

THE YOUTH'S INSTRUCTOR.

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A Child's Prayer.

THE following sweet and simple expression of early appeal, is from the pen of Isaac Pray, Jr:—

Father! now the day is past,
On thy child thy blessing cast!
Near my pillow, hand in hand,
Keep thy guardian angel band!
And throughout the darkling night,
Bless me with a cheerful light!
Let me rise at morn again,
Free from every thought of pain;
Passing through life's thorny way,
Keep me, Father! day by day.

A CHILD OF PRAYER.

A FEW weeks since, in coming down the North River, I was seated in the cabin of the magnificent steamer Isaac Newton, in conversation with some friends. It was becoming late in the evening, and one after another, seeking repose from the cares and toils of the day, made preparations to retire to their berths. Some, pulling off their boots and coats, lay themselves down to rest; others, in the attempt to make it seem as much as possible like home, threw off more of their clothing—each one as his comfort, or apprehension of danger dictated.

I had noticed on deck, a fine looking little boy, of about six years old, following around a man, evidently his father, whose appearance indicated him to be a foreigner, probably a German—a man of medium height and respectable dress. The child was unusually fair and fine looking, handsomely featured, with an intelligent and affectionate expression of countenance; and from under his little German cap fell his chestnut hair, in thick, clustering, beautiful curls.

After walking about the cabin for a time, the father and son stopped within a few feet of where we were seated, and began preparations for going to bed. I watched them. The father adjusted and arranged the bed the child was to occupy, which was an upper berth, while the little fellow was undressing himself. Having finished this, his father tied a handkerchief around his head to protect his curls, which looked as if the sunlight from his young, happy heart always rested there. This

but, instead of this, he quietly kneeled down on the floor, put his little hands together, so beautifully childlike and simple, and resting his arms on the lower berth, against which he knelt, he began his vesper prayers.

The father sat down by his side, and waited the conclusion. It was, for a child, a long prayer, but well understood. I could hear the murmuring of his sweet voice, but could not distinguish the words he spoke. But what a scene! There were men around him—Christian men—retiring to rest without prayer; or, if praying at all, a kind of mental desire for protection, without sufficient courage or piety to kneel down in a steamboat's cabin, and, before strangers, acknowledge the goodness of God, or ask his protecting love.

This was the training of some pious mother.—Where was she now? How many times had her kind hand been laid on those sunny locks, as she had taught him to lisp his prayers

A beautiful sight it was, that child at prayer, in the midst of the busy thoughtless throng. He, alone, of the worldly multitude, draws nigh to heaven. I thank the parental love that taught him to lisp his evening prayer, whether Catholic or Protestant, whether dead or living, whether far off or nigh. It did me good; it made me better. I could scarce refrain from weeping then, nor can I now, as I see again that sweet child, in the crowded tumult of a steamboat's cabin, bending in devotion before his Maker.

But a little while before, I saw a crowd of admiring listeners gathering about a company of Italian singers, in the upper saloon—a mother and two sons, with voice and harp, and violin; but no one, heeded no one cared for the child at prayer.

When the little boy had finished his evening devotion, he arose and kissed his father most affectionately, who put him into his berth to rest for the night. I felt a strong desire to speak to them, but deferred till morning. When morning came, the confusion of landing prevented me from seeing them again. But if I ever meet that boy in his happy youth, in his anxious manhood, in his declining years, I'll thank him for the influence and

example of that night's devotion, and bless the name of the mother that taught him to pray.

Scarcely any passing incident of my life ever made a deeper impression on my mind. I went to my room and thanked God that I had witnessed it, and for its influence on my heart. Who prays on a steamboat? Who train their children to pray, even at home?—*Youth's Companion*.

THE DOVE.

A GREAT many kinds of birds fly about in the air, and make their little nests on trees, bushes, and in the grass. There are some birds which live on the sea-beach, and in marshy places. When you see them flying about in the air, and hear them sing their morning songs, you say, "how happy the birds are!" Now God made the birds, and we see his goodness and wisdom in forming all animals to be happy, in every part of his creation.

