

THE YOUTH'S
THOSE THAT SEEK ME EARLY SHALL FIND ME.
INSTRUCTOR.

VOL. XVI.

BATTLE CREEK, MICH., MARCH, 1868.

NO. 3.

SNOW THOUGHTS.

AN hour of quiet rest; 'tis pleasant,
 And I am all alone to-night,
 So thinking of you, dear Instructor,
 I'll take my pen and here will write
 The thoughts I had one morning early,
 As from my window I looked out,
 And saw the flakes of snow fast falling,
 And heard the shout of boys without.

At first, I thought how small and trifling
 Were the flakes that reached the ground,
 And although small, combined together,
 What mounds of snow they form around.
 The winds then come and pile them upward
 In banks which high and higher grow;
 Thus can we see how much 's created
 From little flakes of falling snow.

I then applied the thought in this wise:
 The snow is like the little word
 That often falls from lips unguarded,
 And 'though but small a breeze is stirred.
 Then winds of slander come—and blowing,
 Drift the good oft meant away;
 Adding meanings not intended,
 Causing heart-aches every day.

And I thought, too, as I watched them,
 Drops of snow so pure and white,
 Falling gently down like feathers,
 Downy feathers soft and light—
 That the One who guides the rain-drops,
 And the little snow-flake's fall,
 Feeds the sparrows, clothes the lilies,
 Leads and loves his children all.

Then, again: the tiny snow-flake
 Helps to form earth's mantle white;
 So each little worthy action
 Helps to crown our path with light.
 May we journey on—presenting
 Lives that to the world may show
 Hearts unselfish, pure each motive,
 Acts unsullied as the snow.

M. A. HOUSA.

Battle Creek, Mich.

PRESENT TRUTH. NO. 6.

DISAPPOINTMENTS OF GOD'S SERVANTS.

THE doctrine of the Lord's second coming is not only a very important Bible doctrine, but it has always been a cheering one to the people of God. They have ever looked forward to his advent with longing expectation.

But those who looked for Christ to come some years ago were disappointed.

A disappointment is no proof of wrong. Jonah was disappointed when he preached the destruction of Nineveh. The Lord spared the city, and Jonah felt very badly about it, too; it does not say just why he felt so, but I suppose he was afraid the people would call him a false prophet, for he ran

away rather than to warn the people of their danger. He knew the Lord was merciful, and was afraid his word would not prove true. And I am sorry to say Jonah was selfish in this; he seemed to care more for what the people would say of him, than for the message of God, or for the welfare of the people. Let us be careful and not have the same spirit.

And the disciples of Christ were disappointed also. When they were nigh to Jerusalem they thought "the kingdom of God should immediately appear." Luke xix, 11. He spake a parable to let them know that he must go "into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and return." When they went into the city they were so sure he would set up the kingdom of God just then that they spread their garments in the way, as they were used to do before a king or conqueror, and also palm branches, which were a sign of victory, and shouted, "Hosannah to the Son of David." Do you think they would have cried thus if they had had any idea that he was so soon to be crucified? No, no. It must have been very hard for those who had preached more than three years that he was the Messiah, the Son of God, that he was going to redeem Israel and raise up the throne of David, to see him taken as a common criminal and put to death. Surely this was a disappointment as bitter as that which befell the Second Adventists who looked for the Lord to come in 1844.

But Mr. S. says it was only Millerism, and it is all dead and buried.

And so was our blessed Lord dead and buried; but that did not prevent his triumph. Though he was dead and buried he is become "the author and finisher of our faith." And his word of truth is just as eternal as himself. Peter says that what has been written about the Lord's coming is no "cunningly devised fable," but is a sure word of prophecy, and we are exhorted to take heed to it. The wicked men thought they had triumphed over the Saviour when they crucified him; and so now men may think they will triumph over the truth of God, but their triumphing is short.

My dear children, never join with those who oppose any truth, for in so doing you cannot prosper; you may seem to succeed for a while, but it will only make your failure appear the greater. We may sometimes be disappointed, even as the apostles of Jesus were, but the Lord will give the victory to his truth whether we believe it or not. And we should not blame people because they cannot at once understand all the purposes of God. If they obey according to the best light they have, the Lord will bless them and the light will increase. But if they refuse to obey the truth they know, God will be displeased with them, and they will lose even the light they have. Abraham did not know that

the Lord would provide an offering in the place of Isaac, neither did the Lord tell him that he would raise up Isaac from the dead if he offered him up. But the Lord had promised to bless the world through Isaac and his seed, and Abraham did not wait to ask the Lord *how* it could be done if he obeyed him, but went right on in obedience, trusting in God's faithfulness to perform his promise. So must we do. If we wait to see the result of all of God's words, we have no faith, and without faith it is impossible to please God. Heb. xi, 6. Men will call us wise and prudent if we wait to see the result before we act; but the Bible calls those wise and prudent who believe and obey God and trust him for the result.

