

GLEAMS OF LIGHT

Vol. 3



G. MORRISH

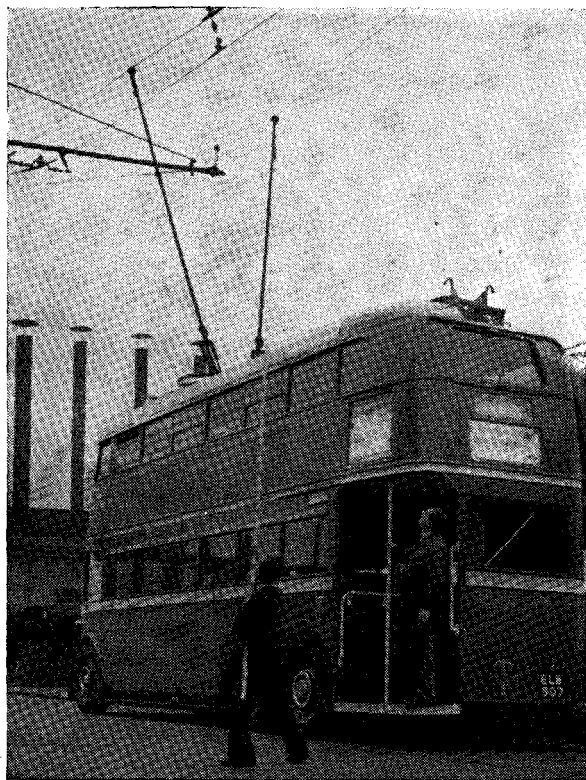
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January, 1951

GLEAMS OF LIGHT



A Trolley Bus on Test

A New Year Hymn

OUR gracious God and King,
Praise to Thy Name we sing,
For this New Year:
We know that day by day,
Along th' untrodden way,
Thou wilt be near.

Grant, Lord, we pray, that we
More like Thyself may be,
By grace divine;
That this our lives may show,
And those around us know,
That we are Thine.

We give our grateful praise
To Thee for bygone days;
Thou safe hast led.
When clouds obscured our sky,
Thy voice said, "It is I,"
And darkness fled.

In sorrow and in pain,
Thou didst our souls sustain,
And comfort send;
Therefore we humbly pray
For faith to trust always,
Till life shall end.

Worthing.

B. B. DOMINEY.

Secret Power

I WONDER how many boys and girls ever think from whence the light comes when they put on the electric light switch. If you could follow the two wires that are connected to the switch you would find that they go right to the source of light and power, for electricity provides both. This is a big building, where a great deal of expensive plant is installed. The light runs in the two wires coming from, and returning to, the power-house, and when you switch on you make a complete connection on these two lines.

You all know the little hymn, "Jesus bids us shine." Well, I want to use what I have said to show how you can shine for Him. He could say, when in this dark world, "I am the light of the world" (John 8. 12), and, "Let your light so shine before men." (Matt. 5. 16.) If you take out an electric lamp you will find that it gives no light in itself, and that it is only when it is put in connection with these wires that it obtains and gives out its light. In the same way, we cannot shine here for Jesus unless we keep contact with Him. When we kneel down night and morning to pray, it is to gather up fresh light and power, for in praying we are in contact with Him. The Lord Jesus gives us light, so we can think of Heaven as the generating station, for we read that all power has been given into His hands. He is our light, too, and the flow and return wires are open to all to make contact. Heaven is the *only* source of this light and power. The Scriptures show us how to make contact and the Holy Spirit is given us to maintain that light.

As I have said, electricity provides both light and power, and I want to illustrate what power means to us through the following incident. A few days ago I was in a trolley-bus, and when we came to a place where two roads met, it came to a sudden stop and all the lights went out. I looked out and found that one of the trolleys had come off the overhead wire. You will know that there are two poles and trolleys which are the means of the flow and return of the electric current, so, you see, as soon as contact from the wires to the power station was broken the trolley-bus was useless. There was nothing wrong with the bus, it was just dead. As soon as the one trolley was put back on the wire the lights came on, the power came back into the bus and we moved away.

It is the Lord Jesus who has marked out the road for every one of us, and the two wires overhead give us power to go to the source of unfailing strength. Sometimes we like to go our own way, but in so doing one trolley comes off the wire and then, not only do we lose the power to keep to the pathway He has marked out for us, but we cease to be light-bearers. It cost the Lord Jesus all He had to make this light

and power freely available to us, so if we wish to shine for Him we must always remember never to allow anything to break our contact. Thus only shall we be kept on the right road, straight and narrow as it may be, knowing that the power is available to us at all times, for there are no cuts from this power station!

Whitchurch, Glam.

E. HIBBERT.

The Journey of Life

How important to have a right and definite outlook on this great matter! One thinks especially of the young from childhood to manhood and womanhood. What is to be the course and aim in life of which you are now on the threshold?

Some have great ambitions and desire to become famous in the eyes of men and be great figures in public life. The course here of some has been almost wholly governed by these ambitions, to the exclusion of the claims of God and of Christ. What a tragedy! The possibilities of a life spent in the service of God cast aside for worldly and personal gain. We can only have one human lifetime upon the earth in present conditions. "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matt. 16. 26.) What satisfaction is there in it if we pursue the shadow and lose the substance? "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth," writes the preacher in Ecclesiastes 12. 1.

Of Moses we read (who had great prospects in Egypt), "choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season" (Heb. 11. 25), and in this same notable chapter we get published a wonderful list of persons who filled out their journey of life to the pleasure of God.

A man who had got on well in the world, known to the writer, confessed to an intimate friend of his thus: "Frank, I am in a good position as regards business and have plenty of money, but I am not happy. I often take on, voluntarily, certain duties to

try and keep my mind quiet; I feel so unhappy! "What a contrast to one whose career here has been to serve and glorify divine persons.

Newton Abbot.

J. F. GARLAND.

The Angel of the Lord

THERE were to be meetings on New Year's Day in a northern city, and people from small towns, villages and country places for many miles around were invited, with their families, to attend.

A valued servant of God was expected to be there, while streams of refreshing from the hand of the Lord were looked for. In an upland farm the farmer, his wife and family, including an old grandmother, hoped to go to these meetings, but those who know anything about farming will understand how difficult it is for everybody to get away even for one day, especially in the depth of winter with so many animals to be fed.

A few days before the meetings a friend met the old grannie and asked if they would be able to go. "Oh, yes," said the old woman, "we mean to leave everything in God's hands and go, for, you know, 'The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him.'" (Psalm 34. 7.) During an address at the meeting the speaker said with emphasis, "Put God first, and He will take care of your cattle." The friend remembered the old woman's words and referred to them when next they met.

It is wonderful to think how the angel of the Lord should so watch over them that fear Him and put their trust in Him! Do *you* put your trust in Him? Do you fear the Lord? "In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence, and his children shall have a place of refuge." Yes, His children shall have a place of refuge from this present evil world, and from coming judgment. Are you a child of God? If not, you may be, for He wants *you*.

"The Lord's a refuge ever nigh,
His watchfulness, a mountain high;
His Name's a rock which winds above
Nor waves below can ever move."

Inverurie.

M. C.

The Sun

DAY by day, for nearly 6,000 years, the familiar, but truly marvellous, spectacle of the sun's rising over, and setting upon, the horizon of this earth has been observed by mankind. Sometimes it may be obscured by clouds, but generally it is a glorious sight, and only once has there been any variation of its occurrence (Joshua 10. 12-15), showing the wonderful power and faithfulness of the Creator.

The sun is by far the most majestic object in the heavens and the centre of our solar system; and its beneficial influence on all forms of life on this earth is incalculable, both as regards light and warmth. How we should feel it if the light of the sun were withdrawn from the earth for one day—what havoc and chaos would result! And without the warmth of the sun how the trees, fruits and crops of the earth would suffer as to their growth and goodness, and how much less cheerful our lives would be!

All this leads up to the consideration of what a wonderful type, or figure, the sun is of the Lord Jesus Christ who, when He was here, could say: "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.) But men did not want the light, which exposed the evil of their hearts, and they crucified the Lord of Glory. The Lord Jesus Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father (Romans 6. 4) and He is exalted a Prince and a Saviour (Acts 5. 31) and as the sun, though many millions of miles distant from the earth, is available to all who call upon Him in truth.

In the last book of the Old Testament (Malachi 4. 2) there is a beautiful reference to Christ as the "Sun of righteousness," looking forward to a future day when He will "arise with healing in his wings," after having judged the wicked. (See verse 1.) May the reader of these lines come into all the blessedness of the knowledge of Himself and be helped to live for Him in a world that is every day growing darker and darker, and which will finally come under the judgment of a holy God.

Bexhill-on-Sea.

W. M. HARRIS.

Rescued from Drowning

A YOUNG cocker spaniel was out one day walking with his master. As they passed the edge of a small pond they were startled by the frantic barking of a young puppy that had ventured out on the thin ice and had fallen through. A man and a boy were trying to rescue the animal, but the ice was too thin to allow them to approach the spot where the dog was struggling. Every time the seemingly doomed dog would get his paws up on the ice it would give way, plunging him back into the cold water.

The cocker spaniel, without hesitation, ran on to the thin ice and slowly edged his way toward the stricken dog. After many attempts he finally got close enough to grasp the little pup's collar and help him up on to the solid ice. Turning quickly, as if it knew the ice would not hold their combined weight, it raced to shore, followed by the grateful puppy, who ran to the side of a little boy, who was also greatly relieved.

Do we not see in this simple story the way we can serve our great Master, the Lord Jesus Christ, in seeking by our efforts to rescue other boys and girls from Satan's power, realizing the danger they are in, if they have not as yet confessed the Lord Jesus as their Saviour? How much service can be rendered by us at all times to our school companions with whom we play and sit together. Would we not like to tell them of a Saviour's love?

To rescue the perishing,
Care for the dying,
Tell them of Jesus
The mighty to save.

What an instinct even dumb animals have toward each other, but our feelings are different. We have a wider range, but let us not forget that all true service springs from love. It is said of the true Hebrew servant that he loved his master. May we have grace to follow in his steps.

Indianapolis, U.S.A.

E. I. EMERSON.

Questions of Jesus—

WHAT
WILT THOU
THAT
I SHOULD
DO UNTO
THEE?

(Mark 10. 51)

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GLEAMS OF LIGHT



A Game in the Snow

Snowflakes

Psa. 51. 7.

"O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all." I read lately that an American scientist had made a study of snowflakes. He had photographed two thousand of them and, although each had six sides, no two were exactly alike. So again we would exclaim, "O Lord, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all." (Psa. 104. 24.)

M. C.

Onward

If the Saviour's won your heart,
And for heaven you've made a start,
Keep your eye upon the Chart,
And go on.

Buy the truth and sell it not,
Hold for God the bit you've got;
Be content whate'er your lot,
And go on.

Feed on Christ, the living bread,
Drink of Him, the fountain-head;
Think of why His blood was shed!
And go on.

Bear in mind that what you know
Proves its worth by what you show;
Let your life be all aglow,
And go on.

Soon each act will meet the light,
Then we'll value things aright;
Ever keep *that day* in sight
And go on.

Never from your purpose turn,
Though of any glad to learn;
Walk with Jesus, then you'll burn,
And go on.

W. LAWRENCE.

“Christ our Passover”

“Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.”

(1 Cor. 5. 7.)

“Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”

(John 1. 29.)

THE older boys and girls will know the history of the Israelites from the time they went down to the land of Egypt until their departure, 430 years later. The story begins in Genesis, chapter 37, when we first read of Joseph at the age of seventeen.

Joseph, after much quite undeserved bad treatment, was used of God to save the Egyptians from starvation during seven years of famine which came upon them, and for this King Pharaoh made him a very great man indeed, second only to himself. He also allowed Joseph's father, Jacob, and his brethren to come to live in “the best of the land” Goschen, because the famine was very great, too, in their land, the land of Canaan. For many years the Israelites lived happily and prospered in the land of Goschen and were treated well, but as the years passed, changes took place. Jacob died, Pharaoh and his chief men died, and Joseph died, too. Then there arose a King Pharaoh who did not know anything about Joseph or how he had preserved the lives of the Egyptians in the time of the great famine, and no doubt his chief men were just as ignorant. This being the case, we can understand their feeling jealous of the Israelites who lived in such a very good part of their land and were so prosperous; they, therefore, began to illtreat them, and make them work like slaves under cruel task-masters.

At last the Israelites cried to God to save them, and He heard their cry and raised up a new leader to deliver them, Moses, who was sent with a command from God to Pharaoh to let His people go. This he refused to do, and God sent punishments, known as plagues, upon the Egyptians. Each time a plague came Pharaoh promised to let God's people go, but directly it was stopped he treated the Israelites more cruelly than ever. God sent nine plagues, and then

He told Moses He was going to send a tenth, more terrible than any of the others, and after that Pharaoh *would* let the Israelites go.

God gave His commands to the Israelites by Moses. On the tenth day of the month the head of each house was to choose a young lamb, perfect, "without spot," which was to be killed and its blood sprinkled on the top and sides of the door. The lamb was to be roasted with fire, and at night the Israelites were to eat it, standing, packed up, all ready for a journey. Then the Lord passed through the land of Egypt and slew the eldest—the firstborn—in every house, and even the cattle were not spared, but He passed over every house which had the blood sprinkled on the door. "When I see the blood, I will pass over you." This was always called "the passover" by the Israelites, because the Lord passed over their houses.

The Israelites did as the Lord commanded and were saved, but at midnight a great cry arose from all the houses of the Egyptians when they discovered the terrible thing that had happened to them. Pharaoh sent for Moses and told him to take the Israelites away out of the land of Egypt, and they all marched out, from the oldest to the youngest, nobody was left behind, and not even a hoof of one of the animals was left. This is known as the Exodus, which means a going-out, or departure, and as you know the second book of the Bible is called Exodus, because it is the account of the Israelites' going "out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage."

