

The Youth's Instructor.

VOLUME 19.

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"Hear Counsel, and receive Instruction, that thou mayest be Wise." Prov. 19:20.

THE CROSS OF CHRIST.

	Says Jesus,	
		"IF ANY MAN WILL COME AFTER ME,
The cross I present	LET	him cheerfully take;
I've borne one for	HIM	let him bear one for me,
And I'll ne'er	DENY	him, though all else for- sake.
Should he choose for	HIMSELF,	he would often choose wrong;
For the cross hung with flowers,	AND	alluring to sight,
Will raise none who	TAKE	it, but tend to bring down,
While mine will lift	UP	to the mansions of light.
I'm waiting to walk by	HIS	side, and will cheer,
And lift, when the	CROSS	seems too heavy to bear.
I'll strengthen him	DAILY,	and make light appear
Above the dark cloud,	AND	my peace he shall share.
But then he must	FOLLOW	as I lead the way;
Must drink my cup with	ME."	though bitter as gall.
And while he endures	(LUKE	the baptism, must say,
Thy will and not mine	9: 23.)	be accomplished in all.

M. M. OSGOOD.

Rochester, N. Y.

To the Readers of the Instructor.

I HAVE long thought of writing something for the INSTRUCTOR, but have not done so before from various causes. When I consider that most of those who read our good little paper are just forming habits which will affect them more or less through life, I feel that it is very important they should have all the help they can get from any who are qualified to give it, and we all ought to feel very grateful for the good instruction that has thus far been given in this little sheet. I am glad to see, as I travel from place to place, the youth eagerly reading and prizing the INSTRUCTOR. I hope they will esteem it more and more, and if I thought I could say anything, dear young friends, that would lead you to be more interested in it, I would like to write it.

We believe our Saviour is soon to come. The children should certainly feel an interest in this event. Christ was the children's friend when upon the earth. When some of the disciples, feeling as some people do now, unwilling to have their presence (perhaps they did not want the trouble of them), the blessed Saviour said, "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of Heaven." The Saviour has not changed any since that time. He loves good children the same as he did then. He is coming soon in the clouds of heaven. His coming will be a cause of great terror to many great men; so it will be to those children who have no love for Christ. But to another class (and I hope you and I may be among these) he will come as a dear friend. His smile will

welcome us, we shall then have a protector if we are truly good.

Have you not sometimes been in danger? Have you not seen some animal or some other sight that frightened you very much? Did you not instinctively cleave to father or mother and feel comparatively safe? Perhaps by thinking of your feelings then, you can get a very faint idea of the way some will feel when Jesus comes. It will be a fearful scene. Men and women will be dying around us from the terrible plagues. The great buildings which now look so strong will be broken down. Great earthquakes will shake the earth around us. The mountains and islands will move out of their places. Loud thunders will be heard, far louder than the greatest thunder storm; but Christ, with a countless number of glorious angels, will be seen coming in the heavens. His presence will alarm the wicked more than any of the things I have spoken of, because they feel that they are guilty of sin. But to those who have loved him and tried to do right, who have tried to make him their friend, his face will wear a sweet smile, such as we may suppose he had when he said, "Suffer little children to come unto me." And he will take them to a beautiful place where there will be no more sorrow for endless years, where there will be sweet flowers that will never die, and no cold, dreary winter or dismal days.

Dear young friends, shall we not seek to make Jesus our friend now? Your minds are now tender, and the impressions made upon them will be more lasting than when you are older. What you read now you will remember longer than old people. How important that your minds be affected by good things, and that you read the Bible and other good books. While it is right that you should enjoy yourselves in those things that are innocent, yet it is best to take some time from play to read good books, and pray to Him who said, "Suffer little children to come unto me." You may know he will be glad to have you come to him, for he invites you. Let us go to him, and make him our friend. GEO. I. BUTLER.

Richland, Iowa.

Flowers.

WHAT a great variety among the flowery tribe! They differ in color, size, shape, and formation. All flowers are to be more or less admired, but some are far more beautiful and much more delicately formed than others; but all are the workmanship of the divine hand.

How kind Providence is to place among us this noble piece of his workmanship. Why should we not admire them? Certainly they were placed here for some good purpose.

Each flower has a fashion of its own. It spreads not from family to family, but holds its originality. Each one is dressed in its own beautiful robe to attract the attention of the passerby. One remarkable thing in flowers is their rotation of bloom. Each one has its own time to bloom; every one in its order.