Now as the disappointment of the first disciples was prophesied of by Zechariah, so was the disappointment of the Advent people pointed out in the book of Revelation. In Rev. xiv, three messages are given; and the first says, "Fear God and give glory to him, for the hour of his judgment is come." Perhaps you do not know that previous to 1844 almost every body thought the judgment would not commence till Christ came; and so when they found by studying the *time* as given by the book of Daniel that this judgment-hour message would be fulfilled in 1844, they thought of course the Lord would then come, and like honest men they earnestly preached it to their fellow men. And I cannot see why they should be blamed for their preaching, though the Lord did not then come, any more than the early disciples should have been blamed for crying, Hosanna to the Son of David, though he was not crowned, as they expected he would be. If he had then been crowned a king, all the prophecies speaking of his sufferings and death would have failed; and if Christ had come when this message, "The hour of his judgment is come," was given, the two messages following it could not be given at all. And if they had understood that the Lord would not come with that message, but the judgement was to pass on God's people to prepare them for the Saviour's coming, and had so preached to the world, they would have cared but little for it, and it would not have been "with a loud voice," as the prophecy says. And so it was with them as with the early disciples; a disappointment must take place or the word of prophecy must fail. So now you see we may be disappointed, and yet be doing the will of God.

But since that time we have learned what Peter meant when he said "judgment must begin at the house of God," that is, that God's people must be judged before the Lord comes, that Jesus may be their advocate in the judgment, so that they may be prepared for translation when he comes.

While some scoff at the doctrine of the Lord's coming, and mock at Advent believers because of their disappointment, others discover in it a most glorious fulfillment of God's word. And as they search the Scriptures for light, and humbly ask of God the aid of his Spirit that they may understand these things, they learn this most solemn and important truth, that we are now in the time for the examination of actions and determination of character; that when Jesus finishes his work as priest, then the seven plagues will be popped out, and no one can then change his character; no one that has neglected salvation can find it then though he may seek it ever so earnestly. How necessary that we make a complete preparation now. Especially should you, dear children, be earnest to make your salvation sure, for Satan has many ways to deceive the young, making them believe that many years of pleasure here they may yet have, while the Lord says sudden destruction is coming.

And now for the present I will leave you, with the two following scriptures for you to read at your leisure. Eccl. xii, 1; Prov. i, 24-33. And as you read them, think that God is speaking it to you.

UNCLE HARVEY.

SERIOUS QUESTIONING.

DEAR YOUTH AND CHILDREN: Do you realize that you are living in the last days, when Satan is unusually active to confuse, darken and perplex the minds of mankind? Especially does he exercise all the ingenuity of his evil nature to harass, and entangle the people of God. And do you also realize that the youth and children of the present age, who are trying to do right, are particular marks for his fiery darts, and in view of this are you getting on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the Evil One?

Do you realize that time is short, very short, and that every day you should gain some victories, make some advancement in the divine life? It is time that you were all apt scholars in the school of Christ; you should learn rapidly and thoroughly the divine lessons he has taught you; you should seek him daily for heavenly wisdom and grace to enable you to successfully fight the good fight of faith, that you may at last lay hold on eternal life.

These are solemn and important days, and you should be thoroughly equipped, having on every piece of the armor. You who are young and inexperienced need the breast-plate of righteousness, the shield of faith, and the helmet of salvation, as well as those who are older and more experienced, and unless you have these you are not secure for a moment. The instant you are destitute of a single piece of this armor you are subject to an open attack from our great enemy.

It requires a great effort, unceasing watchfulness and prayer, in this evil time to live a Christian. And are you, dear readers, making the effort? Are you confessing with tears and humble penitence your sins? Are you seeking the Lord with all your heart? If not, seek him while he may be found; seek him while mercy lingers; while Jesus pleads; while angels hover near, anxiously waiting to bear the glad tidings heavenward; seek while Christian friends pray and weep. Oh, seek him without delay.

A. M. DRISCALL.

CHILDREN, IS IT RIGHT?

THE other day I saw something which did not look right to me. I will tell you what it was, and then you may say what you think about it. I was in a family where there were several children, boys and girls, some of them quite large. The mother's hair was gray, and she did not look very strong. I saw this mother several times in one day go and bring in wood and do other chores while those large children sat by the fire doing nothing. I saw her pare apples all the evening and get things ready for breakfast while the girls sat with their hands folded looking on! Other things I noticed which looked about the same. I have also seen young women go off to bed early and leave their mother to do up the work. I have also seen them visiting, or playing, or reading, while their mother was hard at work FOR THEM.

Now, children, do you think that this is right? I think I hear you say, No; it is very wrong. So I think, too. I will close this by asking you another question, which is this: Do you treat your mother so?

D. M. CANRIGHT.

LINES FOR THE LITTLE ONES.

WHEN Jesus gives the children
Their little robes of white,
Oh, how I want to see them,
And witness their delight.

And when from their kind Saviour
Their little harps they take,
I want to hear the music,
Their childish fingers make.

And when upon their foreheads
Christ puts a little crown,
That sight alone will pay me
For every cross I've borne.

E. O. L.

BIBLE STORIES. No. 2.

ADAM AND EVE.