This first Passover is a type of another, and much greater Passover, which is the title of this article, "Christ our Passover." There are very many lessons to be learned, but we can only talk of a few now.

The Jewish Passover was God's plan for delivering the Israelites from Egypt, but His plan for the salvation of the world was much greater and more wonderful. God, who is too holy to look on evil, could not have anybody to dwell with Him in heaven, because there was nobody perfect, "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"; so all the world, which means everybody, would have been shut out had not God loved it so much that He gave His only begotten Son to be crucified and to die for us all.

We cannot understand how much He loved us, and we never shall while we are here on earth, but we can think about it.

You will remember with reference to the Israelites, God said, "When I see *the blood*, I will pass over you," and it is the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ that saves us from death for our sins. Just as there was no other way for the Israelites to be saved, so "The blood of Jesus Christ his son cleanseth us from all sin" (1 John 1. 7), and "There is none other name . . . whereby we must be saved." (Acts 4. 12.)

If an Israelite on that Passover night had thought he would do something different; supposing he did not sprinkle the blood on the door, but stayed in the house and read prayers, or talked about God to his family, he would not have been saved. It was the blood alone of which God took account. Sometimes people think that going to meetings, doing kind deeds and such things, will save them. Some shut themselves up away from other people and spend their time in saying prayers and reading good books, but none of these things will save them. "Without shedding of blood is no remission of sins" (Hebrews 9. 22.)

The little lamb had no choice; the head of the house chose him and slew him, but the Lord Jesus Christ gave His life a ransom for many. He said, "No man taketh it from me, but . . . I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again." (John 10. 18.) And He laid it down for love of us. What wonderful love!

There were thousands of lambs slain for that first Passover, but the Lord Jesus Christ, our Passover, gave His life once for all, and when He was on the cross He said, "It is finished." The work which He came down from heaven to do was finished when He shed His blood, and God accepted His sacrifice for our sins. There was nothing more to be done by God; it only remained for the world to believe.

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." (Acts 16. 31.) This is still the only way that boys and girls and men and women can be saved, and God loves us all and wants us all to come to Him.

“There was no other good enough
To pay the price of sin;
He only could unlock the gate
Of heaven, and let us in.

“Oh, dearly, dearly has He loved!
And we must love Him too;
And trust in His redeeming blood,
And try His works to do.”

B. B. DOMINEY.

“*Have You Everything Ready?*”

IT WAS Bank Holiday week-end. Some of us were returning home after being with lovers of the Lord Jesus to read the scriptures. The streets of the little Cornish town were much more crowded than usual, and as we drew near the harbour we realised that there was something wrong. Round the harbour policemen were holding back the excited crowd, whose attention was focused on the launching of the life-boat.

As the vessel entered the water, we wondered who could be in distress. No one in the little town seemed to have any information, but hundreds watched the life-boat as it made its way across the bay towards the rocky foreland near the lighthouse. For some time that life-boat, manned by courageous and merciful men, passed slowly up and down near the dangerous rocks. For more than an hour this went on, and we knew that the crew were searching in the stormy waters for someone. It was not till some time later that we heard that a boy in his teens had been swept away by a wave, a boy who had been playing in the water just five yards from the water's edge.

Later in the evening the life-boat returned. The first words to pass between the ship and the shore will never be forgotten by me. Using the amplifier with which the ship was equipped, the cox called, “HAVE YOU EVERYTHING READY?” My dear young reader, have you everything ready? Whether that boy, to whom death came so suddenly that holiday week-end, had everything ready we do not know. If you had been in his position, would you have been

ready? Are you ready now to face a holy and a just God? Amos called to the people to prepare to meet their God. Have you prepared? Have you everything ready?

It is not a matter of doing the best we can and hoping that everything will be all right. That is too uncertain to be safe. It is not a question of doing good deeds every day, and hoping that with these God will be satisfied. It is essential that we come to God by the One with whom He is perfectly satisfied, the One who has fulfilled all His will and has made it possible for guilty sinners such as you and me to be brought righteously into the presence of God. Jesus has died, the Just for the unjust, to bring us to God. Unless we accept this in faith, we are not ready.

My dear young friend, can you say how much oftener God in mercy will make an appeal to your heart? He is appealing now, and the Holy Spirit is striving with you now, so that you might have everything ready. Remember what is written in the Epistle to the Hebrews, chapter 3, verse 7, "Wherefore, even as says the Holy Spirit, To-day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts." The voice of a loving God addresses you to-day, and He says, "HAVE YOU EVERYTHING READY?"

QUARTUS.

My Meditation of Him Shall be Sweet

Psa. 104. 34.

WHILE meditating on Thy ways,

How sweet it is to find

That nought but Thee suffices us,

To fill the heart and mind.

There's nothing of this poor, sad world

That can bring peace to me;

And so I turn from all, blest Lord,

To find my peace in Thee.

'Tis sweet to meditate on Thee,

Here at Thy feet to rest,

And know that nothing can befall,

But what Thou deemest best.

B. B.

Questions of Jesus—

WILT
THOU
BE MADE
WHOLE?

(John 5. 6.)

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GLEAMS OF LIGHT



The Royal Scot

Granny and Susie

THERE was a poor old woman who had many troubles and was a kind Granny to her little sick Susie. They often heard about the Lord, and how He loved us so much as to die for our sins: and they did not forget Him. Although He died for us, He rose from the dead and is now above the heavens, and can see us down here; and He cares for all those who believe in Him, even though their faith is so small that they scarcely know themselves that they have it; for it is not how much faith we have but whether we *have* faith in Jesus.

Little Susie loved to hear about Him and to speak of Him: she trusted in Him. She knew, too, that His precious blood cleanses us from sin, so that we are "whiter than snow" in the sight of God. All sins gone!

One night her Granny was very sad to see how ill and suffering her little grandchild was, for Susie was very ill, but very patient. She noticed her Granny's sorrow and her comforting words, but she quickly said, "Don't pity me, Granny; God knows best!"

Will you try to trust in the Lord as she did, and not complain or murmur? Sometimes we are very impatient, and instead of trusting in God's way, we think wrong thoughts and rebel against our troubles. We must never forget that all the suffering and sorrow in the world has come through sin, and that is not the will of God. We bear the result of it, but Jesus bore the terrible judgment of sin on the cross, so that no one who trusts in Him as their Saviour will be judged for it after they leave this world. But until we do leave this world, we must bear the consequences of sin in it, and we shall find our refuge in God, who for our good allows these things.

Then came the night when poor old Granny could not sleep. No doubt her thoughts were sad and fearful: she tried to drop off, but it was no use. Someone who often went to the cottage happened to call just afterwards and Granny told her about it, and said, "I could not sleep, so I prayed, 'O Lord, protect me!' and I heard a voice say 'Have I ever

failed you?' Then I straightened my pillow and fell asleep."

Happy old Granny! She was very old then, and that was more than fifty years ago; so that both she and Susie have left this world and all its fears and sorrows. But you are still in it. Will you, like them, "trust in the Lord"? He will never fail those who trust in Him!

A. S. I. L.

Her First Train Journey

A LITTLE four-year-old was on her first train journey to see her Granny. She was so eager that she noted everything from the carriage window; cows, horses, gardens and hills, but suddenly the train entered quite a long tunnel and she clung to her mother in silent terror of the darkness.

That night, as she knelt by her bed in prayer; repeating first:

"Jesus, tender Shepherd, hear me,
Bless Thy little lamb to-night,
In the darkness be Thou near me,
Keep me safe till morning light,"

she asked the Lord to bless all her friends, and ended by saying "And please take away the tunnel before we go home."

On the return journey, she fell asleep and kept sleeping all through the dark tunnel, so we see how God answered the prayer of the little girl. Jesus Himself said when here; "All things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." (Matt. 21. 22.)

An old lady, who loved the Lord Jesus, had prayed every day for more than thirty years for the conversion of certain friends, but with no apparent result. One morning she decided to omit them as hopeless. Opening her Bible to read her morning portion, this was what she read, "So ought men always to pray and not to faint"; so she continues to pray for them, and for herself too, that her faith fail not. Let us remember that our hope and our help is in God; a prayer-answering God!

“God, our Saviour; who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.”
(1 Tim. 2. 3, 4.)

M. C.

The Great Conflict

THE weakest, the humblest soul that leans on the might of Jesus, shall be more than conqueror. Whatever power or craft there may be in the great enemy of souls, there is that in Christ which counteracts it.

Is Satan Apollyon, the *destroyer*? Jesus is the *Saviour*.

Is Satan a liar, a *deceiver*? Jesus is “*the truth*,” “the faithful and true witness.”

Is Satan the *old serpent*? Jesus is “the seed of the woman” that shall bruise his head.

Is Satan a *devouring lion*? Jesus is the *Lion of the tribe of Judah*.

Is Satan *as the wolf* that comes to destroy the flock? Jesus is the *watchful* and *faithful Shepherd* who guards them day and night.

Is Satan the *adversary*? Jesus is the Friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

Is Satan the *accuser of the brethren*? Jesus is their *righteous Advocate* who thoroughly pleads their cause.

Is Satan a *mighty prince*, ruling over myriads of the hosts of darkness? Jesus is “*King of kings* and *Lord of lords*,” to whom “all power is given, both in heaven and on earth” and who has legions of holy angels to do His bidding.

“Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of *his* might.” Without Him you must fail. In Him you must conquer. By humble faith in Him, take your stand, and then fear nothing. Go forward with good courage to meet each temptation, and to contend for the “Redeemer’s kingdom.”

“They that be with us are more than they that are against us.”

EXTRACTED.

Faith

I SOMETIMES wonder whether we have ever stopped to think what a very important thing faith is. Every boy and girl who would like to live his or her life to please God cannot even start to do it without faith, as the Epistle to Hebrews, chapter 11 and verse 6, plainly tells us.

We are told in this wonderful chapter of certain persons who "obtained a good report" because of it. This "report" is even much better than the best of our "reports" from our school teachers, because it is now the question of God's report. I wonder whether He can say of you and of me, that we too have faith like these wonderful people we read of in Hebrews, chapter 11?

It is very necessary first of all to believe that *God* has created all things, which means that He has made the natural creation out of nothing. Who else but God can do such a thing? We are often now asked to believe that all these things have started as some kind of mysterious substance and have gradually improved until arriving at their present state. Let us, dear children, flatly refuse such wickedness, for it comes from Satan to destroy our souls. This is where our belief in God starts.

Now we read of Abel (we all know the beautiful, yet sad story), that he is said to be righteous. If you read in Genesis, chapter 4, you will see why. This early chapter of the Bible has its voice to each one of us, for unlike Cain, who thought his own human ideas and works could bring him into God's favour, Abel sees by faith that he can only enjoy the blessing of God through the death of another. For us this means that we can only enjoy the love and shining of God Himself upon us because of the precious blood of the Lord Jesus, who has given up His life in death to bring us to God. Also because of the wondrous worth of His dear Son, the blessed God is *now* free to make us feel inwardly that His love rests upon us just as it does on Jesus Himself in His presence. Have *you* received this blessing? You can know it if you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

CYRIL WEAVERS.

The Cost of our Blessings

I THINK that the hearts of all my young readers should be deeply touched by the fact that every blessing we enjoy as Christians (that is to say, those who have accepted Christ as their Saviour and Lord) has come to us as the result of His holy sufferings. Indeed, if we examine one or two such blessings by way of illustration we shall notice that the Lord Jesus had to endure exactly the opposite in the way of suffering before they could be secured for us.

Let us consider first of all the question of our future home in heaven. While it is the blessed purpose of God that His courts should be filled with myriads of the redeemed, it was necessary that His beloved Son should Himself leave that scene of eternal bliss and lay aside the glory that was proper to Him as God and take a servant's form in lowly manhood. "*He only* could unlock the gate of heaven and let us in."

Another example of the same truth is suggested to us in an interesting passage in Judges 6. 36-40, where Gideon, in order to obtain full assurance that God would be with him, asked God first that a fleece which he would leave on the ground might be full of water and all around dry, and secondly, that the fleece might be dry and all around wet with the dew of heaven, and in each case God graciously answered to these requests. I believe we have a suggestion in the first of what the Lord Jesus was in His life on earth in the sight of heaven. He was the only green spot in a dry and arid desert, and a bowl full of water was wrung out of the fleece. In the second test (which could never be repeated) there is, I believe, a suggestion of what the Lord Jesus had to endure in the way of judgment in His death. He had to prove what it was to be dry in His own soul if we were ever to enjoy the wonderful favour of God represented by the dew of heaven.

We find yet another example in a very striking passage in Jonah 1. 7-15, where we read of a raging storm that could be stilled only by the casting into

the sea of the prophet. The lesson we may surely learn from this is that if we were to be delivered from the power of death it was needful for the Lord Jesus Himself to experience the terrible force of death's dark waters.

Finally we have in the New Testament the touching reference to the grace of the Lord, the rich One who impoverished Himself that thereby we might be enriched. (2 Cor. 8. 9.) He went into death and gave Himself and all that He had that we might inherit untold wealth.

To sum up, the Lord Jesus in His suffering and death experienced what we ourselves deserved, but in yielding to His claims over us, we receive through God's grace what He deserved. He is crowned with glory now and the twenty-four elders in Revelation 4, who represent those who have been redeemed, are also crowned, but it is beautiful to note that in verse 10 they cast their crowns by way of worship before the throne of God.

The following five verses may help you to understand what I have tried to explain.

WERE ever hosts of saints in light
To throng the courts on high,
Thou hadst, O Lord, those courts to leave,
And lay Thy glory by.

Ere heaven's precious dew could fall
And God's full grace reveal,
Thou must, O Lord, in Thine own soul
The drought of judgment feel.

The angry tempest gathers strength,
Death's waters nearer roll,
Ere they be stilled, most blessed Lord,
They must o'erwhelm Thy soul.