The dove is a bird very well known in Palestine. It has a gray bluish color, with a pale breast, and the lower part of the back is covered with white feathers. In our country, there are a great many species of the dove, which have a variety of colors. This bird is spoken of in the Scriptures in many places. That must have looked very beautiful which is mentioned in the Psalms: "The wing of the dove, covered with silver, and her feathers with yellow gold."

I will now tell you about a scene which took place in Palestine. If you look at the map, you will see a long river, which runs from the north part of that country, and extends towards the south, into the great sea. Many years ago, John, who was a preacher of the gospel, went out into the wilderness of Judea. He did not wear such clothing as the people wear now, but wore a loose garment made of camel's hair, and a belt made of leather, with which he fastened his garment about his body. He had for his food the locust and wild honey, which the Lord caused to grow in the wilderness.

While John was there preaching and telling the people to repent of their sins, the people came from all parts of the country, from the great city of Jerusalem, and from all the villages and towns in the region of Jordan. And they were baptized by John, the minister, in the river. While he was there, many others came to him to be baptized.—But John did not baptize them because he knew they had not repented of their sins. They did not give any evidence in their lives that they were Christians.

While John was baptizing the people in the river, the Lord Jesus came from Galilee, and wished John to baptize him. But John did not feel that he was worthy to baptize so good and great a person as the Saviour. Then Jesus told him that it

was well for him to do so, that the righteous law of God might be fulfilled.

Then John baptized Jesus, and, as they went up out of the water, a heavenly scene occurred.—Jesus was now praying to God, the heavens opened, and John saw a wonderful sight. The Holy Spirit came down from the opening heavens in the form of a dove, and lighted upon the blessed Saviour's head. Then a voice was heard to say, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

If you had been there, what would you have said? I think you would have felt very solemn, and that you would have believed on the Saviour, and loved him very much, because he was so good as to come into this wicked world to die for sinners, and to tell them how they might be saved, and dwell with him in heaven. I trust you will repent of all your sins, and give your hearts to God, that you may enjoy the blessed scenes there will be in heaven, and dwell with the angels, and with all good people, when the Saviour comes in his glory.

I will now tell you more about the dove. It is a very harmless, innocent bird, and is used in the Scriptures as an emblem of innocence and purity. Jesus is said to be holy, harmless, and without sin. He was the Son of God, and had a very mild, tender, and pure spirit. It was a very appropriate emblem. The Saviour was always kind to the poor, and felt very sorrowful when he saw any one suffering. He was always ready to help all those who came to him in distress, and told them if they would be good and become his disciples, they would go to heaven, where there is no suffering nor sin.

The Holy Spirit is called a comforter; and if you seek for it with all your heart, and pray to God, the Holy Spirit will dwell in your hearts, and comfort you, and make you pure and gentle as the dove. Jesus has promised to give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him. O, how happy you will be if the Holy Spirit dwells in you! It will help you to pray to God, that your sins may be forgiven, and that you may be kept from the temptations of the world.

You may now have very pleasant homes, and good parents, and many kind friends. You may also go to school, and enjoy your playmates; and when you are sick, your kind parents may take care of you, and do every thing to make you comfortable, and to have you get well. They may also make you presents of many pretty things. But these things will not make you happy in heaven. You must be Christians, and try to avoid doing anything which will grieve your parents, and cause God to be displeased with you. When you are tempted to say a bad word, or do a wrong act, you must pray that the Lord will keep you from

the temptations of the world. Try to be useful in life, that you may be happy here, and when the Lord Jesus comes again, he will come in his glory, and will take all the good people and good children to himself.—*Knowledge for Children.*

CHILD'S PRAYER.

O, MAY I know the Saviour's love,
Be a good and lovely child;
And, like the peaceful, harmless dove,
My temper meek and mild!

O, make me more thy grace to know,
And learn thy Word to read;
That I may serve thee here below,—
On heavenly manna feed!

Give me a heart to love, and pray
My sins to be forgiven;
A heart to feel, as well as say,
Father, who art in heaven.