I WILL now tell you about Adam and Eve. After God had made the heaven and the earth and all things in them, caused the waters to gather together, made the dry land, the beasts, and all creeping things, and grass, herbs, and fruit to grow out of the ground, he saw that it was good. Then God spake to his Son and said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth." So God made man and woman.

But you may be curious to know *how* he made man. Well, the Bible tells us that "the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life." This man God called Adam. And God saw that it was not good for Adam to be alone, so he made the woman. God caused Adam to sleep a deep sleep, and took one of Adam's ribs and made the woman. And the Lord made all beasts and fowl to pass before Adam, to see what he would call them. So Adam named them all, and what Adam called them those were their names.

And the Lord made a beautiful garden for Adam and Eve to tend, and out of the ground God made to grow everything that was pleasant to look at, and that was good for food. The tree of life was there, too. Adam did not have to work as we now do. Oh! no; there was no sin then; the ground was not cursed; all was lovely; no thistles or weeds grew in that garden; all was good.

How nice that was; nothing to make them unhappy. They were never sick; had no aches and pains; they walked and talked with God. God was their friend. Angels were their companions. Adam and Eve were not such small, dwarfed beings as we are; they were tall, majestic beings, lovely and beautiful. On account of the curse that followed the fall of man, sickness and a long train of evils came on, which has made us what we are,—far below what Adam was. But there is a chance for us to become as beautiful as they were, of which I will tell you at some future time, if the Lord will.

H. F. PHELPS.

THE MEEK BOY.

"BLESSED are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." Matt. v, 5.

I once knew a boy whom I shall call Albert, that in early life gave his heart to the Saviour. This boy was of a meek and quiet disposition; obedient to his parents and teachers, and not forgetful of secret prayer, nor of the public services of religion. Albert, like many of my young readers, attended the public school, and of course, of necessity had to mingle with many profane and quarrelsome children.

These knowing the meekness of his disposition sought to quarrel with him, and induce him to fight; which wicked practice they followed among themselves; but they never succeeded. Albert always maintained his integrity.

On one occasion I saw a number of boys throwing snow-balls at him, trying to provoke him to a fight; but he turned his back to them, and stood without ever dodging a ball, until they became tired of the sport, when they approached him, laid a hand upon his shoulder, and with much warmth exclaimed, "Albert is the best boy in school now."

If a secret was entrusted to him, no amount of threatening, or flattery, seemed sufficient to induce him to betray it. I have seen boys and girls gather about him, and tease in vain for information that his teacher had desired should not be given. Dear children, if you desire to become good men and women, try to imitate that boy. "Just as the twig is bent the tree's inclined." And then, when Jesus comes, he will say, "Well done good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.

ADOLPHUS SMITH.

"THE SWEETEST NAME."

I ONCE knew a little girl, who died at the age of about eight years, from the effects of a kind of spasm or fit, which deprived her of her speech; she lived several months without speaking a single word! A short time previous to her death, she beckoned to her mother to bring her the Bible. The mother opened and placed the book before her. Her eye scanned its pages till it rested on the name, Jesus. She raised her little hand and pointed to it, then looked up to her mother, smiled, and pointed upward.

I have often thought of this circumstance, since I have been trying to keep all of God's commandments, and the faith of Jesus. I desire to have such a love for his dear name, that, even though I should be deprived of my speech, I could point to his name with a smile, thinking what he has done for me, Blessed Jesus! I long for his appearing.

"There is no name so sweet on earth,
No name so sweet in Heaven,
The name before his wondrous birth,
To Christ, the Saviour given.

We love to sing around our King,
And hail him blessed Jesus,
For there's no word ear ever heard,
So dear, so sweet, as Jesus."

JANE R. TREMBLEY.

SAW MILL IN AFRICA.

THE Rev. D. W. Burton, a missionary at Mendi, Africa, has recently erected a saw mill there, which is a matter of great astonishment to those untutored children of Ham. The following extract from the letter of a missionary shows what the natives think of it:

"Bro. B.'s saw-mill is running. He says it works finely. The natives look upon it as one of the great wonders of the world. Some say 'the American's 'witch' the water, and make it 'work for them.' Parmen, the chief of that country, came to see it; and after scrutinizing it very closely for a long time, explained it to his people thus: 'The white man bring one devil from America, who live right down there in the water. He great past all other devils. You no able to see him.' About Mr. Burton's fall in the mill he said, 'the white man vex this devil, and he pull him down to kill him, but he was no able. That man's head too hard.'"—*Mis. Visitor.*

Youth's Instructor.

BATTLE CREEK, MICH., MARCH, 1868.

"SAVE YOURSELVES."

DEAR YOUTH—Readers of the Instructor: Patiently listen a moment while I enlarge upon the impressive words of the Apostle. Read his exhortation in Acts ii, 40. It is as follows: "Save yourselves from this untoward generation." Untoward means perverse, wicked, refractory, not easily guided or taught. How terribly true this is as applied to the youth of this generation. Think of that class of young men who rejoice in the sobriquet of "Young America." They are amenable to no one, no, not even the wholesome restraint of civil law. Many of them are outlaws from the parental roof. They have gone backward from parental discipline and righteousness. They neither fear God nor reverence their parents. Oh! terrible.