That untold wealth might be our own,
Our portion rich in heaven,
All Thine own wealth by Thee, O Lord,
In death was freely given.

We worship Thee whose rightful crown
Doth rest upon Thy brow,
And cast, O Lord, our diadems,
Before Thee even now.

M. H. TUCKER.

Questions of Jesus—

DOST THOU
BELIEVE
ON THE
SON
OF GOD?

—John 9. 35.

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GLEAMS OF LIGHT



"And God said . . . I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth."

—Genesis 9. 12, 13.

The Rainbow

A BEAUTIFUL sight, seen on some occasions of every year, in every country under the sun for over 4,000 years, and with a definite message for everybody from God Himself—such is the rainbow! It occurs only when the sun is shining and the rain is falling, and it appears in the part of the heavens opposite to the sun; the effect of which, shining through the tiny raindrops, is that the rays of light are broken up into colours in the following order: Red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet. The bow thus formed is seen sometimes almost across the whole sky, a reminder of the glory of the Lord. (Ezekiel 1. 28.)

But what does it all mean? It means that the blessed God—the Creator of the whole universe—has hereby pledged Himself that the earth shall never again be destroyed by water, as it was in the days of Noah. (Genesis 7. 12-17.) The world of that time was destroyed because of the extreme wickedness of men and women on it, and only eight persons were saved in the ark which God had told Noah to build 120 years before the flood came. The long-suffering God waited all that time, but there was no response, though Noah truly warned and preached righteousness. Thus judgment had to come.

Again in Revelation 4. 3 the rainbow is seen round about the throne as an emerald, a token of freshness. We might think that after all the centuries of evil-doings of men, God would have had to bring in the flood again, but His promise rested not in the doings of men, but on the faithfulness of Christ, whom the rainbow sets forth, and this is ever fresh before Him.

Judgment is coming on this world, which crucified Christ, not again by water, but by fire (see 2 Peter 3. 5-10), and just as John the Baptist urged his hearers to flee from the wrath to come (Luke 3. 7), we would urge on you the necessity of coming to the Lord Jesus Christ, the Saviour, owning you are a sinner before God, and pleading His promise, "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." (John 6. 37.) Do not delay!

W. M. HARRIS.

A Giant and a Shepherd Lad

“God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty.”

(1 Cor. 1. 27.)

ALL the older boys and girls will know who are the people mentioned at the top of this paper—the giant, Goliath; the shepherd lad, David, the youngest son of Jesse. Will you turn up 1 Samuel 17 and read this wonderful story again for yourselves?

We have thought on previous occasions about two *men* who were enabled by God's power to do great things, but this time it is a *lad* who did valiantly, through faith in God.

As we read in the chapter to which we have referred, the Philistines, always the enemies of the Israelites, have come out against them in battle, and they are on the top of one mountain, while the Israelites are on the top of another *opposite*, with a valley in between. This time, however, instead of the two armies fighting against each other, the Philistines have set up one man, their champion, who is challenging the Israelites to send out a man from their ranks to fight him. This man, Goliath, was a giant, and he struck terror into the hearts of all the Israelites, which was not surprising, for he was nearly twelve feet high, was clad in very strong armour, and had a man to go in front of him, carrying a shield. (Read verses 4 to 7 of our chapter.) We call a man tall who is six feet high, Goliath was almost twice this height, so no wonder that no Israelite came forward to fight him.

For forty days, Goliath challenged the Israelites to send a man to fight him, but nobody offered to go, and then a shepherd lad, David, appeared on the scene. Humanly speaking this meant very little; the Philistines would have laughed scornfully at the idea of this lad fighting and killing their great champion, while the Israelites probably did not even notice his arrival, and certainly did not think of him as their deliverer. David had three brothers in King Saul's army, and he had been sent by his father to see how they were getting on, to take them some food, and

presents to their captains. As we know, he was wrongly accused of leaving his few sheep in the wilderness, while he had come down to see the battle. The boys in the land of Israel at this time, may have been very like the boys in our own land to-day, who are generally very anxious to see all that is going on, but this time David was obeying his father's commands and he had left his sheep in the care of a keeper.

He very soon saw Goliath and heard all about him, but instead of being frightened and running away as the other Israelites did, he said he would fight the giant who was defying "the armies of the living God."

This annoyed his brothers very much, but they did not know that David was not trusting in his own strength, which would have been useless, but in the strength of the Lord of Hosts. Eventually, he was taken to King Saul who, after expressing many doubts as to David's ability to slay the giant, said, "Go, and the Lord be with thee," and dressed him in his own armour, which however David put off, as he was not used to it, and he went forth dressed in his shepherd's clothes. It may be remembered that Saul was a brave man, and that he was taller than any other Israelite "from the shoulders and upward," so we might think that he would have gone to fight Goliath, but this was not God's plan. David took five smooth stones from the brook, which he put in his wallet or bag, and armed only with these, a sling—very like a catapult—and his shepherd's staff, he went to meet Goliath. We can imagine how very indignant the giant was when he saw David coming towards him, in such a very unwarlike state. No wonder he asked David if he thought he was a dog, as he had come out with only sticks and stones to fight him. Of course, he never thought that he could be hurt by such things, but David, "strong in the strength that God supplied," told Goliath that the battle was the Lord's, and that the God whom he had defied would deliver him into his hands. You all know how this happened; the stone from David's sling hit the giant in the forehead, causing him to fall on his face, and then David killed him with his own

sword. David had no sword. This is a most thrilling story, is it not? The Philistines fled when they saw their champion was killed, and the Israelites pursued them and won a great victory.

Saul would not let David go back to his father, but we read that he was very jealous of him when he was praised for his great courage, and tried to kill him on two or three occasions. We read, too, that David behaved himself wisely; he was neither boastful nor proud.

We none of us are likely to have to kill a giant, but if we are soldiers of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall have an enemy more powerful even than Goliath, who was in the flesh and could be seen, and he could only have destroyed David's body had he killed him. Our enemy, Satan, is a spiritual one, whom we can never see, and who seeks to harm our soul, which will never die. We need spiritual weapons to fight this foe, and here are five, the number of stones that David had.

(1) *Prayer*. If we are to win the battle against Satan, we must pray for God's strength and grace; we cannot overcome temptation unless we have His help. We are told to "pray without ceasing," and whenever we are being tempted we can pray, wherever we are.

(2) *Faith*. We must believe that our prayers will be heard. In Hebrews, chapter 11, we read of many mighty deeds done by faith, and from that time right down to the present thousands and thousands of men and women have done valiantly "by faith."

(3) *Watchfulness*. Our enemy is always on the watch for any unguarded moment, and we must be watchful, too, in order that we may not be overcome by temptation.

(4) *Courage*. What a great deal of courage David had, and we often need a great deal too, to stand up for what we know is right.

(5) *Perseverance*. This is one of the most important things a Christian needs. It is sometimes very difficult to continue on the right path, and it is only by the Lord's help that we can do so.

B. B. DOMINEY.

The Young Match-Seller

IT was in Edinburgh about fifty years ago that a boy might have been seen selling matches near the Caledonian Station. It was a cold, wet night and a piercing east wind was blowing from the Firth of Forth.

Presently someone passed along who heard a voice saying, "Will you buy a box of matches, sir?" Scarcely looking from under his umbrella he said, "No, thank you, my boy."

"You might," the voice answered. Now hear what the gentleman says who heard the voice: "There was something in the soft plaintive way in which this was said which attracted my attention and impelled me to stop and speak to the boy. Looking at his pale, thin face, which bore unmistakable evidence of being often hungry, and his body poorly clad, I said, 'Why are you out so late on such a cold, wet night? You would be better at home.'"

"I have no hame," he answered.

"No home," I said. "Where are your father and mother?"

"They are both deid," he replied.

As I looked into that pale, pinched face, I felt a tear start to my eye—to me it told a tale of suffering and sorrow—and I said to him, "Would you like to die?"

"Na, I wouldna," he answered.

"How is that?" I said.

"Because I'm no saved," was his sad reply.

This answer was to me wholly unexpected, and yet one fraught with the deepest meaning.

After speaking a little while with him as to the way of salvation and the all-sufficiency of the work of Christ, I was compelled to leave him, as my train was almost due."

If the same question were put to you, reader, which was addressed to this boy, what would your answer be? "Would you like to die?" Are you saved?

ADAPTED BY A. S. I. L.

Another Little Talk About Faith

YOU will remember that the last time we were speaking of faith we finished with Abel in Hebrews, chapter 11. Let us now think about Enoch. Faith is a most wonderful thing to have in our souls, because it *brings God in*, therefore nothing is impossible. One thing is impossible and that is that we *cannot* please God without it. I hope each one of us will, without any more delay, enjoy what Enoch enjoyed as the result of his faith and his knowledge of God, namely, he *knew* that he was pleasing God each *day* and each *hour* of his life down here. The acceptance of the Lord Jesus as *my* Lord and *my* Saviour is the way into it.

Noah's faith believed what God said about the coming judgment on man's world of that day. As a picture for us he fled for refuge in Jesus—the ark. Also he was a warning to others for 120 years, but nobody had faith and, sad to say, the flood of God's holy judgment came and destroyed them all. Let *us*, then, take the warning that God's judgment is again coming on men of this present evil world, and our only sure means of escape is by personal faith in our Lord Jesus.

Abraham was marked by *obedience* when God called him to leave his home, and I do hope that each one of us will also, as believing on God and believing on Christ, *obey* the call of God to live and walk for Him in a world where even our school friends, many of them, often are determined not to listen to His call of love, but prefer to ignore Him and His Christ.

Now, dear children, we are not to be discouraged because others refuse the One we love, for God has a city for us of His own building! It is not bricks and stones and wood like men's cities, but it is the great company of all those who have put their personal faith in Christ, and who enjoy His love and the love of the blessed God as Father. None of us are too young to have our place in that city, and the time is not far off when everybody will see what God thinks and does for all those who love Him. I would ask you to read the 21st chapter of Revelation, verses 10 to 12, 22 to 27, especially remembering the last

verse. Let us then *embrace* the message of God's love and His promises, and *confess* that while we are of no importance in man's world, yet we have part in something very much better, even God's own great city.

CYRIL WEAVERS.

Questions of Jesus—
BELIEVE
YE THAT
I AM
ABLE TO
DO THIS?

(Matt. 9. 28.)

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GLEAMS OF LIGHT



"Not one of them is forgotten before God."

—Luke 12. 6.

Birds

No doubt many of our young readers are interested in birds. God has been pleased to create them, and they are one of the important and attractive features of living conditions on earth. At present they are becoming very active preparing for the nesting season. They are about to set up their "homes" and hatch their young, and along with these activities come their beautiful notes of song. How welcome are these notes after a long, bleak winter!

You will agree that we should cherish the birds and not ravage their nests and destroy their young. Alas! many lads engage in this very cruel practice, to the great distress of the parent birds. Naturally speaking, the earth would be much poorer without the birds, for they perform very great service in keeping down insect pests and certain vermin which would damage our food supplies.

When in the country recently the writer noticed, through the hedge, a large flock of about two hundred birds in a field, all close together, and busily engaged in searching for food. All at once, for some reason, they arose wing to wing and quickly disappeared. Their agility was remarkable, and there was not a single collision or casualty! One could not help thinking of the moment when the Lord Jesus comes. At the noise of the "shout," "the voice of the archangel" and "the trump of God" a vast number of persons will ascend together to meet the Lord in the air. First "the dead in Christ" are to be raised, and then those who are "alive and remain" shall be "caught up" together. (1 Thess. 4. 16, 17.) What a wonderful prospect!

Are we all ready for this great event? If not, we should be much concerned about it. How blessed it will be to meet the Lord in the air and to be for ever with Him! To be found in that glorious company needs preparation now. Do you know Jesus as your Saviour and Lord? Doubtless you have heard the glad tidings many times. "For God speaketh once, yea twice, yet man perceiveth it not," says Elihu to Job. (Job 33. 14-18.) Faith is needful and indis-

pensable if we are to be found among those to be caught up. "For by grace are ye saved *through faith*; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast." (Eph. 2. 8, 9.)

Newton Abbot.

J. F. GARLAND.

A Lad's Gift

"There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes; but what are they among so many?" (John 6. 9.)

A SHORT time ago we were thinking of a shepherd lad, David, who by the power of God slew the giant Goliath, and freed the Israelites from their enemies, the Philistines.

This time we are going to think for a little while of another lad, who by a very small gift was the means through the power of the Lord Jesus Christ of feeding a great multitude of people. This wonderful miracle is recorded in all four gospels, but we will keep to the account as given in the Gospel of John, chapter 6, verses 1-13. Turn it up and read it for yourselves.

We read that a great multitude had followed the Lord when they had seen the wonderful miracles He had performed. He, seeing the great crowd, said to one of His disciples, Philip, "Give ye them to eat," and we can understand how dismayed Philip was at this command. Humanly speaking it was impossible, and as he said, "Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little," and they had none at all. The Lord only said this to test Philip's faith, for "He himself knew what he would do." (Ver. 6.)

Then another disciple, Andrew, comes forward and tells the Lord, "There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes, but what are they among so many?" What, indeed! Even if the loaves had been like those we use every day they would have been no use among so many, but they were just little flat cakes about the size of our

buns, which presumably the lad had brought for his own lunch. It is to be noted that Andrew did not go back to ask this lad if he would give up his own food, so he must have known beforehand that he would be willing to do so. It is a very great thing to be *ready* to serve, if the need arises.

The Lord commanded the disciples, "Make the men sit down." He was thoughtful for their bodily comfort. He knew that they were tired. We are told that there was much grass in that place, which made it much pleasanter to sit on. Then the Lord took the bread, and after He had given thanks for it, He handed it to His disciples, who took it round to the multitude. Can you not picture these people sitting there, not believing that there could possibly be enough for them all, and anxiously watching as the disciples went back to the Lord many times for fresh supplies, which they never failed to receive? The lad must have gazed in wonderment to see his little store of food being turned into such a very large quantity.