And when I leave this world of care,
Of sorrow, and of sin,

O, take me, blessed Saviour, where
Saints drink endless pleasures in.

HOPE THOU IN GOD.

HERE are four syllables, comprising only thirteen letters. They might easily be carved on a seal or on a ring. But how full of meaning!

Hope is lovely. Painting and poetry represent Hope as a beautiful virgin, leaning on an anchor and looking towards heaven.

Remove all hope, and what remains is despair. There is hope everywhere but in the world of woe. But much hope is deceptive, and the only solid hope is that which religion gives.

Hope is Christian. It is a *duty*. We owe it to God to hope in him. It is a *grace*. God gives it of his free favor and by his Holy Spirit. It is one of the fruits of the Spirit. Hope is one of the three gospel sisters, their names are, FAITH, HOPE, LOVE.

Hope looks towards heaven. In this world we can never find all our hopes satisfied. True religion teaches us to look away beyond the limits of this transitory state, to an eternal existence. What a glorious prospect brightens upon the eye of Hope, when she looks out through the archway that opens into heaven!

Hope looks towards GOD. "Hope thou in God." He only, is, able to fulfill our hopes. We may expect much from men and be disappointed; but he that hopes in God shall assuredly be blessed.—God encourages our hopes, and has spoken precious promises on which to found them.

Hope looks towards CHRIST. It is only through Christ that we can have a well-grounded hope.—God's promises are all given to us in Christ. God loves us poor sinners, because Christ loves us.—God loves us, because He loves Christ. God loves

us, because we love Christ. Hope looks perpetually at the Lord Jesus Christ.

These words are addressed to the soul; and each of us should address them to his own soul. "O, my soul, hope thou in God."

These words are suited for the greatest sufferers, in their times of greatest fear and sorrow.—"Why art thou cast down, O, my soul? Hope thou in God, for I shall yet praise Him; who is the health of my countenance, and my God."

The Bible a Light.

DAVID compares the Bible to a lamp or lantern. And what a lamp or lantern is to a person in a dark night and a strange place, the Bible is to a little child, who is journeying to heaven. Dear children, you will lose your way if you do not make use of God's word. You may regard God's word as a lantern; and I hope each dear child will take it in his hand, as it will show him the way he ought to walk in.

A great many years ago, a young man had to go into two or three villages to read the Bible to the poor, and explain it to them. The villages were several miles apart; and as he had sometimes to walk across ploughed fields, and meadows, and by the side of deep ditches, when it was very, very dark, he could scarcely find his way.—So in Winter, he used to take a lantern in his hand, and then he could get on pretty well. Sometimes it rained very hard; and then the wind blew as if it would blow him back as fast as he attempted to get forward; but with his lantern he managed, by God's help, to get on. And though he was very tired when he got home, yet he was thankful to God for his care over him, and for the light which his lantern gave him; especially if he had any one with him, (which was sometimes the case,) who was ignorant of the path. The lantern lighted his way, and theirs too.

Dear children! to walk safely through this world, and to get to heaven at last, and to show others the way, we must take the Word of God and follow its directions, just as this young man took his lantern, and walked in the light it shed upon his path.

Oh, the Bible!

A little girl who was detained from the house of God on the Sabbath, was asked what she was going to entertain herself with. She replied with a pleasant smile on her countenance, "Oh, the Bible—the Bible!"

We fear there are very few children, who would be contented for half a day, in perusing the word of God. And why? Because they have not learned the value of the precious book. When they have yielded their hearts to the Saviour, and delight in his service, then it will not be a task for them to read the Bible, but a pleasure.

THE PEARL OF TRUTH.

Pricelless gem! the pearl of truth!
 Brightest ornament of youth:
 Seek to wear it in thy crown;
 Then, if all the world should frown,
 Thou hast won a glorious prize,
 That will guide thee to the skies.

SOLOMON AND THE QUEEN OF SHEBA.

