep

Old John the Shepherd

OLD JOHN knew the Lord Jesus as his own Saviour and Shepherd, and while he never grew weary of speaking to those around him about his sheep, he would also speak of the way the Lord Jesus in John 10 speaks of Himself as being the Good Shepherd who gives His life for His sheep. He said He knew them, and they knew Him and would follow Him.

Old John had spent most of his life on one farm, and had reared very many sheep, and could be often seen taking them to and from the field, walking in front of them. One day as he was doing this they were met by several other sheep which had just been purchased at a sale close by and were being driven to their new home, and I am sure you can quite understand they were all very soon mixed up together. Old John was quite calm, but the other man was very disturbed and tried first one way then another to separate them, but all he did was to frighten the sheep and cause more confusion. Our old friend John turned to him and said, "Just leave them all alone and I will call my sheep, and you can have those that are left." He then walked to the field and opened the gate, and as he did so he made his usual call, and immediately every one of his sheep ran to him. The others did not know that voice. He knew his sheep and they knew him. They heard his voice and followed him.

Very soon now all the sheep who belong to "one flock" will hear the Lord Jesus call those who belong to Him. Perhaps all the sheep do not know each other, because those who belong to the Lord Jesus and those who do not are all mixed up together in this world, but it will soon be clear who belong to Him and who do not. If you read John 10. 26 to 29, you will see how very secure are all those whom the Lord Jesus calls His sheep. No one is able to take them out of His hand, nor is anyone able to take them out of His Father's hand.

Can you say to which company you belong? Are you waiting to hear the Shepherd's voice? Happy indeed are they who can truthfully say:—

Soon shall we hear Him say,
“Ye ransomed pilgrims, come;”
Soon will He call us hence away.
And take us to His home.

W. J. P

An Invitation

A MOTHER was in the habit of reading the Bible every morning, and after the reading was over she would pray, after which she would bow her head and keep perfectly quiet. One morning her little son asked her why she bowed her head after praying, and she replied, “I first speak to the Lord Jesus, and then I let Him speak to me.”

She then told her little boy to try it, and so he bowed his head for a moment or so, and afterwards looked up at his mother, who asked him if the Lord Jesus spoke to him.

“Oh, yes!” he said.

His mother then asked him, “What did He say?” To which he promptly replied, “Suffer the little children to come unto me . . . for of such is the kingdom of God.” (Mark 10. 14.)

Most believing mothers and praying mothers desire to influence their children for good in this way, but some mothers who do not love the Lord Jesus have a bad influence over them. I spoke to a young mother not long ago who had three nice little girls, but she used to take them to the cinema. I expressed my sorrow that she did that. Recently I visited them in the town where they lived, and this young mother told me she had given herself to the Lord Jesus. What good news that was! Now she takes them where they can hear about Jesus and His love.

You will remember that the disciples would have driven the children away from the Lord Jesus, as it says in the little hymn:

“The stern disciples drove them back,
And bade them all depart;
But Jesus saw them ere they fled,
And took them in His arms and said,
‘Suffer the children to come unto Me.’”

I wonder how many of my young readers have ever knelt down before the Lord Jesus and breathed out a simple prayer and waited for an answer. Doubtless you have read about the boy Samuel who mistook the voice of Jehovah for the voice of Eli three times over. After that he said, "Speak; for thy servant heareth." You and I hear many voices to-day; voices on the street, in the home, at school, and at play; but how sweet to hear the voice of Jesus! May we not forget the subject of our story, but gladly respond to His voice and accept His invitation.

E. I. EMERSON.

Talks at Tuck-up Time (5)

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

ONE night in the springtime, lying alone in a big, dark bedroom on one of the upper floors of a large house at the seaside, was a little boy, seven or eight years old, whom we will call Hugh. He was staying in this apartment-house with his mother and governess, and other people were in it too for a few days.

At tuck-up time the light in Hugh's room had been put out and the door left ajar to let in some of the dim light from the landing outside. All was very still and dreary for a little boy like Hugh: and as it was war-time, he may have heard all kinds of things which he thought about when alone in the dark; and he would have been very glad to have a light in the room. He could not snuggle down to sleep. Presently he heard footsteps on the long staircase. How glad he was! Nearer, nearer, yes, coming up to his landing!

"Someone!" he called quietly, "Someone!"

Then someone came to his door.

"Will you please open the door a little wider?" said Hugh.

This someone did and said, "It is all right, I shall be close to you as my room is quite near."

Then more footsteps came hurrying up the stairs. Hugh's governess had heard voices. "Hugh must go to sleep. Who is speaking to him?" Someone

explained how it happened, and soon Hugh was left alone again in the big dark room, but this time, with someone near! That "someone" did wonder so very much whether that little boy knew about Jesus who is the Everlasting Light which can never be put out. It is wonderful, and so happy to possess that glorious light, and to be able to say "The Lord is my light," and not only "my light," but "my salvation" and "strength," so that you can exclaim, "Whom shall I fear? Of whom shall I be afraid?"