You all know how all these people were given sufficient food and then, after they were all "filled," there were still twelve baskets full of fragments left over. What a wonderful miracle! We may be sure the lad never forgot it, neither did the multitude who had been fed, nor the disciples who had seen their Master perform such a mighty work.

As we have said before, the lad was willing to give up the little he had, and although we may only have very little, we can give it to the Lord. He will accept it and use it, perhaps in a way quite unthought of by us. The name of the lad had never been known, but his action has been remembered all these hundreds of years, and we are told that even "a cup of cold water" given to someone in need "shall in no wise lose its reward." In our country, at any rate, this would be a very small thing to give, but in Eastern lands it might be a great gift. We must never do a kind action in the hope of getting a reward; that would spoil the action altogether. But the Lord will take count of what we give, if we do it as unto Him, not for the praise of men.

The Lord could have fed this great multitude

without any human help, but He chose to use His disciples; and still to-day He uses His servants to preach the gospel and work for Him in many ways.

We read, in connection with feeding the multitude, that "He himself knew what he would do." You boys and girls have very few troubles or cares, and we are glad that this is so, for we want you to be happy and carefree. Any little worries you may have your parents or friends soon put right for you, but grown-up people sometimes have very big difficulties to meet, and like the disciples can see no way of meeting them. But if they belong to the Lord and trust Him, He always knows what He will do, and will show them a way out.

There are two other lessons that boys and girls may learn from the account of this miracle. One is, do not waste food; and the other, do not forget to thank God for all His good gifts to you. The Lord Himself gave thanks for the bread.

"The wise may bring their learning,
The rich may bring their wealth,
And some may bring their greatness,
And some bring strength and health;
We, too, would bring our treasures
To offer to the King:
We have no wealth or learning;
What shall we children bring?

We'll bring the little duties
We have to do each day;
We'll try our best to please Him.
At home, at school, at play;
And better are these treasures
To offer to our King,
Than richest gifts without them;
And these a child can bring."

Worthing.

B. B. DOMINEY.

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Two School Girls

C AND M. were two school girls. M. had just lately confessed the Lord Jesus as her Saviour, and C. wrote her saying:

"Dear M., I am sorry we were interrupted the last time I saw you, as I was going to tell you about my conversion. Isn't it strange that we should be so slow in speaking about these things? In the Spring of 1917 I believed in the forgiveness of my sins. It was just after my brother and sister were converted, and I thought to myself: what if Jesus should come and call all our family away and leave me with no one, and no hope; so I trusted then and there. But I was never quite happy until at one meeting the following hymn was given out:

"Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come!

"The speaker said we should not sing it unless we meant it. As I knew my sins forgiven, I sang it; and when I had sung, 'O Lamb of God, I come,' I felt doubly assured that I was His and He was mine.

"Then, of course, the trouble is telling people. I just had to jerk it out, but it added greatly to my happiness. I felt I could not, and would not, go back on it. There is a verse (Rom. 10. 9) which says, 'That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth, the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.' This verse helped me greatly, as I learned from it that I was not properly saved until I confessed. I was very glad, dear M., when you told me that you also had decided, as we can now help each other."

That letter was written more than thirty years ago. The two girls are still helpers together, seeking to please the Lord Jesus on the road that leads to God and to glory.

Inverurie.

M. C.

A Mother's Anxiety

A HEART-BROKEN mother, who lived not very far from the writer, had recently lost her purse containing a small sum of money. Her little boy had died about a year before, and it was not the money she missed so much, although she was poor, but what the purse contained, which was a blond curl from the little boy's head. In her own words she said, "It is all I have or ever will have. Surely it will be returned to me. I wish I could offer a reward, but I am too poor." You see, there was something in the purse that was more precious to her than money, and that was the little curl. Dear boys and girls, I would like to suggest to you that God has a priceless gift to offer you, even the gift of His beloved Son.

There are three great gifts spoken of in the Bible. The gift of God's Son, which is the greatest gift of all. Then God has given the earth to men. We read, "The heavens, even the heavens, are the Lord's: but the earth hath he given to the children of men." That was indeed a great matter. Then another great gift is that of the Spirit of God, which dwells in all who have accepted in faith the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour. God has given them His Spirit. This is greater in value than any earthly treasure.

Believing mothers can enter into the feelings of God with regard to their children; sympathetically and constantly be before Him about them in prayer. But there may be some mothers who read this touching story, and whilst like a mother they can sympathize, they do not know the Lord Jesus for themselves, and, therefore, are not able to kneel down with their children in prayer to God. May every mother know the Lord Jesus for herself, so that she can tell her children about something more precious than gold, and be able to sing:

Into my heart, into my heart,
Come into my heart, Lord Jesus;
Come in to-day, come in to stay,
Come into my heart, Lord Jesus.

E. I. EMERSON.

Questions of Jesus—

LOVEST
THOU ME
MORE THAN
THESE?

(John 21. 15.)

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GLEAMS OF LIGHT



Her Treasured Possession

Only One Door

THERE is one door, and only one! Jesus said, "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved." (John 10. 9.) There may be many boys and girls seeking to enter in by climbing up some other way. Although the door is wide open for you to enter in, yet it is possible you may be:

"Close to the door, and the door open wide,
Close to the portal, but not inside."

A little boy whom I know asked one of his schoolmates if he were a Christian, to which he replied, "Yes." Then he asked him if he feared God, and he said "No." There are many men and women, boys and girls, who think because they live in a so-called Christian country, they must be Christians. But a Christian is one who has believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, having discovered he was unfit for His holy presence, and that he could not expect to go to heaven apart from the finished work of Christ upon the cross.

You will remember when Jesus was on earth, He said to the Pharisees, "If ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come." Not only does this apply to Pharisees, but to all who are strangers to God and His grace. Where Jesus is they cannot go, unless their sins are forgiven, and they are washed in the Saviour's blood. So while the door is open and Jesus stands with outstretched arms, willing to welcome you to Him, won't you come believing? For the door may soon close, and you, if still unsaved, will be on the outside because you refused to come. Remember, there is:

"One door and only one,
And yet its sides are two,
Outside and inside;
On which side are you?"

May you be able to tell Jesus, "I want to be on the inside."

Indianapolis.

E. I. EMERSON.

The Hawk

ONE day I was walking across a meadow in which there was a small valley, or dip, straight ahead. In my line of sight, and focused against the trees and hedge behind, I saw a stationary object fluttering. It was a hawk, so I knew it was poised in mid-air, though perfectly still except for the motion of its wings. Yet it was so low, it looked, at the first glance, as if perched on a branch.

Now, I thought, what an object-lesson! All below that hawk, in a wide circle on the grass, there was mortal terror for all small creatures such as vole or fieldmouse; yet all around so perfectly quiet and peaceful and sunny, and all above, too. Not that the hawk made a sound. Its complete silence is part of its tactics, but I knew well it could scrutinize the small objects below, ready for a dive. No doubt many have seen and heard the strange panic, distress and rush for shelter in a poultry-pen, when a hawk comes over. Did ever fowls or chicks hurry so fast to shelter, with a united, subdued moan like a cry of despair. Even mother-hen had hardly time to give her warning note first.

Now David knew what it was to shelter. For a time he hid in the Cave of Adullam. No doubt he remembered how chicks take shelter under the wings of mother-hen. So he said, "I will take refuge in the covert of thy wings." (Psa. 61. 4.) But David more often speaks of the shadow of God's wings, as in Psalm 57, which he wrote in the cave. "In the shadow of thy wings do I take refuge, until the calamities be overpast." (Psa. 57. 1.) David, we understand, did not forget, too, to pray to God in the cave, and he had confidence that his prayer would be answered. He also sang in the cave, it seems. "He will send from the heavens and save me. . . . God hath sent forth his lovingkindness and his truth." (Psa. 57. 3.)

We may learn from these things to keep near to Jesus; under the cover of His protection. The above verse seems to be just the opposite to the work of the hawk. God sends from heaven to save; the hawk poises itself in the air for a swoop of destruction.

The hawk was not allowed to be eaten by Israel under the law, but to be had in abomination. It may remind us of the power of evil and spiritual wickedness in the heavenlies. Although Israel were to have this bird in abomination, yet Holy Scriptures uses it in Job 39. 26 to draw attention to the wisdom of the Creator in endowing it with its remarkable power of flight; and probably in the present sinful condition of things God may overrule even the destructive power of the hawk to help reduce small creatures that would devour the crops.

J. L. M.

My Neighbour

Oh! the wonderful grace,
So rich and so free,
Of Jesus, my Saviour,
In dying for me.
Enduring the judgment :
Despising the shame—
My song is of Jesus :
How sweet is His name!

The priest and the Levite
Have passed on their way;
For robbed of my virtue,
I nothing could pay.
But Jesus He loved me,
He came all the way,
Right down from the Glory
To just where I lay.

My sin was my sickness—
Sore wounds nought could stay :
But Jesus drew near me
Just there where I lay.
His touch was my healing—
And nothing to pay—
His bindings consoled me
In love's sweetest way.

He now has provided
A home all complete;
A guide for the journey
And all that is meet.
No need now to wander
(If I watch and pray)
For Jesus still loves me
And goes all the way.

And now as I'm carried
My journey along,
My Guide is my comfort,
My Saviour my song.
And often I ponder
The oil and the wine,
With blessed assurance
That Jesus is mine.

"When I come again"—
The hope is so sweet:
'Tis Jesus my Saviour,
In glory I'll meet.
"Two pence" He has left me—
His word and His care—
Until He shall take me,
His glory to share.

C. R. TURNER.

A Matter of Cost

How the boys and girls love to look into the shop windows where all kinds of toys are displayed for sale, and then to think of the possibility that daddy might buy some particular toy that has taken their fancy. How disappointed they would be *if, on their asking for it, they were told it would cost too much*; for you see, none of these lovely toys can be had for nothing. But I can fancy your delight, as one of these children, if one day daddy brought home just the one you had set your mind upon. In his love he had paid the price asked for it; and while it had thus cost him some sacrifice, *you*

have got it *freely*. I am sure you would like to show him a little of *your* love in return, would you not?

Now I want to remind you that there is something you have much more need of than toys to play with; something, too, that no daddy can buy for his child; yet it is offered to you *freely*, although it cost more to obtain for you than any human mind could reckon up. It is the conscious knowledge of the forgiveness of your sins by the God against whom you have committed them. Because you had "nothing to pay," and a great price was needed, God in His great love for you sent Jesus His own Son to bear all the punishment that was due to you on account of your sins. On Calvary's cross His precious blood was shed, and His life given up as He died there in your stead. What a cost indeed to the blessed God—what a cost to Jesus—but all this was in order that *you* might be forgiven *freely*! All that is needed on your part is to confess that you are a guilty sinner, and to put your trust in Jesus who died for you. God then reckons you as forgiven, makes you know from that moment you are His child, and He will have you in glory with Jesus, your Saviour, for all eternity.

Then just as the child in our illustration responds by loving daddy in return for the love expressed in the gift of the toy, so the consciousness of the love that gave Jesus to pay such a price that you might be forgiven, will secure in your heart an answer to His love, and you will seek to please Him who has so loved you.

Stafford.

P. A. FARRANT.

Faithful and Just

IT is many years ago now that a devoted servant of God told of how the Lord Jesus saved his soul. He was then living in the great South American country of Brazil. One day, while on a journey, he met with an accident; but by an act of mercy on the part of the blessed God, instead of

being dragged to death by an excited horse, he escaped all injury apart from being badly shaken. On his way home he seriously asked himself a question which each one of us would do well to ask ourselves, "Had I been dragged to death, I wonder where my soul would be now?" His conscience replied, "In Hell." Of course, this made him think very seriously of his soul, and of where he would spend eternity. Every one of us also has to face the same important question, and I hope we shall face it in the same honest way that he did.

Before he reached his home he met a Christian friend, and of course he had to tell him how troubled he was. Now the little conversation that followed is the part that I hope we all will take great notice of, especially if the Lord Jesus has not yet become our personal Saviour and Lord. The Christian friend, taking from his pocket a copy of the New Testament, asked:

"Do you believe that this is God's word?"

"Yes; I never for one moment have doubted it," was the reply.

"Thank God for that! Now tell me, do you believe that God is faithful and just?"

This time his friend looked in surprise as he answered, "Of course I do."

The Mr. Y., the happy believer, looking at him full in the face, said (and I hope each reader will put his or her name in here), "Then if you have no knowledge of the forgiveness of sins, there is only one person in the world to blame, and that is F. G." (this being the name of the troubled man). Then he continued, "For here it says, 'if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.'"

How simple is God's way of blessing men. Have we each one taken Him at His word? If not, we beseech you to do so right away, for "now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." (2 Cor. 6. 2.)

Gosport.

C. E. WEAVERS.

Questions of Jesus—

WHY
WEEPEST
THOU?
WHOM
SEEKEST
THOU?

(John 20. 15.)

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GLEAMS OF LIGHT



The Cobbler

Do It Now! or the Story of the Old Cobbler

THE first three words above have been carved by a red-hot poker into a piece of wood which now stands on the mantelpiece in my dining room, reminding me at all times of the value of the present moment. If you, dear boy or girl, are asked by your mother or father to do some little thing, always do it at once, and how much trouble this will save. How much we need to remember that God also expects immediate obedience to His will, so that we are not to run away like Jonah did when asked by God to go and preach to the people of Nineveh. You can read this story in the book of Jonah in the Old Testament.