May Heaven smile propitiously on the dear youth among Sabbath-keepers, and help them to save themselves from the wicked, untoward spirit of the times. It is rebellion upon rebellion. "Disobedient to parents," is one of the eighteen sins mentioned by the Apostle Paul in 2 Tim. iii, 1-5, which should be a marked characteristic of the last days. And we see it on every hand. Dear children and youth, deliver your souls from the insubordinate spirit of this day. Have you kind Christian parents and guardians, who give you faithful instruction, and who fain would lead you in the path of obedience and righteousness, thank Heaven for this,—that the lines have fallen to you in so pleasant a place. Be obedient, teachable, submissive, and God will bless and reward you a hundredfold here, and finally grant you a place in his ever-blessed kingdom.

Save yourselves, dear readers.

THE FIRST CROSS.

EVERY person who sets out in the service of God with a determination to be a Christian, has the cross to bear for the first time. Whether they be old or young, a time comes when their friends and the world must know of their intentions.

With some it does not seem to be very difficult; they grow up in the way of the cross,—perhaps are naturally inclined that way. As soon as they learn to talk, they lisp their little prayer at their mother's knee, and what sight is more beautiful than white-robed little ones with clasped hands uttering an infant prayer to their Maker. Yes, even such petitions go on angel pinions to Him who once took them in his arms and bestowed a blessing upon them! Then as they grow older they unite with parents, brothers and sisters, in family worship, thus becoming used to bearing their little crosses, and when the time comes for them to lift greater ones, it is not hard to do it, for they have learned the way.

But there is another class who perhaps know nothing of the cross. They have had much religious instruction, and are children of many prayers, yet are outside of the fold. But the Holy Spirit strives

with them, and God's people labor for them. How often we see such trembling beneath the whole weight of their sins. They know that they are sinners, and want to become Christians, but how can they break away from the power of the enemy that holds them? They hesitate, they seem spell-bound, and cannot sever the bands that bind them down.

But what shall be done for such? Leave them? No. Well do I remember one such case some ten years since. Nothing seemingly in her way but to lift the cross. Different ones urged her and prayed for her. Often was she present at seasons of prayer where the sweet influence of the Holy Spirit rested, yet she could not lift the cross for the first time. She attended the youth's prayer-meeting in Battle Creek, but there, too, was she silent. Another young sister, with the writer, felt a deep interest in her salvation. As a last resort to help her we covenanted together to pray for her twice a day for one week, separately, hoping that as another prayer-meeting came around she would take up the cross. Sweet to us were those secret pleadings with God in her behalf. Precious the promises in God's word to us, and blessed the answer to our prayers. At the next meeting the cross was lifted, and at that time she started in the service of God. Oh! the joy we felt, and no doubt felt in Heaven by the angels of God.

My young friends, do you see those around you unconverted, for whom you feel an interest? You long to see them safe within the fold of Christ. Do not let them go; talk with them; pray with them; get them to go with you to the house of God; plead with them there, and in so doing a blessing will rest upon your own soul.

Oh! these precious moments. The Spirit of God is now striving with men. The angel of mercy is still hovering near. Perhaps it begets in your heart a desire that some young friend should come to Christ. If so, then you can do something to aid them. The promise reads, "If two shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask; it shall be done for them of my Father which is in Heaven."

The enemy is busy in his work of destroying souls. Not one but what must be saved or lost. Solemn thought! May we so improve these golden hours that at last the blood of souls may not be found upon our garments.

M. D. A.

BACKSLIDING.

DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS: Permit me to say a few words to you on the subject of backsliding. Backsliding is composed of two simple words, back and sliding, and simply means sliding back. You have doubtless all had an experience in traveling in slippery roads, by which you can more fully appreciate and understand the meaning of this word. You all know from experience, that it requires much caution to walk on ice, especially while ascending a hill; unless you are careful then, you will be liable to lose as much ground as you have gained; and you will be in great danger of falling and injuring yourselves.

Now we want to learn a practical lesson from this in spiritual things. This illustrates the danger of falling from grace. As we are traveling from earth to Heaven we are in constant danger of sliding back; but there are some places which are more slippery than others, and when we pass over them, we should be doubly careful.

Our sins are the causes of backsliding. Therefore if we would avoid backsliding, we must avoid sinning. And suffer me, just here, to point out a few of the many ways in which children are liable

to backslide, bring darkness upon themselves, and lose the favor of God, and lose time and ground in their journey heavenward.

1. Children are constantly in danger of backsliding by dishonoring their parents, and other superiors. We are living in an age when, as the apostle says, children are disobedient to parents, and show but little respect to the aged. They manifest but little gratitude for favors received, and often speak in a manner unbecoming those who are dependent, and which justly brings upon them the frown of Heaven, and is surely ripening them for the wrath of God. And unless believing children are on their guard, they too, will partake of the spirit and influence of this wicked age.