Would you feel quite safe if you were alone in war-time in a dark room high up in a big house? Perhaps not, but if you are trusting in Jesus your soul is safe. He is your salvation and strength, so you need never fear. If you follow Him you will have "the light of life." (John 8. 12.) How is that? you ask. First, you must know what that light is, for it does not mean the light from the sun; it is knowledge, or what makes known. Light reveals what is unknown or unseen. It manifests. That is a big word for a little boy or girl like you! You do not know what it means, you want light upon it. The dictionary will tell you that it means *to show plainly*. So the dictionary throws light upon the darkness of your mind. It gives you knowledge and makes you understand and see what was dark to your mind. The Bible says, "Whatsoever doth make manifest is light." (Eph. 5. 13.) This world in which you live is very dark because it is away from God, who alone is the light of it. When Jesus came into it He said, "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." (John 8. 12.)

Jesus was a light in the darkness of this evil world. Men hated Him, and He said that "men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." (John 3. 19.) But those who follow Him will find a bright pathway through it, and will not abide in darkness. They will pass through it in His light.

One very dark Sunday evening long ago you might have seen several people walking in a country lane, and following a man-servant who walked a few yards in front of them, and who carried a large lantern which shed a bright light all around. They were on

their way to a little building in which they could hear about Jesus, the Light of the world. By that bright light which the man carried they were able to see their way along the dark lane, for it showed plainly or *manifested* everything around them—the road, the ditches, the hedges, trees and gates, and then the little building; and as soon as they reached it, they needed the light of the lantern no longer, for, oh, how bright it was inside! Among those who had followed the light was a little girl, and when she was older she still remembered that walk in the darkness, and thought how the light of the lantern was like a picture of the Lord Jesus, the Light of life, for He guides and keeps those who follow Him as they walk through this dark and dangerous world until their journey is ended at heaven's door.

Will you, dear child, follow Him? Then you need fear no evil. You can always say to Him, "Thou art with me." (Psa. 23. 4.) Although God is invisible, or not seen to your earthly eyes, you, like His people of long ago, can see Him by faith which is "the evidence [or proof] of things not seen." (Heb. 11. 1.) These are difficult things for you to see with your mind only, but by the Light of life you will see, or understand, them quite easily. So you see that Someone wished that little Hugh had no fear of the darkness which he seemed to have. As you lie on your bed, think quietly for a moment and ask yourself whether you can say to Jesus from your heart, "Thou art with me." If you believe in your heart that He died for you on the cross, and that His precious blood has made atonement for your sins, you belong to Him and He is always with you, always near, because He says, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." (Heb. 13. 5.)

If you are doing what is right in His sight, your heart will be at rest, close to Him: but if you do wrong, a cloud may come, and you may not feel Him so close to you. But He is always there! He waits for the cloud to pass when you confess your sinfulness, then how bright all is again, and how near you find Jesus is to you. Little Hugh had pleasant, unselfish ways, and in this he was a good example to other boys, and girls too. Perhaps he tried to please

God. But remember that good ways should be for praise to Him who has saved us. Do not think that they can save your soul. How easy it is to be cross and selfish; how it darkens a bright day and dims the light in your heart! To please self is not to love your neighbour as yourself. If you try to make others happy, you will find it the way to be happy yourself; and to be obedient to those whom you should obey, will make them happy too; and "happiness lies in obedience."

Then to obey the Lord brings the greatest happiness of all! To love self more than others is not the road to happiness, nor is it the road which the Lord Jesus trod down here. Of Him we read in the Bible these five shining golden words, "Even Christ pleased not himself." (Rom. 15. 3.) He is the one perfect example, and He says, "Follow me." Will you try to follow Jesus, and be a good example to other boys and girls?

Hugh was starting for a ride with the groom, and his mother was watching.

"Where are you going?" she asked Hugh. Turning to the man he said, "Where would *you* like to go?" It was soon decided and away they rode. That must have been a happy ride!

Only a few short months, and little Hugh, eight years old, had left this world, and all its darkness for ever! And he has left behind him in this world a good example of unselfishness. Those who trust in Jesus, and belong to Him, should remember that He says, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matt. 5. 16.) It is not in order that you might be fit for heaven, but because God is your Father, and heaven is your home, and Jesus is your light if you believe in Him, that your good works should be seen. No darkness, no night, is too dark for Jesus to lighten!

Perhaps this is rather a long tuck-up talk, but if through it even a little gleam of light has shone into your heart, and helped you to see that if your soul is safe, you need never be afraid in the darkness, then it has not been too long.

A. S. I. L.

TRUST IN
THE LORD
WITH
ALL THINE
HEART

(Prov. 3. 5.)

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GLEAMS OF LIGHT



The Lighthouse Beam

“ Let There Be Light ”

THERE was the earth covered with water, and darkness on the face of the deep. No life existed, no fish swam in those dark waters, no bird flew over its gloom. The earth was void, empty. With everything necessary for the need of man, treasures of coal, of gold, of precious things, even soil in which fruit might grow, yet lifeless and empty. How like a boy or girl in ignorance of God, without light, in darkness! With a heart, a mind, a soul, a body, yet in darkness as to God.

Then was the voice of God heard, “ Let there be light.” As we read, “ God . . . commanded the light to shine out of darkness.” (2 Cor. 4. 6.) And there was light, at once, banishing the darkness. How true it is, “ The entrance of thy words giveth light.” (Psa. 119. 130.) An evening passed and then the morning and again God’s voice is heard. If man is to live on the earth he will need an atmosphere. An evening and a morning, a second day. Once more God’s voice is heard, and at His command the earth appears from beneath the dark waters to produce fruit, and all that is needed for man’s life.