Some years ago I read of a dear old man who did what God asked him to do *at once*. Had he waited one minute longer he would have been too late and lost the joy of knowing that he had been used by God to bring comfort to some of His children. A Christian family had used up their last penny and had nothing in the house for dinner. An old cobbler *was mending shoes in an underground cellar*. He never went out during the day as he was too busy, but took his work home at night. On this day, however, he had an impression that he should go to see the family of whom we have spoken; and that he should go without delay. Reaching the street above his workshop, he was about to turn a corner when a gentleman met him hurrying in the opposite direction in the course of his business. Inquiring where the old man was going at that time of the day, and learning of his mission, he put his hand into his pocket and drawing out five shillings said, "Please give this to them, will you?"

How the Lord loves to use His own, and what a joy to be ready immediately at His bidding—"Do it now."

Ilfracombe.

E. A. PONTIN.

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The Dove

ALL four evangelists record one of the most beautiful and divinely profound incidents in the New Testament gospels. That is the descent of the Holy Spirit as a dove upon Jesus, after His baptism. "And he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him." (Matt. 3. 16.)

How does a dove descend? It seems to be a gradual hovering descent if it wishes to rest or alight. Clearly it does not swoop like an eagle for its prey. It is a peaceful bird and desires rest for the sole of its foot as we read in Genesis chapter 8, whereas the raven goes to and fro in search of its food. The dove is also well disposed towards man as seen in the same chapter, when, as released by Noah from the ark it returns to him again on each occasion: the second time bringing with it evidence of new life upon the earth.

When a dove descends, then, especially near to or upon anyone, it has a peaceful, friendly motive, its descent being gradual and even. We know there are "tumbler pigeons" of the same family as the dove, but they are an exception. Even that sweet songster, the lark, though able to maintain its position in the air by fluttering, will often drop down by short falls, and ascend again. The Lord Jesus said he saw Satan *fall* out of heaven like lightning. (Luke 10. 18.) That was a swift, profound *fall*.

Jesus Himself had descended from heaven, as He tells us in John 6. 38; but there was nothing of a fall in this blessed descent of love. What lowly grace marked Him in His movements here amongst men, and after He had risen from the dead and appeared to His disciples, twice over He says to them "Peace be unto you." (John 20. 19-21.) Then, too, we must ever remember that He "made peace through the blood of his cross." (Col. 1. 20.) May you, dear young reader, know what it is to have His peace filling your heart through faith in His name, and the reception of the Holy Spirit sent down from heaven.

J. L. M.

“Grandmama’s Letters”

(No. 1)

(Written at the age of 78)

MY DEAR GRANDCHILDREN,—

Having so often been asked by you all “Please, Grannie, tell us a story,” I thought I would write a few letters telling you a true story in each.

When a very little girl I used to visit the poor, and distribute tracts with my dear mother; thus I was trained to care for others, and at the early age of twelve years I was led to see my lost state as a sinner, and to accept Christ as my Saviour, so that because He loved me, and “we love him, because he first loved us,” it was not only a pleasure to go with my dear mother, but a joy to work for the One who gave Himself for me, and although I am now an old lady I can say still “’Tis sweet to work for Jesus.” We do not work for those whom we love to ensure their love, but because we love them, and it is a privilege to serve them. The Lord Jesus does not need our service, but tells us in the word—“I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done unto you.” (John 13-15. 1 Peter 2. 21.) One day at the dinner table I heard my mother say to the governess, “Poor Mr. — is dying, and I fear he is not saved.” Young as I was, I remember praying that he might not die until he was saved; when at school I could not rest or forget about him, so in the middle of lessons I asked my governess to allow me to be absent for a little while; then I hastened off to the cottage. When the door was opened, I heard a feeble voice, “That’s my little Miss E. [for he knew my voice], tell her to come in.” I went up to his bed and said, “My mother says you are dying, Mr. —, and are not saved.” “No, no, I am not saved, do pray for me.” I kneeled by his bed at once and asked God for Christ’s sake to save him. He cried out, “I am a sinner, O God, save me for Christ’s sake, Amen.” O the Precious Blood! When I arose from my knees, he said, “Oh! Missy, I’m saved, I’m saved. She will be glad; thank her for

giving me tracts." When I returned home and told my dear mother the joyful news she said, "I am glad to hear this, dear, but come at once with me," and taking me into the kitchen outside the house, she quickly undressed me, put me in a bath, and to my astonishment burned all my clothes, saying, "You must be kept in a room for a fortnight, away from all but myself, as this poor man has smallpox." My Master who gave me the message of love for him, took care of my body, and no harm befell me or the others. Had I known I should have asked my mother's permission before going, but she had taught me to care for others and I thought she would be glad. We must not go *unsent*, my dear grandchildren, but are taken care of by God when doing His will. Mr. — died soon after I left the cottage.

I am, my dear grandchildren,

Your Loving Grandma.

Guildford.

Contributed by E. W. HAWGOOD.

God will Take Care of Baby

A BEAUTIFUL infant had been taught to say (and it could say little else), "God will take care of baby." It was seized with a dangerous illness, and at last lay as if dead. The loving mother wept aloud, when once more the little creature opened its eyes, looked lovingly at its mother's face, and in a faint voice said, "God will take care of baby." The sweet voice had hardly ceased when the infant spirit was in heaven.

This simple incident was another example of the words of Jesus when the stern disciples would have driven them back: "Suffer the children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God." Jesus, dear boys and girls, was once a child Himself, as He lay in a manger. What humble circumstances He was found in when here. Soft and tender were His feelings even toward children. He could take them up in His arms and bless them. In all His life of service, serving His God and Father, He found time even for the children. What lowliness, what condescending love and grace marked Him here.

Then onward to Calvary's cross He wended His way to suffer, bleed and die, that you and I might live with Him forever. However young you may be, Jesus wants you for Himself. May you be persuaded to come to Him now.

“ Only come believing,
He will save thee now :
He has waited all thy day,
Why waitest thou? ”

Indianapolis.

E. I. EMERSON.

“ *The Days of Thy Youth* ”

“ Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth while the evil days come not.”

(Ecclesiastes 12. 1.)

THESE words were spoken by King Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, so are well worth our attention.

You boys and girls know that you are now in “ the days of thy youth.” Some of you think it will be very nice to be grown up, but when you are older, you will find that you no longer enjoy many happy things which were yours in your youth. Solomon says: “ Remember ... in the days of thy youth ” and they are most certainly the best for learning and remembering, for then your minds are free from cares of any sort, which so often occupy the thoughts of older people, and as we said the other day, we are very happy to think that your lives are care-free while you are young. This being so, you can retain what you learn much more easily and you will perhaps be surprised when you are older to find how many things which you learnt when you were young still remain in your memory. Your parents and other grown-up friends will confirm this statement, I am sure.

Solomon says, “ Remember now thy *Creator*.” He is of course referring to God, the Creator of all things, and we must always remember Him as this, but we have something far more precious by which to remember Him, which Solomon never had, for we

know Him as our loving, heavenly Father, who loved us so much that He sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, down to earth to suffer and die for us (John 3. 16). I would urge you to remember this in "the days of thy youth," to ask that your sins may be forgiven for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ, who loved us and gave Himself for us, and then seek His grace to follow Him. You will find it is the very greatest help to begin to be a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ while you are young and still at home, where your parents and friends will shield you from temptation and help you to do the right. Later on, many of you will have to leave home and may perhaps have to work with people who do not love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ, and who may ask you to do things that you have never been tempted to do at home.

If you have already taken your stand as a Christian and say "No" the first time you are tempted, it will be much easier to say it the next time, and people will soon stop asking you if you always refuse their invitations; also, if you are the Lord's, you will find friends amongst His followers, who will be ready to help and advise you.

The Lord is always ready to accept repentant sinners, no matter how old they are, but if you give yourselves to Him when you are young and strong, you will be able to do so much more for Him than if you wait until you are old. Besides which, do you not think it will be very ungrateful to spend all the best days of your life in the service of the world, and then only have the end of your life to give to the Lord, when you may be able only to give Him very little service?

"I would not give the world my heart,

And then profess Thy love;

I would not feel my strength depart,

And then Thy service prove.

O choose me in my golden time,

In my dear joys have part;

For Thee the glory of my prime,

The fulness of my heart!"

Worthing.

B. B. DOMINEY.

Questions of Jesus—

HOW IS
IT
THAT
YE HAVE
NO
FAITH?

(Mark 4. 40.)

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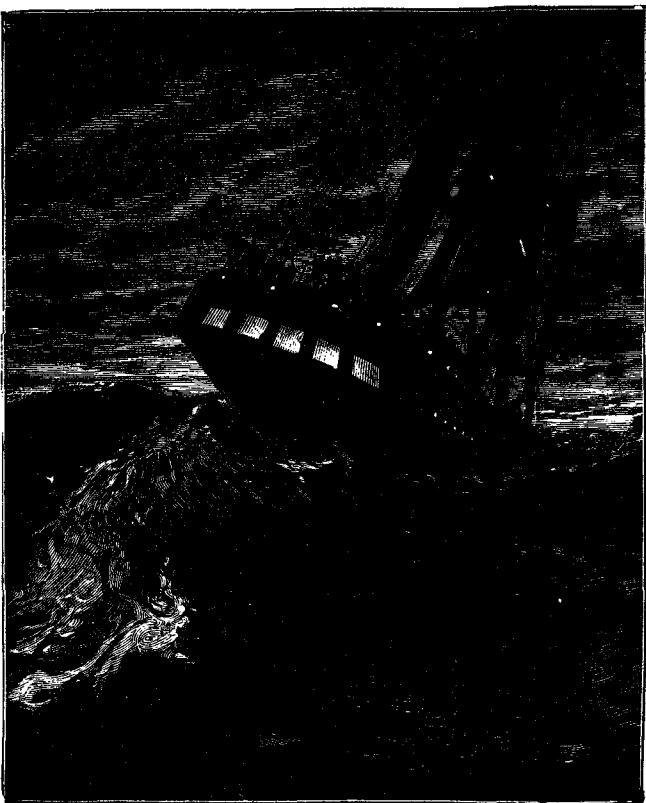
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August, 1951

GLEAMS OF LIGHT



Stormy Winds

A Centenarian's Hope

AN old sailor had reached his 102nd birthday, and received many visitors and congratulatory messages. Though blind and partially deaf, he still possessed a clear memory and unfaltering voice. One of his visitors was a ship's captain who was amazed at his vigorous recitation of the following verse, which he uttered with relish:

Though stormy winds and furious gales
Have tossed me to and fro,
In spite of all, by God's decree
I "harbour" here below;
Where I do now at anchor lie
With many of our Fleet,
Yet once again I must set sail
My Saviour, Christ, to meet.

This remarkable old man evidently had a "sure and certain hope" in Christ. What an immense and indispensable feature is hope! The psalmist could say, "Happy is he . . . whose hope is in the Lord his God." (Psalm 146. 5.) The Bible speaks much about hope. Alas, many have no hope beyond this world! What a moral tragedy! The First Epistle to the Corinthians, chapter 15 and verse 19 reads, "If in this life only we have hope . . . we are of all men most miserable." Then in Ephesians 2. 12, "having no hope, and without God in the world." Never before perhaps, has hope (hope in God) been more urgently needed than at the present time.

"Neither is there salvation [hope] in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4. 12.) "Full assurance of hope." (Heb. 6. 11.)

What a glorious thing hope is and it is available to all who believe in Christ. "... Lord Jesus Christ, our hope." (1 Tim. 1. 1.)

Newton Abbot.

J. F. GARLAND.

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The Grandeur of Creation and the Glory of Redemption

I STOOD not long ago by the bay in one of the tropical parts of the United States of America, admiring the beautiful palm trees and the grandeur with which they were arrayed. Close by were the placid waters which seemed only to add to the magnificence of the surroundings, the bay-front behind me adding to its splendour—its trees and foliage and beauty.

As I sat in deep thought, gazing upon all this, I wondered in amazement at the sharp contrast and glare and glamour of the gay city in the not far distance. One thought of God's handiwork and its attraction and in the light of this the gay lights of the city had but little meaning.

I wonder if my youthful readers have ever stopped to consider as they pass along the highways and countrysides of the wonders and greatness of God's power. We are familiar with the passing of time, but how much are our thoughts centred upon the blessed God, who has brought us into being, and not only so, but who desires on the ground of redemption that we might know Him as a Saviour God, and have our sins forgiven, and thus peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ. You can have it at this moment. Do not delay, for time is short, but come now.

Yet another scene opened out to my view. A beautiful sunset encircled by a golden hue, and, as I stood beholding its beauty for a few moments, I remembered that I had seen beautiful landscape paintings and had admired them, but a thought came over me, no painter's brush could do justice to such beauty. I thought again what His hand had planned and was reminded of the words of the poet:

Those mighty orbs proclaim His power,
Their motions speak His skill,
And on the wings of every hour
We read His patience still.

Part of His Name divinely stands
On every work impressed,
Each is the labour of His hands,
By each His power confessed.

But when we view His strange design
To save rebellious worms,
There mercy and compassion join
In their divinest forms.

May my young friends know this glorious Person,
not only for what He has done for us, but what He
can be to us.

Indianapolis.

E. I. EMERSON.

A Boy at Sea

A SERVANT of the Lord was giving an address in a north-east town. His subject on this occasion was "Manhood." He said a baby may cry if you touch it, a child will play with its toys and fight about them, a boy may take an oar in the harbour, but it needs a man to go to sea.

Sometime after there was an apt illustration of this in a boy who boarded a boat in the harbour of another coast town. He evidently thought it would be nice to go out to sea a little bit and come back again; but the winds and the waves were too much for him and he was carried out to sea and lost sight of for three days. He was seasick, and had nothing to eat, so he was a very exhausted boy indeed when eventually picked up by a trawler. The preacher was right when he said: "It needs a man to go to sea."

The Apostle Paul exhorted the Corinthians saying, "Quit you like men, be strong," but as Christians we can only be strong in the strength which God through His Holy Spirit supplies: and "they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." (Isaiah 40. 31.)

Inverurie.