2. Another very common way for children to backslide, is to indulge in vain and idle conversation. This is generally done to promote self, and get the praise of others. But it is better to be praised for well-doing than for evil-doing; and to pursue a course to gain the approbation of God, than to grieve the Spirit of God and good angels to get the applause of those who cannot save us or save themselves from the wrath of God.

3. Children also backslide in playing improperly and to excess. A certain amount of recreation, properly conducted, is justifiable; but when play is carried on in a rough, vulgar manner, and beyond the bounds of moderation, then is it censurable, because it corrupts good manners, injures health, destroys spirituality, a taste for prayer and reading the word of God.

My dear believing youth, who are traveling in the narrow way, you need not backslide. It is your privilege to advance rapidly in the way to Heaven, without losing ground, and wounding your conscience by falling. Shun the ways of sin, watch unto prayer, and read the Bible every day. Honor your parents, weigh your words, play with moderation, always stopping when play assumes a coarse and vulgar form, or crowds out the love of prayer and perusing God's word. If you have backslidden, retrace your steps, and redeem the time by zealous repentance and thorough reform. And may we all meet on Mount Zion at the end of the race.

D. T. BOURDEAU.

"PULL ON THE LOWER OAR."

THESE are the words which came from the miller as I was crossing a swollen river. The stream was very high, and just as I struck the current there came a gust of wind down the river and carried me rapidly toward the mill-dam. In an instant more I should have been carried over the dam, and what would have been my fate the reader may judge. I should doubtless have been drowned, and, as I was in the path of disobedience, fear I would have been lost forever.

My parents had cautioned me not to cross the stream without some one with me that knew more about the use of oars than myself, as I was not accustomed to water. I was going on in disobedience, and Satan, the prince of the power of the air, probably sent that blast down the river to destroy me, as he did Job's children, that I might be eternally lost. No sooner had I reached the shore than I thought of the thousands of children that are going on in disobedience as I was, and about to be hurled over the great cataract down into the gulf of destruction.

Dear children, you that have the privilege of reading the Instructor, and are going on in rebellion to God's holy will, stop, suddenly stop, and consider what you are doing. And if you are going down the stream without preparation, I would give

you the same advice that the miller gave me, "*Pull on the lower oar,*" and put your trust in God, and ask for help to do your duty, and he will bring you through. The apostle says, "Children obey your parents, for this is right." Heed the injunction of the inspired apostle, and read the fifth commandment, and see what the Lord says to the youth. I am striving, since the time above referred to, to obey my parents better than I did previous to that, and may it be the happy lot of the reader as well as the writer, to overcome, and at last stand with the redeemed of all ages, and with the Lamb on Mt. Zion.

Yours unworthily,

CALLAWA BOAZ.

Mount Pleasant, Iowa.

LITTLE THINGS.

I FIND, while looking over the matter, that it has been many months since I have written anything for the Instructor. It has not been because I have lost my interest for the youth and children, but being very busily engaged in preaching, writing, and passing through some affliction and trial, I have not filled my place in the list of Instructor contributors.

I have not the former numbers of the Instructor at hand, but if memory serves me right, I said something to you in my last about *Little Sacrifices*. My mind now seems to rest on the subject of *Little Things*, as one that may be appropriate for a few remarks.

It is the little things that make up the great sum-total of life. There are two good maxims, the latter from Benjamin Franklin, that with a slight remodeling will apply with equal force to the subject before us. 1. "Take care of the moments, and the hours will take care of themselves." 2. "Take care of the pennies, and the dollars will take care of themselves."

We will reduce them to a third: Take care of the little duties and trials of life, and the greater ones will be in less danger of being neglected.

Many of the youth and children wish to be Christians, but are looking for some great thing to do. If they could be the means of converting some man, or give a large sum of money to some branch of the cause, they think they might be Christians,—forgetting that they are doing Christian duties in always having a cheerful countenance, speaking kindly and with reverence to parents and to all, but especially to those older than themselves; seeking to save all the steps we can to parents and guardians, and by lending a helping hand to any one who is carrying a burden.

Never join in with those who despise the poor and lowly, but let your sympathies be with the afflicted. If others of their mates ridicule them, take their part, and let it be known that you are their friend. Always obey your parents, but especially when they are absent. If possible be more strict in your obedience when your parents are absent than when they are present. They have confided in you; while they are gone do not give them occasion to lose that confidence. How much good it will do them to know that you do all in your power to obey them and make them happy.

Get your Bible and turn to Solomon's Song, ii, 15, and you will read, "Take us, the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines; for our vines have tender grapes." This we suppose is designed to teach us to watch all our acts and daily deportment in life,—the little events of every day. As the little foxes would destroy the tender buds of the grapes, they would really do as much or more damage than

to wait till the grapes came to maturity; so the little foxes must be caught. Our little failures, or victories make up the sum-total of the great victory of life.

Let us not despise the day of small things, and like Naaman the Syrian, go away in a rage because the duties of Christianity are not so great that we can do it all in one act. You may read the account of this great man who came to the man of God to be healed of his leprosy, in 2 Kings v, 10-13. It seems he had the way marked out in his mind that the prophet of God would do—that he would come out to him and strike his hand over the leprosy parts of his body. But instead of that the prophet simply sends word to him to go and dip himself seven times in Jordan. Jordan's waters were despised in the eyes of the Syrians. How disappointed is this man; the great thing he expected to precede his restoration he does not see, and he says, "Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? may I not wash in them and be clean? So he turned and went away in a rage."