SOLOMON was one of the kings of Israel, and was a very rich and a very wise man. He built a splendid temple for the worship of God, which was so large, and so richly adorned with gold and silver, and precious stones, and all manner of beautiful things, that the sun never shone upon its equal.

There was no king in the world like Solomon, for riches or wisdom; every one who went from his kingdom into another country, told of king Solomon's wisdom, wealth and splendor. God blessed him in such a manner, that his fame extended to the most distant countries.

The queen of Sheba heard of the glory of Solomon, and she determined to go and visit him, and see for herself if all she had heard was true.

And she went to Jerusalem, the city in which he lived, and took with her a great many servants, and camels laden with spices, and gold, and silver, and precious stones, for a present to him.

And the queen of Sheba stood before king Solomon, as he sat upon his throne, and asked him a great many hard questions, to try his wisdom; but he answered them all.

And she said to him, "It was a true report which I heard in my own land, of thy sayings and thy wisdom. But I did not believe it, till I came and saw things as they really are; and behold the half was not told me. Thy wisdom and thy prosperity are far above any thing which I had heard.

Happy are thy subjects! and happy are these thy servants, who stand before thee and hear thy wisdom. Blessed be the Lord thy God, who delighted in thee, to set thee on the throne of Israel; because the Lord loved Israel for ever; therefore he made thee, king, to do justice and judgment."—*Picture Bible.*

JONAH AND THE WHALE.

God sent a message to Jonah to bid him go and cry against a very great city called Nineveh, because its wickedness had come up before God, and called down his displeasure.

But Jonah was so obstinate that he would not obey the word of the Lord, at that time. Indeed, he thought that he would run away from the service of the Lord altogether, and from his holy presence; and so, as there was a ship going just in a contrary way to Nineveh, he took a passage in it.

But the Lord sent a messenger after him to arrest him, and bring him back to the path of duty. This messenger was a great wind; for every wind that blows does as the Lord bids it. So there was a mighty tempest in the sea; and the vessel seemed as if it would be dashed in pieces.

The poor sailors were very much afraid; they thought this dreadful storm had come upon them on account of the sin of some one on board of the vessel,—and, indeed, there would have been no trouble in the world, if there had been no sin,—and so they cast lots, to see who it was that had sinned against God. And God so ordered it, that the lot fell upon Jonah. God can find out the sinner, and bring him to the light, wherever he may hide himself!

And they asked Jonah, what he was, whence he had come, and whither he was going? And Jonah said, I am a Hebrew,—and I fear the Lord the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land. And he told them how wicked he had been, to disobey God's plain command, and to try to flee from his presence. And he said, he knew the storm had come on them on his account, and that it would not cease until they had cast him into the sea.

And they tried hard to bring the ship to land, but they could not. Indeed, the sea grew more and more tempestuous; so, that they might not all perish, they were obliged, though they were very loth, to cast Jonah into the mighty deep. And immediately the sea became calm.

And the Lord bade a great fish follow the vessel; and it did so, till Jonah was thrown overboard, and then the fish swallowed him up!

But the Lord preserved the life of his disobedient prophet, even in the belly of the fish. He can keep his creatures alive any where; and we could not live a moment in any place without him. For three days and three nights was Jonah imprisoned in the belly of the fish. He was in great distress; he knew not what God was about to do with him, and his soul fainted within him when he reflected upon his disobedience.

At last he remembered how good and gracious God is, and he repented of his sin, and prayed to the Lord to have mercy upon him, and deliver him from his dreadful situation.

And the Lord did so. He heard his prayer from out of the depths of the sea, and graciously answered it. And he spake to the fish, and the fish went to the shore and threw out Jonah safely on the dry land!

God always hears and answers the prayers of the penitent sinner, wherever he may be. Let us, then, put our whole trust in him; and in all our troubles and distress, look up to him and ask him to stretch out his arm and save us.—*Picture Bible.*

COMMUNICATIONS.