M. C.

“Grandmama’s Letters”

(No. 2)

1896 A.D.

MY DEAR GRANDCHILDREN,—

When I was a girl we had a servant who lived with my parents eighteen years, but was not a Christian, though much valued for her faithful service. My dear Father gave her two nice rooms to live in near our home rent free. I often visited her. When I was about fourteen years old I said to her one day, “Betty, if you were to die to-day,” she was very ill, “would you go to the Lord Jesus?” “No, Miss Beckie, I am not ready to die.” I said, “Come to Jesus as a lost sinner, He will save you, He died for sinners.” “I’ll think about it, Missie,” she replied. I left her telling her if it was the middle of the night and she was unhappy because of her sins, if she sent for me I would come, and again tell her of the love of Jesus, who came to seek and save the lost. A few days later, about twelve midnight, my Mother came to my bedside and awoke me saying, “Old Betty has been taken worse, my dear, and has sent for you.” I quickly dressed and was taken to her bedside, and oh, I shall never forget the look of anguish on her face, as she said, “I am going to die, Miss Beckie, and am not ready.” I said, “Dear Betty, Jesus shed His precious blood; believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.” “How can I go to Him, dear, pray for poor me.” I did so, and when I again looked on her face, she was smiling, and said, “I think He died for me.” “He did,” I replied. “I believe, and am happy,” she answered.

In a few days she passed away. My parents and we children, to whom this faithful servant had been so kind, followed her body to the grave rejoicing that she had rested on the finished work of Christ, and that we should meet her again in that place the Lord Jesus has gone to prepare for all who are washed and forgiven. With love, I remain, my dear Grandchildren,

YOUR LOVING GRANDMOTHER.

Guildford.

Contributed by E. W. HAWGOOD.

“The Father Loveth the Son”

(John 3. 35.)

The Father loves the Son,
Who always pleased Him here;
Who said, “Thy will be done,”
And held Himself not dear,
But to this earth obedient came,
And ever glorified His name.

Proof of that love was given,
Acceptance Jesus found,
When, lo, a voice from heaven
Was heard by those around,
And of that voice they were afraid,
As God His proclamation made.

But Jesus calmed their fear,
They knew His touch, His voice,
And now 'tis just as clear,
He bids us to rejoice;
For God who filled their hearts with dread,
Poured all His wrath on Jesu's head.

Yes, Jesus bore it all.
There was no other way
To remedy man's fall,
So He the Victim lay,
And having met righteous demands
All things were put into His hands.

How wonderful it is!
How rich indeed the thought,
That all the saints are His
Through deepest suff'rings brought,
And this was in the Father's mind
When Christ came to redeem mankind.

His Spirit He doth give,
To fill with peace within,
That we might ever live
Free from the law of sin:
As children now we are brought nigh,
Whereby we “Abba, Father,” cry.

Soon to be called above,
We wait in hope of this;
There all is light and love,
And everlasting bliss;
As sons with Him who made us free,
And like Him we shall ever be.

B. L. TAYLOR.

A Scots Shepherd

WE read in Isaiah 40. 11 about the Lord saying that He shall feed His flock like a shepherd: He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom.

I read lately about an old Scottish shepherd who at one time went each winter with a small flock of sheep to graze on a golf course north of London. In April he had to take his flock to Euston and entrain them back to Scotland. This he usually did early in the morning before there was much traffic: but one year he was late in the morning to reach Euston Road. The thunder of the traffic frightened the sheep; the two collie dogs barked in vain to round up stragglers. The old shepherd smiled though he was weary: he picked up the one ailing lamb, looked into its wistful April eyes, showed it to its mother, and walked slowly ahead toward the entrance to the goods station. Every sheep followed him; the collies were the happy rearguard; he was a good shepherd and all went well.

If you read the tenth chapter of John's Gospel you will find a good deal about the Good Shepherd. Twice over Jesus says, "I am the good shepherd." He also says "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture." The shepherd of that little flock of sheep at Euston station knew that there were green pastures awaiting his sheep in Scotland. We would direct our readers to Jesus, the Good Shepherd who is ever ready to receive all who will come to Him: and He shall lead them into green pastures, and unto living fountains of waters.

Inverurie.

M. C.

Questions of Jesus—

SAYEST
THOU
THIS THING
OF
THYSELF?

(John 18. 34.)

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GLEAMS OF LIGHT



A Family Gathering

Violet's Little Visitor

THIS is not exactly a story, but you may like to hear about Violet and her little visitor. She was one day feeling very troubled and sorrowful. Now in the forty-sixth Psalm we read that "God is . . . a very present help in trouble." It is just any kind of trouble, great or small. In any trouble help can be found in God, who can give comfort to our hearts and send us help in our time of need. Jesus is God, and He said to all who labour (or work) to find rest for their souls, or are heavy laden with sins and sorrows, "Come unto me . . . and I will give you rest." (Matt. 11. 28.)

Little Violet knew about the love of Jesus, and in her heart He had already found a place, although she was quite young, and she could say, "I love the Saviour." She knew that He had died so that all who believe, or trust in Him, may have their sins forgiven, cleansed away through His precious blood, and find peace and rest in their souls and hearts. On this day of her trouble, Violet was sitting alone in a room in the house where she lived with her father, mother, brother and three sisters. In the garden plenty of plain little chirping sparrows were to be seen and heard. They are often despised, but the Lord does not despise the little plain sparrows, but cares for them as well as for the more beautiful birds.

He even likens Himself to a sparrow, as we read in the psalm where it is written, "I . . . am as a sparrow alone upon the housetop" (Ps. 102. 7)—outside the house; just think of it! Not wanted in the house of Israel; not wanted in the world! Yes, when Jesus was here upon the earth He spoke about the sparrows. He said that not one of them falls to the ground, which means dies, without God our Father: so that if we believe in Jesus, we ought never to be afraid because, as Jesus said to His disciples, "Ye are of more value than many sparrows." (Matt. 10. 31.) If God knows when even a sparrow dies, how much must He care for His children! You remember that He knew the first-born of every beast in Egypt and the Land of Goshen, as well as the first-born of all

the people (the males), from the King to the simplest person in the country. How marvellous that was!

God knows about each bird and each beast on the earth. How kind then we all should be to them, for He made them all, and He says that "A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast." (Prov. 12. 10.) That means those who love and fear to displease God will be kind to their animals, and try to make them happy while they are alive. God sees everything, all animals included, and "His eyes behold . . . the children of men." (Ps. 11. 4.) All the children of black men as well as of white men; all the people in the world of every race and nation; and He tells us they are all made by Him "of one blood," although they may now look different in the various parts of the world. He sees them all, and knows all about each one.

We cannot see God, but He can always see us, and hear us, as we have said, and He knows our thoughts. He knows what we think when no one else does. Satan can see and hear us, but he does not know our hearts. God only knows our hearts, and He says, "I . . . search the heart." (2 Chron. 6. 30; Jer. 17. 10.) Are you glad that only God knows your heart, and that only He can search it? Do you like to say, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting"? (Ps. 139. 23.)

(To be continued, God willing.)

Tysoe.

E. ROBINSON.

A Widow-Woman's Gift

"And the word of the Lord came unto him [Elijah], saying, Arise, get thee to Zarephath . . . and dwell there; behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee." (I Kings 17. 8, 9.)

READ the beginning of this chapter for yourselves and learn why Elijah had had to flee for his life.

A short time ago we were thinking of the gift of his small store of food made to the Lord Jesus Christ by a lad, which was used by Him to feed a great

multitude. Now let us think of the gift made by a poor widow woman to the prophet Elijah, when she had scarcely anything left to feed herself and her son. Humanly speaking it would seem very selfish of the prophet to ask this poor woman for food when she told him she only had a handful of meal, probably ground corn, and a small quantity of oil in a cruse, with which she was going to make a cake of bread for herself and her son, after which she expected they would die from starvation.

It would indeed have been selfish of Elijah to make such a request, had he not been told of God to go to this widow woman whom He had commanded to feed him, and it was because the woman had been "commanded" of God that she was willing to share what she had thought was to be her last meal with the prophet.

Elijah's faith in God was very great, otherwise a handful of meal and a little oil would have seemed a very small amount upon which the widow woman was to sustain him. The woman did not belong to the people of Israel and did not worship their God, but He had chosen her to carry out His plan for keeping alive His faithful servant in the time of famine, and she did as she was commanded. It is a wonderful story of the way God provided for Elijah, and also for the widow and her son, for "many days"; probably about a year.

We must notice that we are not told that the barrel was ever *full of* flour or that the cruse was ever *filled* with oil: all that we read is that the meal and oil "wasted not", which presumably means that there was always some left, but never enough to make it unnecessary for Elijah to have great faith in God. God has never promised to give us so much all at once that we shall never need to trust Him for the future. You will remember that when He fed the Israelites with manna in the wilderness, they had to gather it *every morning*, with the exception of the sixth day, when they were allowed to gather a double quantity in order that they might rest on the seventh day, the sabbath of the Lord God.

The Lord Jesus Christ in His pattern prayer for His disciples, taught them to say, "Give us this day

our *daily* bread," and we read in Lamentations 3, 22, 23, "His compassions fail not. They are new every morning." And He would have us start each day by asking Him to supply our need just for that one day. In spiritual things we especially need to look to Him day by day. "As thy *day* so shall thy strength be."

From this story of Elijah and the widow-woman, we learn that if we have faith in the Lord, He will always supply all our need. "The Lord will provide," even when things do not look very hopeful from a human point of view, as was the case with this widow, when Elijah asked her for some food, yet he was fed for many days, and we need never fear. "I will trust, and not be afraid."

"His saints what is fitting
Will ne'er be denied,
So long as 'tis written
The Lord will provide"

B. B. DOMINEY.

"Grandmama's Letters"

(No. 3)

1896 A.D.

MY DEAR GRANDCHILDREN,—

I again take up my pen to write a few lines to you. I have been thinking of a poor man who went to the battlefield instead of my dear Father. Altho' he was handsomely paid to do so, still he risked his life for another. I had eleven brothers and sisters, and we were *all* taught to care for and value this good man for going into danger to save our Father. We often went to visit him, and liked to look at the medals he wore and had won for bravery. I am not sure of his conversion, but this fact, my dear grandchildren, reminded me of *One* who willingly died in our stead, and paid a debt we never could have done, and thus became *our* Saviour and Deliverer, for "*He* was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification," and without money and without price, if we believe on Him we are saved. My Father often said, "Children, I never felt really happy until my kind friend returned safely home." Oh, my dear grandchildren, should

we not often think of the great love wherewith the Lord has loved us, "in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

May each of you, my dear grandchildren, value this great love more and more, is the prayer of your ever loving,

Grandmother.

Guildford.

Contributed by E. W. HAWGOOD.

Joseph

(1) **In Humiliation**

(Genesis 37 and 39.)

THE story of Joseph is well known and his character lovely to consider. It is also truly profitable for us to do so. (See Phil. 4. 8.) His father, Jacob, loved him above all his other sons, and made him a coat of many colours. This aroused his brothers' envy, and even hatred, which was increased when he told them of two dreams he had, indicating that both they and their parents would one day bow down to him. The dreams were from God and came true.

At the age of seventeen Joseph, who feared God, was distressed by the wicked talk of some of his brothers with whom he was working, and told his father of it. Perhaps this was another reason why they all, except the youngest, Benjamin, hated him and could not speak peaceably to him, though he loved them. One day Jacob sent him to seek their welfare, whilst they were away from home feeding the flock. When they saw him from afar they decided to kill him and see what would become of his dreams. But God's hand was over him, and finally, after having put him down a pit, they sold him to some traders who were going down to Egypt, in spite of his pleadings and anguish of soul. For about twenty years neither they nor their father saw him again, and great was the distress of Jacob.

In Egypt Joseph was sold to Potiphar, captain of Pharaoh's guard, whom he served so well that his master put him in charge of all that he had. But persecution again followed him, and he was put in

prison on a false charge. He did not give up his trust in God even then, when all looked so dark and his dreams so far from fulfilment. God was with him and his character was being further formed, in a school of affliction, for a day of exaltation. Meanwhile he had the great encouragement that the keeper of the prison trusted him completely, and put all the other prisoners in his charge.

May we all, who have been brought to have faith in God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, learn like Joseph to trust Him at all times, for "all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." (Rom. 8. 28.)

Bexhill-on-Sea.

W. M. HARRIS.

The Beautiful City

(Rev. 21 and 22; 1 Thes. 4. 14-18.)

I am going to a city

Where the streets are paved with gold,
Where the walls are made of jasper,
Precious stones and gates of pearl;
Where no candle, ere is needed,
Nor sun, nor moon I'm told :
In the Bible you may read it,
For there 'tis all foretold.

No more tears and no more sighing,
No more sadness no more pain,
No more fears and no more dying,
No good-byes nor meet again :
Always joy and love and gladness
In the Saviour's home above,
For He died that He might bring you
To His happy home of love.

But your garments must be whitened,
And your sins, under His blood,
Ere your name it can be written
In the book of life above.
Come to Jesus, let Him save you
Ere the door of mercy close,
It will soon be shut, He tells us,
Then He will not then you know.

Millions, billions, trillions waiting,
On and in the earth and sea,
For new bodies made all glorious
When they rise their Lord to see:
Millions, billions, trillions singing,
Worthy is the Lamb once slain,
For He shed His blood to save us,
That we might be born again.

Millions, billions, trillions waiting
For the summons to the air,
And they're ready for the shouting
Of their Lord to call them there.
Billions, trillions will be trilling
On their harps in streets of gold:
Won't *you* come and join the singing
Where you never will grow old?

Worthing.

M. TAYLOR.

Questions of Jesus—

HOW READEST THOU?

(Luke 10. 26.)

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GLEAMS OF LIGHT



Joseph in Prison

How Much Do You Know?