But mark the reasonings of his servant: "My father, if the prophet had bid thee do some GREAT THING, wouldst thou not have done it? how much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash and be clean." He consents to do this which seemed so small in his eyes, and "his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child." May we ever be mindful of the small duties, and do them faithfully, and perchance the Lord thus may prepare us to be entrusted with "greater riches."

J. N. LOUGHBOROUGH.

Allegan, Dec., 1867.

TO THE DISCOURAGED.

QUESTION. My Young Friend: You look sad to-day. Does your heart almost fall within you? Do you often ask yourself the question, "And who is sufficient for these things?" Like pious David of old, does fearfulness and trembling come upon you, and horror overwhelm you? Does your longing heart cry out, "Oh, that I had wings like a dove! for then would I fly away and be at rest?" At rest from the jeers and taunts, the oppression of the wicked who know not God.

ANSWER. Yes, I am cast down. My soul is disquieted within me. Often I think I can go no farther. Not because the wicked of the world persecute and scoff at me; oh, no. Jesus suffered persecution here. I want to suffer with him. I expect it from the world. The Bible says, "All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." If it had been "an enemy that reproached me, then I could have borne it." If it had been one that hated me, then I would have hid myself from him; but it was "a man, mine equal, my guide, and mine acquaintance. We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company."

I loved Bro. A. and sister B. I thought that nothing ever would mar our peace; but they have broken their covenant. The enemy has caused them to disbelieve the truth; and they sneer at me because I live and dress peculiar. They were so firm in the truth I thought they never would give it up. Many times they have said that this was just the truth calculated to fit up a peculiar remnant people for translation; but now I know there is war in their hearts against this truth which they professed so much to love. There is "wickedness in their dwellings," for they often speak evil about the teachings of God's servants.

When I see so many I have had the utmost confidence in grow cold, when they reproach me because I bear the cross, then I think, Am I stronger than they? Then I ask myself the question, "And who is sufficient for these things?" Then "I would hasten my escape from the windy storm and tempest."

ENCOURAGEMENT. My dear friend, be not cast down. Lift up your head and rejoice, for Jesus is your friend, and soon he will come with all the holy angels to take you home to that happy land where "Love cannot die." Ever remember that the sufficiency is not of ourselves. "Our sufficiency is of God." When David's brethren feared not God he said, "As for me I will call upon God; and the Lord shall save me. Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud; and he shall hear my voice." When the messenger of Satan was sent to buffet Paul, he "besought the Lord thrice that it might depart from him." God said, "My grace is sufficient for thee." Then could Paul exclaim, although he suffered much because of "perils among false brethren," "I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then am I strong."

You have unburdened your heart; you have told me the cause of your sorrow. Precious soul! "Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee; he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved." If you earnestly plead and wrestle, Jacob like, we often shall hear you tell of victory. "He hath delivered my soul in peace from the battle that was against me; for there were many with me."

Early in the morning, just as the first rays of the rising sun began to paint the eastern sky with purple and gold, the servant of Elisha went forth and saw that a great army had surrounded the city of Dothan, while they slumbered. Elisha knew they were there to take him. Was he fearful when his servant said, "Alas, my master! how shall we do?" No, he answered, "Fear not, for they that be with us are more than they that be with them." And Elisha prayed that the Lord would open the eyes of the young man, and he saw "the mountain full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha." So the Lord will be around about all those that put their trust in him. You should not be discouraged when many in the church grow cold, and turn from the truth. When Jesus was on the earth many of his disciples were offended because of his teachings, and walked no more with him. Then said Jesus unto the twelve, "Will ye also go away?" When you see this dear sister and that dear brother giving up the truth, think of Jesus our pattern. Even Peter denied him in the trying hour. We know that 144,000 will be translated without tasting death. We know that those who rest from their labors will be raised on that first great resurrection morn, and the living will then be caught up to meet Jesus. Persevere in the right to the end, for a crown of bright glory awaits the faithful.

ANGELIA J. EDMUNDS.

Bedford, Mich.

THE PROUD LOOK.

A VERY little girl said to her mamma one day, "Mamma, do let me dress more plainly." "Why, my dear?" asked her mother. "Because I read in the Bible, 'The Lord hateth a proud look;' and you know fine clothes often make me feel proud."—Proverbs vi, 16, 17.

BAD MANNERS SOIL FINE CLOTHES.

Letter Department.

EMMA HURLBUT writes from Ontario Co., N. Y.:

I am a little girl, but I love the Instructor very much. I send twenty-five cents to pay for the Instructor for a little friend, whose folks are poor and do not take any paper. I want to be faithful till Jesus comes, that I may hear the "Well done, good and faithful servant," and have a beautiful crown placed on my head by that dear Saviour who died to save us from eternal death.