DEAR CHILDREN OF THE SCATTERED REMNANT: I feel deeply interested in your welfare, and when I look into your paper, the *Youth's Instructor*, and there learn the pressing want of original articles from the brethren and sisters to make it interesting, I fear that some are deficient in duty; this has induced me, feeble and unworthy as I am, to try to write a few lines.

I rejoice that so many of you, have embraced the "Present Truth," and are trying to keep all the commandments of God, that you may thereby inherit all the promises of his Word. This is a sad and evil world, and it is very dangerous to live in it. Though it retains some traces of its original loveliness, yet it is groaning under the curse of sin, and can never be a happy place, until its curse is removed: But the time is near, we believe, when Jesus will come to redeem it from the curse, make it beautiful as at the first, and give it to his people, for their everlasting inheritance: no sin nor sorrow will be there: no wicked people; but every face will beam with love and joy. Little children will not quarrel with each other, in the beautiful New Earth: no, no, they will be all harmony and love, while they range the beautiful fields together, and pluck the delicious fruits and flowers. How beautifully green will the grass be! How sweet the flowers will smell! and how delicious will the fruit taste! The groves and the forests will be filled with the warblings of more beautiful birds than we have ever seen; and how you will delight to listen to their sweet music. The ground will not be rough and uneven, as it is now, in many places, but smooth and decked with every thing that is delightful to the eye, to the smell, and to the taste; and the crowning glory of it all will be, that if you are the children of God, it will all be yours. You will not have to think when you see a beautiful spot, that it belongs to some rich, and perhaps wicked man, and therefore you cannot enjoy it, but it will all be yours. Your heavenly Father will give it all to you, and rejoice to see you happy in it. "The wicked will be cut off from the earth, and the transgressors will be rooted out of it," and the whole earth will be given to the people of God for their everlasting happy home.

Children, you will want to be there with your parents. It will be a delightful place! Well, keep all the commandments of God, read his blessed word, and pray to him daily to sanctify and prepare you for it, and you will not fail. The time draws very nigh! Be not discouraged, if the wicked should revile you, for keeping the commandments, and trying to prepare for the coming and the kingdom of Christ. The Bible says, "They

shall soon be cut down as the grass, and wither as the green herb." For proof of what I have written, read the xxxvii, Psalm. Likewise the last Chapter of Isaiah from the 17th verse to the end of the Chapter; Dan. vii, 18; Rev. xxii, 14.

O may the Lord gather the children of the remnant speedily, under the standard that is now being raised, "The commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus," that they may be prepared for his coming and kingdom. Heed not, dear children, the vain and foolish things of earth, which are so soon to pass away forever. They lure but to deceive and disappoint you. Disappointment lurks in every earthly enjoyment; but great peace have they who love the law of God. They will inherit the Earth made new; on which the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, will be located. Jesus himself will dwell with them, and will lead them into the green fields, and beside the living waters, "and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain." Rev. xxi, 4.

Let us then be patient, keep all the commandments of God and serve him faithfully unto the end, that we may inherit all these blessings. Children of the remnant, sacrifice every thing else, for an inheritance in the Kingdom of God; and soon, very soon, you will come in possession of your inheritance.

R. WHITCOMB.

Munsonville, N. H., June, 1853.

MY YOUTHFUL FRIENDS:—As we are favored with the *Instructor* through which we can converse, I think we ought to be free to communicate our thoughts and feelings to each other, on the all-important subject of religion. And when I read Bro. White's request for communications from those who felt interested, I, at once resolved to write for our little paper, although I may not say much that will interest or instruct its readers.

Pure and undefiled religion is, indeed, a subject that ought to agitate every mind; but it is, alas, too true that nearly all the world are blind to it, and yet a great part of them are professors of it, but when it is lived out as it should be, they are the first to cry, "delusion."

I know there must be a great sacrifice to live out the religion of Jesus Christ, and if we are faithful, and at last gain the kingdom, it will cost all. But a home in the Paradise of God will be worth all the sacrifice we can make.

I have felt since I first began to see light on the present truth of God's word, that we were very near that awful day that would reveal the doom of the wicked; and bring to the righteous their great reward, and I am more and more satisfied of the soon coming of the Lord, and am trying to act in view of it.