Thus at the word of God heard in the soul, the whole being of a child—heart, mind and body—will become productive and bring forth fruit for God. What the earth was to be for man, so those who hear His word and believe in Him who is the true light, will be for God.

L. O. LABETT.

Talks at Tuck-up Time (6)

THE HIDING PLACE

AT tuck-up time Patty’s mother came up to her one night with rather a sad heart. There on her bed lay her little girl looking very sweet, and perhaps very good too; but we cannot judge of anyone, as God tells us, by the outward appearance. Patty, as we call her, had very kind parents and a little sister, and they all lived in an old-fashioned and pretty cottage close to the sea-shore.

From the window of her bedroom Patty could see the beach, the ocean and the great sailing ships, which we do not see now; and at night she could see the dark sky from which the bright moon and stars shone down upon the sea, shedding gleams of light through her little window when the curtains were not drawn. Patty knew that the Lord is in the heavens above and "his eyes behold . . . the children of men." (Psa. 11. 4.) Have you ever thought about that, dear child? Do you like to know that there is no *time* when He cannot see you, and there is no *place* in which He cannot see you? No one can hide from God. When Adam and Eve had sinned by disobeying God they tried to hide from Him, but it was no use. Nothing they could do would hide either themselves or their sin from God. To disobey God, to do your own will instead of His will is *sin*, and those who do this are *sinner*s; they are lost and away from God. Can they be found and saved from their sins? Yes; for Jesus came "to seek and to save that which was lost," and he says "Come unto me." (Matt. 11. 28.) But you want to hear more about Patty.

There she was lying on her bed, just as you may be, and "the great wide sea" rolling outside the cottage. Perhaps you would like to live as close to the sea as she did! As you know, it was with a sad heart that her mother had come to tuck Patty up and to say "good-night." Patty was quite a little girl, but already she had often greatly troubled her father and mother because she was sometimes such a naughty girl. They wished their little girl would learn to fear God, and to fear to disobey Him, for they knew it grieved Him too. If you are disobedient and self-willed you are disobeying God who says, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord" (Eph. 6. 1); and that also means those whom they wish to rule you--your teacher, master, grannie, aunt, nurse, or anyone else they may choose. Will you remember this, and try to be obedient. That would help to make you happy.

Patty's mother came to her side this evening, and she had a very serious little talk with her. She made her understand that God was not pleased with her

ways; she tried to make her wish to be fit for heaven if she died, fit for God's holy presence. It is only through Jesus the Saviour that we can be fit for God's presence. Fear gradually crept into Patty's heart: she knew that she was bad and sinful: and at this tuck-up time she may have been thinking of one specially sad day when she had caused her father to shed tears of sorrow. It was all because she had coveted something she saw in the sweet-shop window which she passed on her way to school. To covet is to long or wish very much for something which does not belong to you: and as you may know, to covet is to sin: for God said, "Thou shalt not covet . . . anything that is thy neighbour's." This law proves to us all that we have sinful hearts.

In the sweet-shop window Patty saw some little white sugar ducks with red rings round their necks—one farthing each! Oh, how Patty longed for one, but she had no money, not even a farthing. In those long-ago days a farthing was more valuable than it is now, and little children were very pleased to have a farthing to spend, but Patty had no farthing. This, however, did not prevent her longing for one, and each time she saw those little white ducks she longed for one more and more. How far wiser it would have been not to look at them, for you remember how Eve saw the fruit which was pleasant to the eyes and Satan tempted her heart.

Then came the day, when at dinner-time Patty's mother sent her with some money to buy a loaf of bread. Mrs. Baker gave her the bread and some change, but when Patty had counted it she found there was a farthing too much. Patty was delighted and ran home quickly, thinking of the ducks, and gave her mother the bread and the change—all but the farthing, saying:

"What do you think, Mrs. Baker gave me a farthing too much!"

"Patty!" said her mother, "Mrs. Baker gave you a farthing too much and you kept it?"

"Yes, of course I kept it, she gave it to me!" was Patty's answer. Oh, how troubled and angry her poor mother was! How sad she felt too, that her little girl should act in such a way. She told Patty

to run back with it at once on her way to school, and disappointed and cross Patty ran off. You see, dear child, that she was coveting a little duck, and then coveted to have Mrs. Baker's farthing with which to buy it. She tried to think the farthing was hers; her heart, of course, was deceiving her, and how sad that was. On her way to the baker's she came to the sweet shop again, and you know that this time she had a farthing in her hand. Oh, it was just too much for her! She listened, like Eve, to Satan, in her heart. Then she went in and up to the counter and came out with a little white duck instead of the farthing, and the next thing was that she ate it.

The farthing was gone—the duck was gone—and Patty was a thief! How easily Satan conquers us, if we let him. When school-time was over, Patty began to feel afraid to go home. She had a bad conscience, so she wandered about till at last she went on to the beach and hid under a boat so that no one could see her. Sometimes the boats are turned upside down and make a good hiding-place. But although no one else could see her there, God could see her, for "the eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good." (Prov. 15. 3.) Remember, we cannot hide from God. He could not only see Patty under the boat, but he knew all about that farthing. He knows all we do and all we say, and a time is coming when everything we have done will be judged; those who are washed "whiter than snow" through the precious blood of Jesus, will be tried in heaven by Him and He will *reward* them according to their works. But those who are not washed "whiter than snow" will be judged by God at the great white throne, and will stand before Him in all their black sins and be *punished* for ever and ever. How wise then, dear child, to flee to Jesus before it is too late. Let Him wash your sins away, and your soul too will be "whiter than snow." Then how safe you will be!