MIRA E. FRENCH, of Princeville, Ill., says:

I am a little girl eight years old. For the first time I will write a few lines for our paper. I have read the New Testament through once. I love our Instructor very dearly, and wish it would come oftener. I go to Sabbath School every Sabbath. I get five verses to recite every Sabbath day, and sometimes more.

MARY A. OLMSTED writes from Elmore, Vt.:

DEAR FRIENDS OF THE INSTRUCTOR:—I write a few lines to you for the first time. I am eleven years old. Mother has been sick since last spring; she has got the consumption. I try to be good to her and mind all she tells me. I have lost two little brothers and one sister. I want to be a good girl, and meet them in Heaven. I like the Instructor very much. I have kept the Sabbath with my father and mother since I was a little girl.

CARRIE ST. CLAIR, of Monroe, Wis., says:

I like our little paper very much. I have taken it four years now. I am trying to keep the commandments, that when Jesus comes I shall have a right to the tree of life, and dwell with him forever. I go to Sabbath School. I am ten years old.

BRO. JAMES HEATH writes from Wolcott, Vt.:

Although I am over sixty years old, and have no children with me to read the little paper, yet I delight to read it, and to know what is sent to them. We should do all we can to help the children to live the present truth. They need much help in these days, when everything is going on to divert their mind from the Lord.

CARRIE L. FOSTER, Whitehall, N. Y., writes:

I have not lost my interest in the Instructor. I welcome its monthly visits with as much joy as I ever did. I shall be glad when the time comes for it to be printed once a fortnight. How nice it is that we can have a little paper of our own. I do not like to see the Instructor all filled up with selected matter. I want to live so that I may be prepared to meet Jesus when he comes.

SHOOTING THE SHARK.

THE great ship-of-war lay at easy anchor in the beautiful bay, and the easy waters slept around her, smooth as a mill-pond and silvery as glass. The sailors were idly moving here and there on the ship's deck, for there was nothing to be done. The old boatswain, a favorite with all, was among them, telling his long stories, or as they call it, "spinning his long yarns." Among this crew was a bright little boy, son of the old boatswain, the idol of his father and the pet of all the sailors. He was so cheerful and bright and good natured, that there was nothing which they would not do for "little Jem." The morning was warm, and the water of just right temperature for bathing. A group of the sailors leaned over the ship, and seemed greatly delighted with something they saw. It was "little Jem," their pet, far out from the ship swimming alone. He could whirl over, dive, float, or shoot forward like a duck.

"Boatswain," cried one, "what a swimmer little Jem is."

"Aye," says the father, "he seems to take to the water kind o' natural. I never had to teach him."

"Boatswain, boatswain, a shark! a shark! Oh, he will get Jem in one minute more."

The old man leaped up, and a single glance took it all in. There was his son playing in the water, lying on his back, unconscious of any danger, and a huge shark making straight towards him, and it was plain that in a moment more he would be crunching the limbs of the boy. The old man remembered that one of the cannon was shotted. Quick as a flash, and with almost superhuman

strength, he wrenched the gun in place, depressed the muzzle, aimed a few feet between the child and the shark—just where the fish would be in a single instant. The match was applied, the gun roared and reeled. The poor father sank down beside the gun, too faint to look. The smoke of the gun cleared away, and up rose a shout from the sailors, almost as loud as the roar of the gun.

"What is it?" calls the father.

"Oh, Jem is safe! There lies a shark, dead and torn in pieces. How could you move the gun, and sight her, and get her off so quickly and so accurately?"

"I don't know, but I believe God helped me. Won't some of you bring Jem to me?"

The next moment a boat was lowered and the oars were bending as she cut her way to the boy. He had just begun to understand the thing, and was paralyzed with terror. Gently they lifted him into the boat, and in a few minutes placed him in the arms of his weeping father. The old man seemed to receive him as from the dead, and could only rock him in his arms and cry like a babe. The tars around so far sympathized with him that they welcomed Jem again as if he had come from the dead.

How wonderful that Providence that stepped in, and from a source so uncommon and unsuspected, sent salvation to the life of that child. The only man who could have managed the gun so quickly and accurately, the only man who thought of the thing, was the father. And when life and death hung on an instant of time, and on the accuracy of his eye and the steadiness of his hand, how he had them all in full use as long as needed.

My little reader, there are sharks after you, with wide jaws and sharp teeth—coming towards you. Will any power come in between you and them and save you? Have you a Father watching over you who will see that you are safe?

There is one boy who has several sharks after him in the shape of companions who are profane, unclean in conversation, who are trying to make him swear and drink and smoke. Will they succeed? Will his heavenly Father send in some power that will save him? Perhaps the prayers of his mother, or the gentle voice of his sister, or the loving heart of some good boy may be the instrument. Perhaps his Sabbath-school teacher will become that power. Perhaps the Holy Spirit will do it.

There is another boy who has a shark coming towards him in the temptation to forget the fifth commandment, and not to honor his father and his mother. The hour that he does this he puts himself out beyond the promise of life, and his end may be near. There is a third upon whom the shark, in form of doubt and unbelief, has fastened his eye. Will he reach him and destroy his faith in his mother's prayers, in his father's religion, in the word of God, and in the name and salvation of Jesus?