How beautiful the thought that if we are faithful we shall soon meet our Saviour in the clouds of heaven, and join the company that have been redeemed by his precious blood, and for ever enjoy their society—never more to part—and ever dwell in the presence of the lovely Jesus. It is, indeed, a happy thought, and one that will cheer our fainting hearts, when trials and temptations beset us; and though friends may all forsake, and we have the frown of a wicked world, yet, when we can reflect upon this blessed hope, and know that Jesus smiles upon us, it is a fountain from which we can draw lasting happiness.

But while our minds are carried forward to the rich reward of the righteous, if we turn our thoughts to the fearful doom of the wicked, what a sadness instantly pervades the mind. O, how thankful we ought to be that we have not been left to reject the truth until it was too late, and how it becomes us to watch and pray every moment lest we be drawn away by the enemy of all good, and at last fail of the kingdom.

I realize in some degree the shortness of time, and the need of being ready every moment for the approaching time of trouble that is about to burst upon this world. The race is nearly run, and a rich reward lies at the end; and if we obey God by keeping all of his commandments, we shall have right to the tree of life, and enter in through the pearly gates into the City. O, my young friends, prove faithful to the end. You have nothing to fear though the world may frown; for there is an hour coming when the smiles of Jesus will be worth more than all the world, and the smiles of this world profit us nothing. Then we shall not regret any sacrifice we have made for Christ's sake.

Yours in hope of a home in the City.

MARTHA D. BYINGTON.

Buck's Bridge, N. Y. June, 1853.

DEAR BRO. WHITE:—It is but a short time since I embraced the Sabbath. My mother has kept it nearly two years. I did not join her, not because I did not think it was right, but because I was too proud.

Last Spring I was at Lincklaen, and there I saw Bro. Rhodes, and he wished me to keep the Sabbath, and my mind was impressed with the importance of it, and at last I yielded to these impressions, and have kept the Sabbath ever since.

I desire the prayers of God's children that I may be cut loose from this world and seek a better one to come. I firmly believe that we have the truth, and am willing to part with all that this world holds dear for the sake of Christ. I have never heard but two lectures on the subject; but I fear to go against the light I have received.

ELLEN N. GATES.

Preston's Corners, N. Y., June, 1853.

DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS:—While reading the little paper, I have been very much interested, and can say I am glad that ever I had the privilege of reading it. I feel truly thankful to the Lord for his goodness to me, in leading me in the way he has. His goodness is great. O that I realized it more. I have many trials, but I know if I put my trust in the Lord and try to do his will, I shall come off conqueror at last.

I want to keep all his commandments that I may abide in his love, and at last be saved in his everlasting kingdom.

Dear friends, let us strive to be very humble, watchful and prayerful, and live near the Lord, that we may reflect his lovely image more and more.

What a happy thought of being in the earth made new. I do want to meet you all there, where parting shall no more be known, and where we shall behold our lovely Saviour forever.

F. H. HOWLAND.

Topsham, Me., 1853.

LESSONS FOR LITTLE CHILDREN.

LESSON VII.

Q. IN our last lesson we talked about sin, and how wicked it is to disobey God. Are all mankind sinners? A. They are.

Q. Did God have mercy upon our first parents after they had sinned? A. He did.

Q. What promise did he make?

A. Gen. iii, 15. "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed: it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."

Q. Who is that "seed"? A. Jesus Christ.

TEACHER.—I will now tell you about the Saviour, and we shall see in our conversation that he came into this world to save sinners.

Q. Who is Jesus Christ? A. The Son of God.

Q. Can you tell me where Jesus Christ was born?

A. In Bethlehem of Judea.

Q. Where was he laid when he was born?

A. In a manger—a place where hay is put for cattle.

Q. Why was he put there?

A. Because there was no other place for him.

Q. Who was the mother of Jesus? A. Mary.

Q. Who was Mary's husband? A. Joseph.

Q. Where did they live? A. Nazareth, in Galilee.

LESSON VIII.