THE third book in the New Testament of the Bible, the Gospel of Luke, is full of what Jesus began to *do* and to *teach*. The Lord Jesus did many things; miracles they are called. He cured blind and deaf people, healed lepers, gave life to some who were dead—things no one else could do. But He also *taught* people. You know what teachers do at school; they make you understand things, and that is what the Lord Jesus still does. In the gospels we hear of what He *began to teach*, and as He is still doing it, I want to ask you what He has taught you. What has He taught you? Think! What do you understand of the wonderful things the Son of God came to make known? Let us see.

He taught by parables: He did not teach without a parable. So what I want you to do is to write down what some of the parables *mean*. It is not that I want to tell you what they mean to me, what the Lord Jesus has taught me, till you have written down what they mean to you.

If you will write down what the parable in the 15th chapter of Luke's Gospel means to you, then you can compare it with what it means to me, which I will tell you next month.

In this way we can share together what some of the parables mean. This is one of the best ways of helping each other to understand divine teaching. I do not mind if you ask father or mother or some grown-up to help you, but please actually write down before the next copy of "Gleams of Light" reaches you what this precious chapter means. Do not forget. You have plenty of time, but do not put it off for this reason. So many things never get done because of this, so make a certain time in which you *promise* yourself it *will* be done, and do not break that promise. Read the chapter carefully—Luke 15—and then write not more than a hundred words on what it means; what it teaches us. I will write you something about it next month.

GEORGE MARKHAM.

Joseph

(2) In Exaltation

Genesis 41—45

IN our first article on Joseph in humiliation, we saw that, though his future greatness was clearly foretold in the dreams sent him by God, yet he had to go through great sufferings first, ending in his being put in prison most unjustly. But he still trusted in God, and God was with him. When God's time arrived, he was sent for by the king of Egypt out of prison, and presently made second only to King Pharaoh, in order that his wisdom (from God) might be available to save, not only Egypt, but other countries also, including Canaan, from the consequences of a terrible famine which was to follow a time of great plenty (as foretold by Joseph—chapter 41). And so Joseph became the preserver of life, under God's hand, of all who looked to him.

The famine in Canaan caused Jacob to send Joseph's ten older brothers to Egypt to buy corn. They did not know Joseph, but he recognised them and remembered his dreams. He tested them to see if they were repentant of all their wickedness, and one day he heard them say to each other that they were verily guilty concerning him. (Chap. 42. 21.) He felt it so much that he wept. He further tested them, and finally insisted that Jacob and his whole family should come to Egypt to live; and there he nourished them all in the time of the great famine. Jacob lived seventeen more years, and when he died he blessed all his sons, but Joseph most of all. (Chap. 49. 22-26.)

Through all he had passed, Joseph had not only become a great and wise ruler and one that feared God, but he was full of tender and compassionate feelings, and thus truly a beautiful type of the Lord Jesus Christ. Joseph provided the bread for the *natural* life, but Christ is the true Bread of Life. We must come to Christ in the faith of our souls if we wish to experience the happy *spiritual* joy of the words, "shall never hunger." (John 6. 35.)

May we who believe on God through our Lord Jesus Christ learn from Joseph's history to trust Him fully at all times. It has been well said that "His love is as great as His power" and "His wisdom is the handmaid of His love."

Bexhill-on-Sea.

W. M. HARRIS.

Violet's Little Visitor

(Talk Two)

IN our last talk we were speaking of our thoughts: God saw that every imagination of the thoughts of men's hearts was only evil continually. Have you ever thought of that? Wise King Solomon in his prayer to the Lord said, "Thou only knowest the hearts of the children of men." (2 Chron. 6. 30.) Yes, He knows the thoughts, good and evil, of all, old and young, of all nations in this world!

God knew Violet's sad thoughts, and could see her as she sat quite alone that day in the house. Her parents and brother and sisters were not at home, and as she sat there her head was full of sad thoughts, while her hands were playing with a ruler, a school-room weapon! Very empty of joy her little heart felt at that moment, as if no one cared for her, no one thought of her and no one loved her! She felt heavy-laden with sorrow and trouble, with no one to comfort her or to put their arms around her and kiss her troubles away. Have you ever felt like that, dear child? "Yes," you say, "I know just how she felt; I have often had those feelings." Then you will understand this little talk about Violet in her trouble, for whether we are in trouble for our own faults or through the faults of others it makes our hearts sad.

Although Violet never said so herself when telling long afterwards the little story, it is thought that the cause of her troubled heart that day may have been on account of her bearing a punishment which she did not deserve. For one summer she very bravely bore the very severe punishment of being left at home instead of going with the others to the sea-side, rather than tell tales about some one else. It may very probably have been on this day that she was left behind without any other children to play with,

and Violet, who was the youngest but one, would have missed her brother and sisters. Have you ever been afraid to own or confess that you did a wrong thing, and let some one else be blamed instead of you? Perhaps you never have, but it is a very grievous thing for any one to act in such a way. The right and best way is always to tell *at once*. You will feel much happier to have a good conscience than to try to hide your fault with a bad one. Remember that God knows everything, always; and He says, "Be sure your sin will find you out." (Num. 32. 23.)

So the sorrows were welling up and over in Violet's troubled mind. She was feeling, oh! so lonely and sad, and how gladly she would have welcomed some kind friend at that moment! What was that sound? She looked up from where she was sitting—a little sparrow came fluttering through the window. Welcome, little friend! Yes, he has come to stay! See how he flits here and there about Violet, as if to say, "Here I am; I have come to comfort you and to make you feel happy, for I can be with you and show you how sorry I am that you are so lonely and sad."

So Violet began to watch her little visitor with all his pretty ways—for it was a very young sparrow—and soon she was quite forgetting her troubles, and when at last he actually perched on the ruler which she held in her hand, she was overjoyed. He seemed to love her and to wish to stay with her so that he could be near her all the time, and her thoughts gradually wandered away from her troubles; far, far away to the One who made the little plain sparrows, and who also spoke of them when He was down here upon the earth, as we have already seen. Then Violet thought like this, as she still remembered when she was growing old: "I am sure the Lord sent it to me to comfort me. How kind it was of Him. The little sparrow has made me glad instead of sad, for it has taught me that the Lord cares for me and knows all about my trouble, and that I am so very lonely here all by myself."

(To be continued, God willing.)

Tysoe.

E. ROBINSON.

Running the Race

"Let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith." (Heb. 12. 1, 2.)

BOYS and girls are usually fond of running, and many of you run races at school, so you know a good deal about that sort of race. But perhaps you do not know much about the race which the Apostle Paul wrote about in Hebrews 12. 1. His words are at the top of this paper. He speaks of "the race that is set before us," and he is not speaking of a race such as you run at school, in which you have to use your bodies and run on the ground, an earthly race; but he is referring to a spiritual race, which all believers in the Lord Jesus Christ have to run. It is not an earthly race, but a heavenly one—a very different thing.

In an earthly race you all have to start exactly at the same time, but in the spiritual race, people start at different times; some when they are very young, some when they are older, and some even when they are quite old. They start as soon as they have asked the Lord Jesus to forgive them their sins and to accept them as His followers. The Apostle Paul says He is "the author and finisher of our faith," which means that He begins the race with us, and continues it all the time by His Holy Spirit right to the very end.

In an earthly race the runners know just how long the course will be— $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile and so on. But in the heavenly race, nobody but God knows how long it will be. It may be very short, or it may be very long.

If you are going to enter for an earthly race your bodies have to be very fit. If you have a bad foot or eye, you will not be allowed to run. But in the spiritual race, people who are ill, blind, or even unable to walk at all, run the race, and some run splendidly. As we have said, bodies have nothing to do with it; it is a spiritual race, and the Holy Spirit gives the power to run. Sometimes those running get tired and grow slack, but they can always obtain help from the Lord. "They that wait upon the Lord shall

renew their strength . . . they shall run, and not be weary." (Isa. 40. 31.)

The Apostle Paul says, "Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us." You know that if you are going to run a race, you do not wear your heaviest clothes and carry your satchel full of school-books, for if you did you would not run at all well. And so in the Christian race, we must leave behind all the things that might worry us and prevent us from running well, amongst them "the sin that doth so easily beset us," that is, something wrong that we may be tempted to do and sometimes find it difficult to withstand. But we can get all the strength and grace we need to overcome all these things by "looking unto Jesus," who says, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness." (2 Cor. 12. 9.)

That is a wonderful promise, is it not? The Apostle says we are to run, looking unto Jesus, who is the "finisher of our faith." In an earthly race you keep your eyes on the goal, and in this spiritual race set before us we must look with our spiritual eyes at the Lord, and learn from Him all the time. This Christian race is not always easy. There are sometimes obstacles in the way; but the Lord will keep us always in the right way.

There are two words in this message of the Apostle Paul we must not forget. He says, "Let us *run with patience*." The Apostle probably had the most difficult race to run of any Christian, and he knew how much need there was of patience, but the Lord will supply this as well as the other things we have mentioned. "My God shall supply *all* your need." (Phil. 4. 19.)

In 1 Corinthians 9. 24, 25, the Apostle Paul speaks about running for a prize, and says that in an earthly race all run, but only one receives the prize. You know that this is the one who gets to the goal first. But in the spiritual race, all who run receive a prize. It is not one that can be seen, but something far more precious and that will last for ever, "a crown of righteousness" (2 Tim. 4, 8), which the Apostle says God has laid up for him, and not for him only, but for all believers. And he says in 1 Corinthians 9. 24, "So

run, that ye may obtain"—the prize. Would it not be a very happy thing if you started on this heavenly race to-day?

"Leaving every day behind
Something which might hinder;
Running swifter, every day,
Growing purer, kinder.

Lord, so pray we every day;
Hear us in Thy pity,
That we enter in at last
To the Holy City."

Worthing.

B. B. DOMINEY

Questions of Jesus—

WILL YE
ALSO
GO AWAY?

(John 6. 67.)

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GLEAMS OF LIGHT



Seeking the Lost Piece of Silver

Violet's Little Visitor

(Talk Three)

YOU remember that in our last talk about Violet, she was in great trouble, and in her trouble she had an unexpected little comforter—just a tiny sparrow. It had flown into the room where she was and settled on the school-room ruler which she had in her hand, and chased away all her loneliness and brought comfort to her sad and empty heart; and she said to herself, "I am sure the Lord sent it to me to comfort me. It has taught me that the Lord cares for me and knows all about my trouble."

You notice, boys and girls, that the real source of Violet's comfort was her thought that the Lord had seen how lonely she was, and that He had sent the little bird through the window to show her that He had not forgotten her. These thoughts about Him made the Lord Jesus very precious to her. Of the sparrow Jesus said these eight wonderful words: "Not one of them is forgotten before God." (Luke 12. 6.) How much more, then, will He always remember those who are His children and who love Him, even if quite young like Violet, who was thirteen?

We read in the Book of Isaiah how God says that although a mother may forget her child—even a babe—"Yet will I not forget thee." (Chap. 49. 15.) Will you remember this, and always trust in the Lord? His children have troubles like other people in this world of sorrow, but they have a refuge in God who has done, and still does, wonderful things for those who are His children; and in Jeremiah's book we read how He says, "Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh: is there anything too hard for me?" (Chap. 32. 27.) He can, and does, send His children help in many different ways in their times of need; and when they trust in Him, He knows that they do, for we read that "he knoweth them that trust in him." (Nahum 1. 7.)

Here is a list of a few of the things that were used by the Lord to help and protect His people—His own children:

"A strong east wind." (Exod. 14.)

"A great thunder." (1 Sam. 7.)

"Ravens." (1 Kings 17.)

"She-bears." (2 Kings 2.)

"A blood-red sunrise." (2 Kings 3.)

"Sleepless night." (Esther 6.)

"A great fish." (Jonah 1.)

Dreams, too, and angels, and many other things He uses. Not only in those Bible days of long ago, but God always helps all who trust in Him in times of trouble if they ask Him; for, as we have seen before, He is "a very present help in trouble."

Even a text on a wall, or some words heard in our ears, or a portion read in the Bible, He may use to help us, guide us, and to comfort us. Also the little sparrow's visit to Violet made her feel that He cared for her, too: and we know that we can say to the Lord, "There is nothing too hard for thee." (Jer. 32. 17.)

He even raises the dead. Oh, how wonderful God is! So, as we read in the New Testament, in the second epistle (or letter) of the great Apostle Paul to the Corinthians, chapter one: he says, "We should . . . trust . . . in God which raiseth the dead," "the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort." That means He comforts us in every kind of trouble, great or small.

For some time Violet watched the pretty ways of her little visitor, and then at last she decided to take him back into the garden, where she knew he would be happier than in the house, even though he was making her so happy by staying in it. For Violet was a very unselfish little girl, and more thoughtful for the happiness of others than of her own. Consequently, she was usually happy herself.

She may have known and thought about the text in the Bible which tells us that when the Lord Jesus was in this world among those who hated Him, He did not think of pleasing Himself, but only of pleasing God His Father. These are the words of the text: "Even Christ pleased not himself." (Rom. 15. 3.) He always pleased His Father, and said, "I do always those things that please him." (John 8. 29.)

If we follow Jesus we, too, as His children, will

try to please God our Father, and not to please ourselves. The little sparrow let Violet take him up, and she carried him out into the garden; and, oh, how she missed her little visitor!

(To be continued, God willing.)

Tysoe.

E. ROBINSON.

What Does It Mean?

No. 2

LAST month I asked you to write down what you thought was the meaning of the parable in the fifteenth chapter of Luke's gospel. I wonder how many of you did it? Do you think a thousand? Is that too many? But over four thousand magazines go out. Anyway, I would so very much indeed like to see what you wrote.

If I was as young as you, I should have to ask somebody else to help me; but that does not matter so long as we get the meaning after all. I said you could last month; I hope you did.