Oh that between every child and his great spiritual danger there might come a power loud as the cannon's roar, quick as the speed of a ball, and sure as the eye of a loving father.

READING IT "BACKWARD."

"I guess he read it backward," said a little boy concerning one of his playmates who, after reading some good counsels to children in the family paper, almost immediately disobeyed them. Children who thus read good advice "backward," are hardly likely to make straight forward men and women.

INSTRUCTOR ITEMS.

There are many reasons for expecting that before the present volume shall close, the Instructor will be sent to its patrons semi-monthly. It certainly *ought* to be. Doubtless the General Conference, which will be assembled in about two numbers from this, will take some *decided* action in the matter. So let all keep hoping; the prospect is good.

We cannot speak too highly of the series of articles on "Present Truth," which Uncle Harvey so kindly prepares for each issue of our little monthly. Those alone are worth the subscription price of the Instructor. They are not only exceedingly interesting, but they are highly profitable. Let them be studied as well as read. May God bless Uncle Harvey.

REMEMBER.

WHAT is the difference between the fourth commandment and all the rest? There is *one* word we find in this commandment which we do not find in any of the others. What is it? The word *remember*. If you turn to the first commandment, does it begin, "*Remember* that thou have no other God's before me?" No; there is no 'remember' about it. Does the fifth begin, "*Remember* that thou honor thy father and thy mother?" Not at all. We do not find this word in any of the others. It means something. It shows us there is one thing in which this commandment differed from all the rest. It was this: the fourth commandment was an *old* commandment.

I do not mean that the people did not know that it was wrong to steal and to kill, and to commit such like sins; but God had not before given the people laws on these subjects as he did at Mount Sinai. But he had given them the law about the Sabbath, and this is the reason why, when we come to this law, we find it beginning, "*Remember* the Sabbath day, to keep it holy."

We must *know* a thing before we can remember it. If you go to a new school, the teacher first tells you what the rules of the school are, and then expects you to remember them. He would be a very foolish teacher if he expected you to remember them before you knew them. You can't *keep* a thing in your hand till you *get* it there. And it is just so with the mind. To know a thing is to get it in the mind. To remember it, is to *keep* it there after you have got it. Now this law or commandment about the Sabbath was given to Adam and Eve in Paradise. It is the oldest law in the world. It was the first law God ever made for people in this world to mind; and this is the reason why the commandment begins with the word "remember."

[We are very happy to re-print the above article from the Child's Paper, the best exchange on our list. One might almost conclude from it that the writer was a genuine Sabbath-keeper. But don't be mistaken, young reader—they mean Sunday all the time. Can you explain it?]

"I WILL GIVE UP ALL FOR CHRIST."

THIS resolution was spoken by a youthful convert, not long since. It is a good determination for all to live by, and I have wondered to myself since then how many of the Instructor family can say the same, How good it is to remember the Creator in the days

of youth, before the heart becomes hardened in sin. Jesus invites you to come and find rest in him. He will carry the lambs tenderly in his bosom. Dear children, do you not behold in him matchless charms? He is the one altogether lovely, and there is no other name in the wide universe of God by which we can be saved.

It is well to count the cost, to consider what must be given up for Christ. Come to the balances, place in the one scale all the selfish pleasures of this world, the pride of life, and foolish talking and jesting; in the other scale place Christ with his marvelous love. That love which induced him to give up his exalted position in Heaven, to take upon him man's nature, and suffer the shameful death of the cross, that he might purchase life, eternal life for us. What returns do you make for that love? Christ gave up *all* for you not even sparing his life, then will you not give up all for him? Hear his pleading, "Son, daughter, give me thy heart." Do you think you are so small that you dare not claim his notice? Not so, but on the contrary, he welcomes you with the tenderest love. Like sweetest music the words fall from his lips: "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of Heaven."

Then come to Jesus. All Heaven is waiting your decision. You have life and death set before you, and your eternal welfare depends upon the choice you make. You are forming characters which are to be tested by the law of God. Not much longer will Jesus stand before his Father as our Advocate. God grant that we may all make sure work for eternal life while mercy lingers.

The people of God will soon receive the latter rain, to perfect their preparation for translation, after that the wrath of God is to be poured on those who now neglect their salvation; then Jesus will come. The day-star will soon appear; soon the happy morning of deliverance will dawn upon the children of God, and the "Sun of righteousness will arise with healing on his wings." Angels of God will then search out all those children, who had previously given up all for Christ. By living as you should, you may win some of your companions to Christ, and thus you may labor in the Lord's harvest-field.

One way in which you can work, is to do what you can to increase the subscription list of the Instructor. Let no one try to excuse himself from working for the Lord. He bids all to work in his vineyard.

A new year has unfolded its pure pages unto us. What record will we have written there for us? Make it a happy year for yourselves, for your friends, for angels and for God, by consecrating yourselves to the service of Christ. The promise is "They that seek me early, shall find me." Come, taste and see that the Lord is good. E. R. F.

Battle Creek, Mich.

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