For a long time Patty sat under the boat until at last it began to grow quite dark, and she, feeling lonely, decided to go home, where her father and mother were wondering what had become of her. It was tea-time, and how bright and warm her

home seemed as she walked in from the dim beach.

“Here’s my good little girl come home to tea,” said her father. Oh, dear, Patty did not feel good; she felt sinful. Then her mother said, “Did you take back the farthing?”

“No!”

“What have you done with it?”

“I bought a farthing duck and ate it.”

The rest of that evening Patty never forgot. Her father and mother were so greatly distressed and troubled to think their little girl could be so sinful and wilful. When she saw her father shedding tears of sorrow as he prayed to God about her, she realised how bad she must be, and how wrong it was to have spent Mrs. Baker’s money.

So, while her mother was talking to her about her naughty ways that night, Patty may have been thinking of that farthing and of hiding under the boat. She felt very uncomfortable, and from her bed she could see the sky through her window, and she thought of God who made it and the sea with its great waves dashing on the beach below.

“Draw the curtains, mother, so God can’t see me,” said Patty.

Poor little girl, she was full of fear for she had not yet come to Jesus just as she was, and found in Him a Hiding-Place from the punishment of her sins. Curtains cannot hide us from God, and when Patty was grown up she did discover the only safe Hiding-Place for sinners. It is in Jesus, how wonderful that is. Jesus came into this world in the likeness of men to become our Hiding-Place. He died upon the cross; He bore the punishment of our sins for us, and God said; “A man shall be as an hiding-place.” God was in Jesus bringing lost sinners to Himself. When Patty found this safe Hiding-Place, she could only sing for joy.

How wise it was of Patty’s mother at her tuck-up time that night, to show how sinful she was and how holy God is. Then she found that He loved her and had provided an everlasting Hiding-Place in which she is safe for ever. All little children may take refuge in that Hiding-Place, in Jesus, and you your-

self too, if you have not already, dear child, may sing of Him, like Patty,

“Blest Name, the Rock on which I build,
My Shield and Hiding-Place.”

A. S. I. L.

True Beauty

THE Book of Proverbs (written by Solomon, who was said to be the wisest man that ever lived) you will find full of practical truth to suit people of all ages and in all walks of life. In the last verse but one girls will find a wholesome word of warning, but also a good word of encouragement. It says, “Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.”

A noted Christian lady of the last century possessed such a lovely complexion that some of her friends, being anxious to know how she secured it, inquired as to what cosmetic she used. She answered: “I use for my lips, truth; for my voice, prayer; for my eyes, pity; for my hands, charity; for the figure, uprightness; for the heart, love.

Now if you turn to Philippians 4. 8 you will find most of the things which she mentioned set out there, for it says, “Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if any virtue, if any praise, think on these things.” That is a portion of scripture worth while that you young people should learn to repeat off by heart; for scripture memorised is useful in after-life; for the Lord tells us by Isaiah the Prophet, that His word shall not return unto Him void, but shall accomplish that whereto He sends it. There is, however, a beauty which the Lord recommends highly, and that is the beauty of holiness which the Lord Jesus expects to see in every blood-bought one. Has the reader come to Him and found salvation for the soul, and peace for the conscience through the finished work of Christ on the cross? If so, then he can approach and worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

M. C.

THE LORD

GOD,

MERCIFUL

AND

GRACIOUS

Exod. 34. 6.

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GLEAMS OF LIGHT



Robin Redbreast

About a Robin

COMING home one evening I saw a poor dead robin redbreast lying in the road, and I thought how wonderful it is that God in His marvellous greatness knew all about that poor little bird. I remembered what we read of the Lord Jesus, when here on earth, and how He could speak of the sparrows, saying, "Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. . . . Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows." (Matt. 10. 29-31.) I am sure He would be thinking of every little bird, but sparrows seem to have no value in men's thoughts at all, and yet how God cares for them!

Who were the people to whom these words were spoken? They were the disciples of Jesus; those who loved Him, and who were going to serve Him. I wonder if every reader of these pages are lovers too of the Lord Jesus? If *you* are, this precious, sure promise is for you, to tell you how much more valuable *you* are to the blessed God than many sparrows. He knows even the smallest detail about you, for "the very hairs of your head are all numbered." How God must love you to take so much interest in you! He has also shown it in another way; by the greatest possible gift His love could make. He "spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all." (Rom. 8. 32.) That happened when the blessed Lord Jesus was crucified and died, and was because God wanted *you*. "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he [the Lord Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us." (1 John 3. 16.) Do come to Him in faith NOW!

CYRIL E. WEAVERS.

Early Impressions

IT is very important, dear young reader, to open our heart to the Lord in our early days, that we may receive some real impression in regard to Him, and of the blessed God. The following

incident will serve to show how that a child of not more than six years of age can receive a touch from the Lord in relation to the truth.