God in His grace wants us to know His feelings, and how He acts as a result of them. That is easy to understand. In His love He shows us that He is not One to do nothing about it. How busy the woman is sweeping! How busy the shepherd is finding! The woman wants the silver so much; the shepherd wants the sheep very much, too. So Divine Persons—that is the way we speak of God—want us to know and trust Them so very much. Why silver and sheep? Because the silver is the value of it to the woman, and the sheep shows the value of the shepherd to the sheep because of its need.

God wants you because He loves you, young though you may be, and is trying to find you, if you are not a believer in Jesus and have not trusted Him as Saviour. He wants you because of your value to Him, and you cannot do without the Saviour any more than the sheep could.

Then, the father with one son far away—he went away because he was self-willed and thought he could do better for himself than his father could do for him

—and the other son at home: he wanted them both to enjoy his home with him. He has such deep feelings that his joy knew no bounds when his naughty boy returned, so the Bible says, “likewise . . . there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.” And his feelings were just as deep for his other son, and he took the trouble to go out himself and entreat him; he besought him, he begged him to come in.

This is a picture of the feelings of God. Has He found you with His diligent seeking? Has there been joy in heaven over you? Or, is God as a Father still waiting for you to return in all your sin and need? All your life long you will find that this world is a place where nothing is given. Men want to sell things: that means you have to pay for them. But God has His blessing to give without money and without price. Your father never asked you to pay for a meal yet, and God has a father’s heart, and wants you to share all He has.

Perhaps through this magazine God is beseeching you to come into all the joy and blessing His love has provided. Can it be? Oh, do not wait till you learn through suffering what distance from God means! Turn to Him now, the very day you read this.

Now let us try again. Would you before next month’s “Gleams of Light” comes out read the first twenty verses of the fourth chapter of Mark’s Gospel? Then write in a few words what you think it *means*. Get anyone you like to help you. This is an important word-picture.

GEORGE MARKHAM.

[Those readers who wrote a paper in response to the suggestion in last month’s “Gleams of Light” may, if they like, send it to the Editor, whose address appears on the back of this magazine, and he will send it on to the writer of this interesting series, which will continue each month, if the Lord will. If you did not write anything last month, just try and see what you can do this time, will you?—EDITOR.]

“Grandmama’s Letters”

(No. 4)

A.D. 1896

MY DEAR GRANDCHILDREN,—

When I was about seventeen years of age, I left home to live with a brother who had taken a business in S——. It was well for me I had found a friend in Jesus, or I should have been lonely, as I had left a bright home circle at G——. My brother was occupied all day, but I tried to find work for Him who was rich, but for our sakes became poor. A party of gipsies encamped near our house. My brother said to me one day, “Rebekah, you must not go near *those* people alone.” The injunction was not given soon enough, for I *had* been, and spoken of Him who came to seek and save the lost, but I valued my brother’s care, and said I would not go alone again. A few days later, one of the men came to our door and asked for the young lady who had given his daughter a book, and if I would promise not to speak about religion to her, would I come at once and see his daughter as she was dying and wished to see me? I asked my brother to go with me to the camp. He did so, standing outside whilst I went in with the poor man. There lay a beautiful looking girl to whom I had often spoken over the hedge parting our field from theirs. I had given her a little book and told her of the love of the Lord Jesus in dying for sinners. “Oh, miss,” she said, “I am dying, but Jesus is mine; I am so happy,” and pulling out the little book from under her pillow, said “Do sing,

‘Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
O Lamb of God, I come!’”

Her father had not told me not to sing. He stood weeping by her bed, the others listening also. The singing ceased. “Thank you, miss,” the poor man said. An hour later he again called at our house to say his daughter was dead. We learned he was king of the gipsies. A most gorgeous funeral passed our house a few days later; the king’s daughter had gone to her heavenly home. “Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name be all the praise!”

As there were several heaths near us, there was often a camp of gipsies, so I, with several young friends, had a class for their little boys and girls. We taught them to read and sing little hymns, and also told them of a Saviour's love. Oh, my dear ones,—" 'Tis sweet to work for Jesus, in this life's little day " ! I close, and ever am,

Your loving
Grannie.

Guildford. Contributed by E. W. HAWGOOD.

Saul of Tarsus

Philippians 3. 4-7

Confessed the chief of sinners he,
Saul of Tarsus, great Pharisee;
Prostrated lay:
All ended now his Jewish hate,
A word from heaven he did await
On that great day.

The brightness of the noon-day sun,
Ere scarce his journey had begun,
Had brought him low;
A voice had felled him to the ground,
A light from heaven had shone around
On earth below.

He'll herald forth none other name,
None other worthy to acclaim
But Christ alone:
For Him he'll count all else but loss,
And boast and glory in the cross;
His fame make known.

No longer will he hostile be,
No longer filled with enmity;
But onward press:
To Jew and Gentile will declare,
That men may in God's favour share;
His Name confess.

Indianapolis.

E. I. EMERSON.

Questions of Jesus—

I SAY THE
TRUTH,
WHY
DO YE NOT
BELIEVE
ME?

(John 8. 46.)

Communications, which will be acknowledged by the Editor, should be addressed to W. J. TAYLOR, "Fieldgate," 5 Paddocks Road, Burpham, Guildford, Surrey.

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GLEAMS OF LIGHT



‘It was such a wintry day . . .’

“Grandmama’s Letters”

(No. 5)

A.D. 1896.

MY DEAR GRANDCHILDREN,—

Grandpapa and I have just been saying together, “If we have an object whom we love, trials and difficulties can be surmounted.”

Nearly fifty years ago at Christmas, the first your grandfather had not been at his parents’ home, we drove from G—— to R——, his native village in Suffolk, a distance of eighty miles, to stay a few days with them. We had a very nice Arabian horse at that time for our carriage.

It was such a wintry day when we started the snow nearly blinded us, the poor horse turning round two or three times not being able to face the snow and sleet. I said, “Do let us go on, Henry; the dear ones will be looking out for us, and when we see them we shall be amply repaid and forget the toilsome journey,” which lasted nearly two days. And so it was, for when dear Grandpapa’s Mother caught sight of her son, she wept for joy, and turning to me said, “I love you dearly also, dear, for thus showing your love to the old folks at home.”

Ah, my dear ones, dear Grandpapa and I have a better object than even these dear ones were, i.e. the Lord Jesus, whom God our Father has given to us to save us from our sins, and to be the Object of our hearts for ever.

The journey of life has to us often been harmful and trying, but soon the end of our journey will come, and we shall see the blessed One who has been the Object of our hearts here, and will welcome us home to the Father’s house of many mansions, where He has gone to prepare us a place.

May we meet all our dear ones there and so be together, “For ever with the Lord,” is the prayer of

Your Ever Loving

Grandmama.

Guildford. Contributed by E. W. HAWGOOD.

“No Room in the Inn”

LEAVING a crowded restaurant in the City of London recently, in company with a devoted servant of the Lord, the words quoted above were overheard as they were addressed to a customer in jest, by one of the members of the staff. My friend on hearing them remarked to the speaker, “What a solemn thought that when the eternal God stepped into the world which His own hands had created, there should be no room in the inn!”

Dear young reader, have you ever considered what an affront this was to Jesus, whose name was also Emmanuel, “which being interpreted is, God with us”? He came to bring the knowledge of the love of God to you and to me, and to seek and to save that which was lost. This involved the laying down of His life a ransom for all, and the shedding of His precious blood to make atonement for sin. Not only at His birth, but throughout His life in this world, men had no room for Him. “The Son of man,” He had to say, “hath not where to lay his head.” “He came unto his own, and his own received him not.” Then at the end of His pathway here, when wicked men laid hands upon Him and led Him away to be crucified, it is recorded that “all forsook him and fled.”

What a solemn thought, indeed! For He who suffered such ignominy and shame at the hands of men, has been raised again by the glory of the Father, who “hath given all things into his hand.” “Wherefore,” the scripture says, “God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Now let me ask you, have *you* any room for Jesus? The writer gave his heart to Him when a boy of eleven years old, and has not wished to be without Him for a single day since! Oh, open your heart to receive Him *now*! and whilst He still is saying

that for you "yet there is room." A little lad was asked the question, "Have you any room for Jesus?" And his immediate reply was, "Yes, *every room!*" How worthy He is of "our heart, our life, our all."

Have you any room for Jesus?

He who bore your load of sin,
As He knocks and seeks admission,
Sinner, will you let Him in?

W. J. TAYLOR.

Violet's Little Visitor

(Talk Four)

THIS is our last talk about Violet and her little visitor—just a tiny sparrow. As you know, when she had taken it back into the garden where she thought it would be happier than in the house, she missed it very much. It was only a little sparrow it is true, but great things are done by God sometimes through small or humble means, as it was on this day. He had done great things for Violet through that little sparrow; things which made her heart glad instead of sad, for she knew that like the "sweet psalmist" she could say, "the Lord thinketh upon me." (Ps. 40, 17.) All the rest of her life Violet never forgot that little sparrow's visit to her in her trouble. She had learnt what it is to feel sad and lonely, and now she knew, too, what a help and comfort in trouble and loneliness a visitor can be, even if only a little bird!

When Violet was older, and quite grown up, she became very like that little bird in her ways—and not only like that little bird, but because she tried to follow the Lord Jesus, she like Him, "went about doing good" in many loving ways. In her plain clothes, with her kind and happy face, she would often run in to visit someone whom she knew was lonely or suffering, and try to brighten and lighten their hearts and to comfort them with kind words and ways. How glad they were to welcome her and for her to stay. The dark clouds were often chased away, and the bright sunshine of the light of heaven—the love of Jesus—shone into their hearts as they

listened to the words which she spoke about Him: and as their thoughts turned from their trouble to think of Him, they were made glad instead of sad.

There are many ways by which those who love Him can serve the Lord. Do not forget that even when quite young they can do this. But it must not be forgotten that no kind ways, or any goodness of our own will save, or even help to save our lost and sin-stained souls, or to fit us for the presence of God who is "holy," "just and true." (Rev. 15.) No, no! Even all our right ways and good works are quite worthless and like "filthy rags" in the sight of God, as we are told in His holy word. Violet knew this, and she not only knew it but she believed it, too, in her heart.

We are all born with sinful natures, and Jesus said, "Ye must be born again." (John 3. 7.) Then we must come to Him, for He is the only one who can bring us to God as our Father. Do not say "No" to Jesus, but be like that little child who came to Jesus when He called him, and whom He stood in the midst of His disciples: then He taught them the lesson that we should be humble like that little boy, and do His will in the kingdom of heaven instead of our own will. Let Jesus bring you to God the Father, if He has not already done so, bring you to Him clothed in the "robe of righteousness," which is "whiter than snow." (Ps. 51. 7; Is. 61. 10.) Why is that robe "whiter than snow"? Because it is "the righteousness of God."

The precious blood of Jesus "cleanseth us from all sin," but not until we are cleansed and forgiven, and clothed in that spotless robe, are any of our works fully pleasing to God. But if we trust in Jesus as our Saviour and are cleansed and forgiven, we are children of God: then, with no thought of reward, but because of our love for Him and gratitude to Him, we shall find it our greatest happiness to "serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing." (Ps. 100. 2.) Do you love to sing to Jesus—to sing to the Lord? Violet sang very often to Him. She sang hymns of praise to thank Him for all His love, and for all He had done for her, and to show how glad she was to be ready

and clothed for that beautiful place He has gone to prepare for all who are washed and forgiven. All who love the Saviour will be there. How happy to be able to say: "Jesus is my Saviour!" It is, indeed, wonderful to have a Saviour. He is the Friend who never leaves nor forsakes us, and who "sticketh closer than a brother." (Prov. 18, 24.)

If you are ever in trouble—great or little trouble—will you remember this talk we have had about the love and the preciousness of Jesus, and how He can, and is willing, to comfort you in any time of trouble? Do not forget how Violet was comforted in her trouble that day long ago by the coming of her little visitor.

Tysoe.

E. ROBINSON.

What do you know?

(No. 3)

WHAT have you written about the first half of chapter four of Mark's Gospel? Unless you have written something, I do not think you ought to read what I think.

I have prayed about this chapter specially, and why I suggested it is that the Lord Jesus Himself gives us the meaning in verses 14-20. That shows us that we ought not to remember only the story, but experience what it means. I want you then to take this hint and pray that you may know the meaning, not only in your head, but the real good of it for yourself. In verse 10 the disciples asked the Lord Jesus, and you and I can do the same when we pray. Be sure you do.

Really, even though the explanation is given, it is to make us understand there are four kinds of people.

"These are they by the wayside." (Ver. 15.) Satan comes, let us beware. Catching away the word means you do not get any good from it. Perhaps you did not pay attention to it; he could not catch away the word unless you let him.

"These are they likewise which are sown on stony ground." (Ver. 16.) What does it say about them? They are for a time; they have no root in

themselves. They receive the message of God's grace with joy—perhaps only in their minds—and it does not last because it is not in their hearts. I hope you are not like that.

“These are they which are sown among thorns” (ver. 18), and they are too much interested in other things to pay attention. They consider other things are more important than listening to God's word. What God says is *the most important thing* in our lives. What has He said to you?

“And these are they which are sown on good ground”—read what it says about them in verse 20. “Hear . . . receive . . . and bring forth fruit.”

I would like to be like these last, but do not let us forget these warnings. Satan comes and steals our blessing, or we may not last in our joy. The way to last is to pursue firmly what you are taught. Or we let other things claim our attention, and like thorns, these other things choke the word. Three warnings and an encouragement.

How is it going to be with you? All through your life see that you are fruitful. The fruit from each one of us is for God to enjoy.

The Editor kindly says you may send what you write, if you care to, through him to me. I hope I shall get more this month sent in than I did last month. Before next month's magazine comes out please think carefully before you write on the sixth chapter of John's Gospel verses 3 to 13.

GEORGE MARKHAM.

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Questions of Jesus—

WERE
THERE NOT
TEN CLEANSED?
BUT
WHERE ARE
THE NINE?

(Luke 17. 17.)

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