Q. WHAT was Bethlehem called?

A. The city of David.

Q. Joseph and Mary were descendants of David, and for this reason they went to Bethlehem to be taxed. To what nation did the Jews pay taxes?

A. To the Romans.

Q. Who told the people of Bethlehem that Christ was born there ?

A. The shepherds ; and they also told the people all around about the child Jesus.

Q. Who told the shepherds ?

A. The angel who appeared to them in the field.

Q. What were the shepherds doing ?

A. They were tending their flocks in the field at night.

Q. What did the angel say ?

A. "Behold, I bring you glad tidings of great joy, which shall be unto all people."

Q. Can you repeat a verse about this ?

A. "Glory to God on high,
And heavenly peace on earth,
Good will to men, to angels joy,
At the Redeemer's birth."

LESSON IX.

Q. How did the shepherds appear at this time ?

A. They were afraid.

Q. Did the shepherds find the babe in the manger as the angel told them ?

A. They did ; and then they went back to their country, praising God for what they had seen and heard.

Q. What sort of men were the shepherds ?

A. They were pious men, and loved God.

Q. Do any but good people praise God ?

A. No.

Q. How should we feel about the Saviour's birth ?

A. We should be grateful to God for the gift of his Son, because he was born to be a Saviour of sinners.

Q. Who tried to find the child ?

A. Herod.

Q. What did he wish to do ?

A. He wanted to kill him.

Q. Where did his mother carry him ?

A. She carried him to Egypt. But when Herod died, Joseph and Mary returned to Nazareth.

Q. How long did Jesus live in Nazareth ?

A. About thirty years.

Q. When did Herod, the wicked king, die ?

A. When Jesus was about four years old.

Q. Why did Herod not kill Jesus ?

A. Because Joseph was warned by an angel of the Lord in a dream, fled into Egypt, and there remained until the death of Herod. Matt. ii, 13.

Q. Does not this show that God protected the child ?

A. It does.

Q. Do you think he will protect and save you ?

A. If I am a good child, and love and serve him.

If Jesus Christ was sent
To save us from our sin,
And kindly teach us to repent,
We should at once begin.

EXAGGERATED EXPRESSIONS.

"I was caught in the wet last night; the rain came down in torrents." Most of us have been out in heavy rains; but a torrent of water pouring down from the skies would a little surprise us, after all.

"I am wet to the skin. I have not a single dry thread upon me." Where these expressions are once used correctly, they are used twenty times in opposition to the truth.

"I went to the meeting, but had hard work to get in; for the place was crowded to suffocation."

"I have been sadly troubled with head-ache; I thought I should have died, I was so ill." If they who use this expression on every light occasion did really reflect on death as frequently as they represent themselves to do so, it might be attended with the most salutary consequences.

"We came along the lane, a horrid road, up to our knees in mud." Some people a little more diffident, satisfy themselves with saying, "It was over my shoe-tops in mud." All I can say is, that if either the one statement or the other be correct, it is high time the road should be mended.

"We stood there for an hour; my feet were as cold as ice." If the feet were once as cold as ice, there would be very little heat left in the head or the heart.

"It must have been a fine sight; I would have given the world to have seen it." Fond as most of us are of sight-seeing, this would be buying pleasure at a dear price indeed; but it is an easy thing to proffer to part with that which we do not possess.

"You don't say so! why, it was enough to kill him!" The fact that it did not kill him is a sufficient reply to this unfounded observation; but no remark can be too absurd for an unbridled tongue.

We are hearing continually the comparison, "black as soot, white as snow, hot as fire, cold as ice, sharp as a needle, dull as a door-nail, light as a feather, heavy as lead, stiff as a poker, and crooked as a crab-tree," in cases where such expressions are quite out of order.

The way to Pray.

"I don't know what to say." This is often said by children when their parents urge them to pray in their own words. But when they are sick, they can tell their parents how they feel; when they are hungry, they can ask them for food; when they are injured, they can find words to make their complaints to them; when they are grieved, they can tell them their sorrows. Now if they would *believe* that God is their heavenly Father, as willing to hear their complaints, and supply their wants, as the kindest earthly parents can be, they would not complain any longer of want of words.