When her parents were reading one morning about the temptation of the Lord by Satan, where he said, "All these will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me," their little girl immediately said, "How could he; they were not his to give." This shows that she had already received the knowledge of what was right. The Lord greatly values this as we see in Matthew 21. 16, where the children called out, "Hosanna to the Son of David," meaning "Bestow blessing, O thou who art in the highest, on the Son of David." Jesus said, "Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise." What a contrast the testimony of those children was to the attitude of the chief priests and scribes of whom it is said, "They were sore displeased."

I trust each young reader will give attention to the reading of the word of God, which will be a light to them during their pathway here through this world. Many of us who have now grown old in years, are really thankful that we were taught to learn the scriptures in our early days. Read and learn Isaiah, chapters 53 and 55.

"From a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." (2 Tim. 3. 15.)

J. B. ETTY.

Victory

A PREACHER was once heard to say in his gospel address: "We are not on the losing side; we are not on the winning side; we are on the side that has won." He was referring to his fellow-believers and himself.

The battle between good and evil has been *won*; good has triumphed in the Person of Jesus.

God gave His Son to die that you might live, and share in the glorious victory which has been achieved

by the wonderful work, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is no longer in death; He is risen and glorified at the right hand of God. We who love Him can say, "We see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour." (Heb. 2. 9.) The world crucified Him; God has glorified Him. He was dishonoured by men here; He is honoured by God in heaven. He is there as Blessor. Why should you not have to do with Him as Blessor now where He is at God's right hand in heaven? Just ask Him to bless you.

As a sinner you need forgiveness for your sins. The Lord Jesus loves to forgive; He loves to bless. Your soul's need being thus met, and resting in all the blessedness and joy of the grace of God, you will share in God's victory. You will be able to say with all true believers and lovers of God, "Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Cor. 15. 57.)

J. F. PREECE.

Talks at Tuck-up Time (7)

THE LOVE OF JESUS

JOHNNY was very small indeed—so small that he could not yet even talk well, but when tuck-up time came he liked very much to hear his mother sing to him. She sang the hymn for little children which you may often have sung. You will guess which it was when you hear that at tuck-up time Johnny would look up at her and say just these two words, "Jesus—me!" You will know that he meant to say, "I want you to sing my hymn, Mother." And this was the hymn; shall we sing it, too?

"Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong:
They are weak, but He is strong!

"Jesus loves me! He who died,
Heaven's gate to open wide;

He will wash away my sin,
Let His little child come in!

“Jesus loves me! He will stay
Close beside me all the way:
And I know that by and by
He will take me home on high.”

Always little Johnny, though so small, loved to listen while his mother told him about Jesus and His love. Do you, like Johnny, love to hear about Jesus? The story of Jesus and His love, of which we read in the Bible, is the most wonderful and beautiful story that was ever told or written; and, best of all, it is true! To fall asleep with sweet thoughts of Jesus, the precious Saviour, who is alive in heaven and watches over you night and day, just as a good and kind shepherd watches his little lambs, brings a bright light into your little heart and takes away all your fear of the darkness. That bright light is the knowledge, or knowing, that Jesus loves and takes care of you. Knowledge is light. Will you think of that?

How glad you should be to-night that some one is telling you about Jesus whom little Johnny loved to hear about from his mother! And when his tuck-up time was over, he would fall sweetly to sleep on his soft, white pillow with that Precious Name echoing in his ears. Now let us sing this one verse about Jesus:

“How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
In a believer’s ear!
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds,
And drives away his fear.”

Johnny had no little brothers or sisters to talk to him or to play with him in the daytime, so he specially liked to hear his mother talk to him, and he already began to be interested in everything around him. He was a very dear little child. Then came the time when, if you had passed the house in which Johnny lived, you would have seen that the blind was drawn down over one of the windows. Day after day it remained drawn down, but at last there came a day

when it was drawn up again; and although the house looked just the same as usual *outside*, there was a very great change *inside*. There were no more tuck-up times for little Johnny now. He had been very sick and ill—so very ill he had been that his eyes could not bear the light. His room had to be kept dark all day as well as all night, so the blind had been drawn down over his window.

Although the doctor and his mother and every one else did all they could for him to get better, he only grew worse. They all wanted him to stay in this world, but Jesus wanted him still more to go to Him in heaven. So the day came when from his dark room, and all his pain and sickness, little Johnny's spirit flew away into the arms of Jesus, far away from all darkness into the glorious light where night and pain can never come, and tears are never shed! Johnny's mother missed her dear little boy, and those tuck-up times when he used to say those two little words, "Jesus—me." Often they would echo in her ears as she thought of him, and then she seemed to see his little fair head lying on the soft, white pillow again, but it never did. Johnny was safe with Jesus now, and needed no longer to sing about Him. Soon he will sing to Jesus in heaven with every one who loves Him and belongs to Him, for they will be gathered there to be together with Him for ever and ever, and they will all sing of His love for them.

It had been very sad to see the blinds drawn down in Johnny's window, for it had, as you know, told the sorrowful tale that his little body was sick and ill, and that he could not bear the light. That is like people whose souls are sick, they cannot bear the light of God. You know that God is love and that "God is light." (1 John 1. 5.) Those who are sin-sick hate the light because of their sinfulness. They are afraid, because as Jesus says, they "loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." (John 3. 19.) If you do something wrong, don't hide under the bedclothes! Suppose you take an apple from the tree which your father told you not to touch, then you dread his asking you if you have been an obedient boy: You are afraid, and your dark

heart fears the light of your father's presence and his words.

Just so, dear child, your sins will make you afraid of God—afraid of the light of His word, His truth and goodness. We read in the Bible that His word is a light. Do you fear it? If our sin-sick souls are healed from the wounds of sin, and cleansed from all sin, then we love to be in the light of God. We are no longer afraid. How can our souls be healed from their diseases and our sins washed away? How can we be happy in the light of God? There is only *one* way. Will you remember this? It is by Jesus who is called “the true Light.” (John 1. 9.) And He is the “everlasting light.” (Isa. 60. 19, 20.)

Have you ever noticed the long, bright rays, or wings, which are sometimes seen around the sun in the sky? Those rays, or wings of light, give light and life to all on the earth, and without the light of the sun all would soon die. And the light of Jesus gives life to the dead and sinful souls. He is called “the Sun of righteousness . . . with healing in his wings.” (Mal. 4. 2.) Why can He heal sick and dead souls? It is because in His love and His pity He came down from heaven, and He has borne our sicknesses and diseases. He has suffered on the cross for us. His precious cleansing blood was shed for us, and “with his stripes we are healed.” (Isa. 53. 5.) Jesus died for, and instead of, us, and He says to each of those who come to Him, “I am the Lord that healeth thee.” (Ex. 15. 26.)

Yes, He is willing to cleanse our sins away; willing to heal us that we may no longer dread the light, but love to be in it and to be near Him, with all fear gone. Is Jesus precious to your heart? Does His love shine in it so that you love the light more than darkness? Do you love to sing Johnny's hymn, and to say “Jesus—me” with “love” between? Remember that He is watching over you now, and that He watches over you all through the dark night although you cannot see Him; and when it is over and gleams of light stream into the room—brighter and brighter—till the day dawns, He will be still watching over you because He loves you so.

When it is time to shut your eyes, if you think of

Jesus and His wonderful love, you will have light in your heart, and without any fears you will soon be fast asleep!

A. S. I. L.

THE LORD . . .
LONG-SUFFERING
AND
ABUNDANT
IN GOODNESS
AND TRUTH

Exod. 34. 6.

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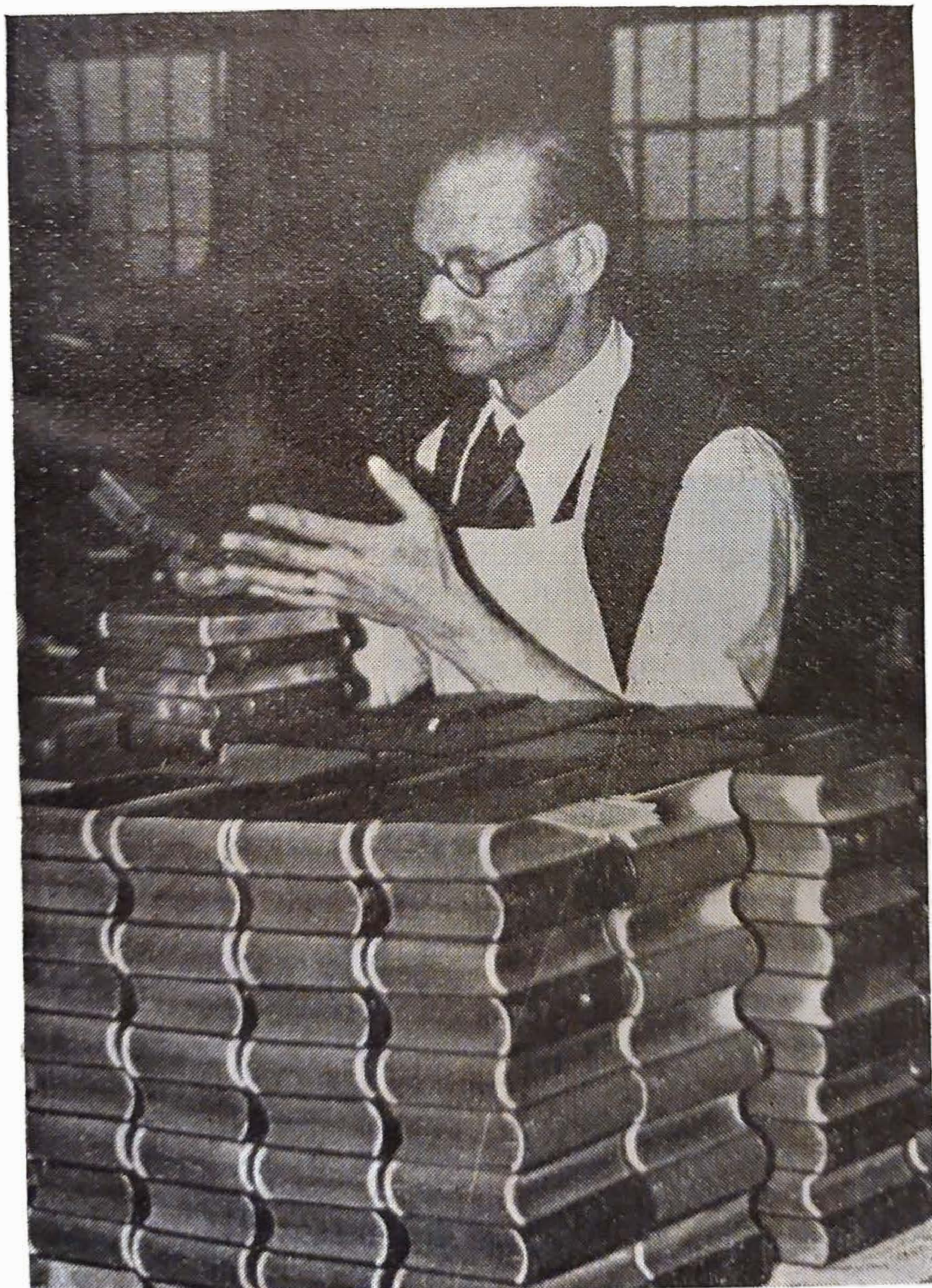
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GLEAMS OF LIGHT