WHAT IF YOU DO WRONG?

I SHALL feel pain and fear and shame,
 At thinking what I've done;
 And as I older grow each day,
 Shall worse and worse become.
 My friends will be displeas'd and sad,
 My parents' hearts will ache,
 And God will surely punish me
 If thus his laws I break.

FLEE FROM THE WRATH TO COME!

AMONG the Israelites there were six cities, called cities of refuge, three on each side of the river Jordan, to the nearest of which a man might flee who had slain any one accidentally. Here he might stay in safety, and the relations of the person whom he had killed, could not injure him.—But if the avenger of blood caught him out side of the city, he might lawfully kill him. The roads which led to those cities were kept in a good condition; bridges were built over the rivers; and where the road forked, posts were put up, with the word REFUGE on them, to point out the right way. How perfectly this shows the condition of a sinner, exposed to divine wrath, and the way of salvation by Jesus Christ! We have all broken God's holy law; Justice says, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die;" but Jesus Christ says, "Come unto me, and I will give you life." Christ is the only *refuge* of lost sinners. He died, the just for the unjust; and none who believe in him, and trust their salvation in his hands, shall ever come into condemnation.

Young reader, do you *feel* that you have offend ed your kind, heavenly Father? that God's righteous and holy law calls for satisfaction? and that you are unable to answer its claims? Do you know that the avenger of blood is close behind you? Indeed your condition is more dangerous than that of the poor manslayer. He was unfortunate; you are guilty. He was fleeing for his natural life; you are in danger of eternal death.—

But do you say "There is time enough yet, I need not be in such haste?" What would you think of the folly of the manslayer, who should reason so? If destruction came upon him while stopping on the road to pick up pebbles, or to ask the news, would you not say it was his own fault—that he deserved to die? And will you amuse yourself with trifles, and "eat, drink, and be merry," while the law of God is crying "vengeance!"—while the Spirit of God is crying, "Flee! flee for your life!"—and while the blessed Saviour is saying, "Come, look unto me, and live?" Oh be not guilty of such folly, of such sin against your own soul! Repent of your sins, of all your sins? repent *now*, to-day, before you sleep; give your heart to the Saviour; love him and serve him.—Then you shall be happy in life, and in eternity GLORIOUS!—*Youth's Friend*.

PRAYER.

A LITTLE deaf and dumb girl was once asked by a lady, who wrote the question on a slate "What is prayer?" The little girl took her pencil, and wrote in reply, "*Prayer is the wish of the heart.*" And so it is. All fine words and beautiful verses said to God do not make a real prayer, without the wish of the heart.

"Prayer is the soul's sincere desire,
 Uttered or unexpressed,
 The glowing of a hidden fire,
 That trembles in the breast.

Prayer is the simplest form of speech.
 That infant lips can try;
 Prayer, the sublimest strains that reach
 The Majesty on high."

SABBATH-SCHOOL LESSONS.

HAVING just returned from Michigan, weary and worn by long rides over rough roads, and frequent speaking, we have not been able to prepare Lessons for this number of the INSTRUCTOR. But we hope to be able to give a full amount of original Lessons on the Sanctuary for numbers 11 and 12.

This number, however, contains several excellent communications, also choice articles selected from good books and papers. We believe it will be read with interest and profit.

Perhaps a change in the Lessons would be best. We therefore give out four Lessons from the New Testament. The scholar should read these portions of Scripture over many times, and if possible commit them to memory. And the Teacher will make such remarks and ask such questions as may seem proper.

LESSON XXXVIII.

THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST FORETOLD.
 Luke i, 5-23.

LESSON XXXIX.

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST FORETOLD.
 Luke i, 26-38.

LESSON XL.

BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST.
 Luke i, 58-80.

LESSON XLI.

BIRTH OF CHRIST.
 Luke ii, 1-20.

Receipts.

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