The World's Best Seller

The Book

A FAMOUS author, when he was dying, said, "Fetch me the Book." "Which book?" they asked. "There is only one book," came the answer, "the Bible." He had written many celebrated books, but counted them as nothing in the light of God's book, The Bible.

It has often happened that two men have agreed to write a book together and succeed fairly well. Generally they arrange which shall do a certain part. If six men decided to write a book together, it would be much more difficult, and people when they came to read it would notice mistakes. Now what would you say if thirty or more people all wrote one book, and the book were perfect? It would be a miracle! Now, well over thirty people took part in writing the Bible, and yet it all agrees. But what is more marvellous still is that they took fifteen centuries to complete it. They could not possibly have had a meeting to discuss what each would say, because when some were writing, others were long since dead. Then the men who wrote were all kinds of persons. Some were learned, some were unlettered. Prophets, priests, kings, scribes, fishermen, a physician, a tent-maker, and even a man who had been a tax-gatherer—all had a part in writing the Bible. It is like a library of sixty-six books; the Old Testament written almost entirely in Hebrew, the New Testament in Greek.

Although so many people helped to write it, it is one complete whole. Moses wrote the first chapter, and John the last, and although they lived fifteen hundred years apart, they just fit into each other's thoughts perfectly. The reason for this is that there is one Author and one Subject. Perhaps you say you have just told us there are over thirty who wrote. Yes, but they are not the authors. God is the Author, and the whole book is breathed, or inspired, by Him. Holy men of old spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. God by His Spirit told them just what to speak and to write. And then the subject is one, and that is the Lord Jesus. From cover to cover we

find thoughts about Him. He Himself expounded from all the scriptures things concerning Himself.

We perhaps take it very much for granted that we can go to a shop and buy a Bible for a few shillings, but we have to remember that it cost a great deal for that Bible to come right down to us in the present day. The Bible was written long, long years before printing was invented. Hundreds of scribes had to copy out the books on skins, papyrus or parchment, letter by letter, word by word, re-reading and checking each section to make sure it was quite accurate. Often this work had to be done in secret because of cruel persecution. In the days of pagan Rome men were often tortured to death because they were found with Bibles, and Papal Rome acted even more cruelly, burning every Bible that could be found, and burning their owners to death. Though your Bible cost but a few shillings, it cost the blood of many a martyr. Waldensians, Bohemians, Huguenots, and many in this land, too, were hounded to death rather than give up the Bible they loved, because they loved the Author and loved the Subject.

Although every attempt was made to destroy the Bible, in God's wonderful ways it is still what is called "The World's Best Seller," because more Bibles are sold than any other book, and it has been circulated in over seven hundred different languages.

When Satan found he could not destroy this book, he tried another way of attacking it. We read in the Book of Jeremiah of a wicked king named Jehoiakim who cut the written scriptures with a penknife and cast it into the fire. What is happening to-day is that men are not burning the Bible but they are cutting it about. The portion that the wicked king destroyed was rewritten and the king was judged by the words he had refused. (See Jeremiah 36.) Men try to cut parts out of the Bible. They say that parts are not true. This, of course, is the work of the Devil, because he was a liar from the beginning, and is the father of lies. The Bible is the Scripture of Truth and tells us the truth about sin, death, and the way of escape God has provided through the death and

resurrection of the precious Saviour. Sometimes children are even told in schools that the Bible is not all true, but those of us who know and love the Lord Jesus know very well that every word is true, and we love to read it because it tells us about the One we love.

Every boy and girl ought to read the Bible right through. Sometimes you will find there are parts more difficult to understand than others, but if you read on and pray to the Lord to help you, you will understand a little more every time.

C. M. MENZIES.

Talks at Tuck-up Time (8)

THE SHIELD

AT HOME at tuck-up time, when all the tucking-up had been done, the light was put out, and Itha was left in the dark, perhaps with the door a little open to let in the light outside the room. But at her Grannie's when the tucking-up had been done, it was quite different that summer long years ago. Before the candle was put out, some one put a friendly little night-light into a saucer with water in it for safety; then it was lit and the candle put out so that instead of being in a big dark room, the little night-light shed a bright shield of light over it, and there was no darkness at all! Itha felt quite safe and happy in that big, quiet room and soon cosied down with that shield of light around her and fell fast asleep. She did not wake till the sunshine came peeping in with gleams of light through the blinds, and the bees were busy gathering honey in the garden outside. But when she grew older, Itha needed no shielding night-light in a strange, dark room. She found there is a Wonderful Shield which every one may use at any time, in the night or in the day.

There are many kinds of shields. In olden times men used shields when they fought in war. Then we can be shielded by walls and hedges, mountains and all manner of things; and we may be shielded by people, parents and friends; also love, truth and honesty may shield us, too. If you think carefully

over each of these things you will see in what way each may shield us. But there is, as Itha discovered, a greater and more lasting shield than any of these! The Shield which she found is the One she could never lose and would shield her always, "all the days of her life," for she had learnt to say, "the Lord is . . . my shield." (Ps. 28. 7.) How wonderful that the Lord may be our Shield! But whose Shield? "He is a shield unto them that put their trust in him." (Prov. 30. 5.)

If you believe or trust in Jesus, the Lord, then He is your Shield. Do you trust in Him? What has He done that should make us love and trust in Him? He died for us. He bore the punishment of death for our sins on the cross. He died and rose again and ascended into heaven, so that if we believe this we shall never be punished for our sins. God forgives us for Jesus' sake. He stood between us and the judgment, or punishment, for our sins. He shields us from it. Then how much we should love such a precious Saviour! How safe and how peaceful always even a child like you may be, who is shielded by the Lord and who can say from the heart, "Jesus died instead of me."

When you close your eyes to-night will you ask yourself this question, "Is the Lord *my* shield?" and remember that if you love and trust in Him you can truly say, "The Lord *is* my shield." Then in the morning when you wake up you will be able to say, like King David of old "Thou, O Lord, art a shield for me . . . I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the Lord sustained me [which means took care of you]. I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people, that have set themselves against me round about." (Ps. 3. 3-6.) There are ten thousands of people who may try to prevent, or stop, you from following Jesus the Lord. Ten thousand is a great number; but ten thousands! No one knows how many that may be. But do not be afraid. Remember that the Lord has thousands of thousands of angels, an innumerable host no one can count; and He sends angels to care for those who love Him! Never be afraid to do right, never be afraid of the darkness of

evil, for even if for doing right your body is hurt or killed, Satan cannot hurt your soul. It is shielded by the Lord for ever and ever; it would be "safe in the arms of Jesus."

Perhaps you would like to hear a little more about Itha to-night, for the time came when she was sent to a boarding-school, away from her father and mother, and all in the happy nursery at home. What cold tuck-up times they were at school! One of the governesses came bustling into the room, there was no "tuck-up," no "talk," it was only the "time"! If not quite ready which she should have been, Itha must be quick; then out went the light, and out went the governess to do the same in the other rooms. But the first time Itha went into that room she noticed a text on the wall close to her bed. It was worked in wool or silks on cardboard, and it was like a little silent "tuck-up talk" and a bright light always burning! It is found in the eighth verse of the fourth Psalm: "I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety."

Itha was very homesick, so these beautiful words gave her sweet comfort in her heart. She felt the shielding love of the Lord around her. If you know the map of Palestine, or have been to Jerusalem, you will understand another verse which shows how Itha felt when she thought of the Lord. "As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the Lord is round about his people from henceforth even for ever." (Ps. 125. 2). Who are His people? The first verse will tell you that they are those who trust in Him.

If you trust in Jesus, He is your Shield, and He is round about you. The thoughts of His love and His truth and His holiness will all be shields for you during each busy day at school, or wherever you may be: for if you think of Jesus, you will try to be loving towards others, truthful always, and separate from all that is not pleasing to Him to whom you can say, "Thou, O Lord, art a shield for me."

At Itha's school, the little girls were supposed to use some of their bed-time in reading the Bible for

themselves and praying if they wished. If at the beginning and close of the day you read God's holy word or listen while it is read, you will find comfort in it for your heart, and a light by which you will see the footsteps of Jesus in this dark world, and which you should try to follow, if you belong to Him.

As Itha grew older, she learnt more and more how careful she should always be to do what is right in the sight of the Lord. Will you try always to please the Lord? It will help you to be a happy child. Troubles may come around you, but your heart will be happy still while you trust in the Lord your Shield, who is closer to you than the troubles! How wonderful to have such a precious Shield, always "the same" and always at hand, or near you. At home, or on a visit, or at school, you will need no shielding night-light in the darkness. You will lie down "in peace and sleep" because you know the Lord is your Shield, and that He makes you dwell in safety.

A. S. I. L.

The Passing of the Year

O dying year, we bid thee now adieu!
Thine hours are numbered; they are but a few:
Soon will the calendar proclaim to all
Thy passing, and when gone beyond recall.

We cannot stop to mourn thee; Time sweeps on,
And in its current hurries us along;
As the years pass it seems to gather speed;
Neither can human power its course impede.

Yet One there is, our Mighty God, 'tis He
Has fixed the day when Time shall cease to be;
The tide of years shall be no more, and man
Have passed for ever from this life's brief span.

'Tis to that day we're hastening on apace,
Both old and young are mingled in the race;
Saved and unsaved, we journey side by side,
Till that momentous, final, great divide.

When He, who knoweth every heart, His own
Shall call to share that bright eternal Home
With Him, and like Him, one large family,
All praising God through all eternity.

Dear reader, will you be amongst that throng?
Will you be singing that eternal song,
With myriads in those ages yet to be,
When Man has put on immortality?

B. BARTER.

THE LORD
WILL BLESS
HIS PEOPLE
WITH PEACE

Psalm 29. 11.

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