Oftimes have the works of art tried to imitate that of nature; but in regard to flowers it fails, particularly, to produce their splendor and delicacy. Perfection of imitation is beyond the skill of imperfect humanity.

I once read an article written by a lady who I think must have been a lover of flowers.

It read thus: "I have always considered flowers the purest company, inciting us to purity of life and character. If the little messengers were only well heeded, I am sure this world would be a better one. They are among the truest and best of friends, always ready to cheer us when we seek their company. If our lifetime were as innocent as theirs, we would spend very pleasant lives. Flowers are the alphabet of angels, whereby they write on hills and in valleys, great and mysterious truths."—*Pious Youth.*

The Right Path.

WE have all read about children's going away from home into the woods and getting lost. When they wished to return, they took the wrong path. Oh! what would they give to find the right path! What joy would fill their hearts when they knew they were right and that they would soon be home.

But we have all strayed away from our Heavenly Father's home. We are wandering in the wilderness of sin, but not without hope. Jesus, the dear Saviour, has shed some rays of heavenly light into this wilderness, and we may find our way out. We could not find our way out without him; but he will help us. Let us go to him. How we ought to love him!

The Father's home, what is it? The beautiful city of God—the New Jerusalem. We have heard of it, and we have read about it in the very best book that ever was in the world—the Bible. It is a far more lovely place than can be found on this earth. All that get there will be delighted with the place.

Now there is but one path that leads out of the wilderness to this beautiful home. It is called the "narrow way." All that find this path may be sure it will lead them home if they will follow it. We will be sure to find it if we apply to Jesus; for he is "the way, and the truth, and the life." All that enter into it forsake their sins, correct their wrongs, deny self, obey God, trust in Jesus, endure trials, and finally bear the palm of victory, and sing the song of triumph in their heavenly home.

But there is another way, called the "broad road." All who walk in this road walk in sin, follow the pleasures and vanities of earth, have but little respect for God, have no hope in Jesus, live an easy, careless life; but where, oh! where does it end? In the beautiful city? No, oh! no; it ends in utter ruin—eternal death. What a terrible mistake will be made by those who choose to walk in this way. Flee from it, oh! flee to the dear Saviour, and he will welcome you to the narrow way. He will help you bear its toils and trials. He will give you strength to overcome your sins, to master the foe, and gain the victory.

How important it is to get into the right path. It leads us out into the light. "The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." Prov. 4:18. Get into this path, youthful reader, and joy, holy joy, will fill your soul. The gathering day is coming soon, when all the weary travelers in the narrow way will get home. What glory, what heavenly joy will be theirs then! Oh! turn ye into the path; seek ye the Lord.

I. D. VAN HORN.

The Youth's Instructor.

BATTLE CREEK, MAY 15, 1871.

MISS J. R. TREMBLEY, : : : : EDITOR.
MISS E. R. FAIRFIELD, : : : : ASSISTANT.

Two Resurrections.

THERE are to be two resurrections. The first will be a resurrection of the righteous dead when Christ comes; the second, a resurrection of the wicked dead one thousand years later. In proof, we call the attention of the reader to the twentieth chapter of Revelation. In the fourth verse is something of a description of those who are resurrected first. They have not worshiped the beast, neither his image, or received his mark; and this company reigned with Christ a thousand years. John says that this is the first resurrection, and adds, "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection; on such the second death hath no power."

The apostles believed and taught the doctrine of two resurrections. John says, "The hour is coming, in which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and [after a lapse of one thousand years, Rev. 20] they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."

Job believed in the resurrection of the just through Christ; for he says, Job 19: 25, 26, "For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth; and though [Job did not think that he had an immortal soul that winged its way to Heaven immediately at death, but] after my skin worms destroy this body, . . . in my flesh I shall see God." It would have been hard work to make Job believe that he was already in possession of immortality; for that is to come through Christ and the resurrection.

Mr. Cruden says: "As to the possibility of the resurrection, the continual production of things in the world is a clear demonstration of the power of God for that effect. . . . The essays of God's power in the works of returning nature, flowers and fruits in their season, instruct us how easily he can make those who are in the dust to awake to life." And Christ says, "Because I live, ye shall live also;" that is, they shall live when Christ comes the second time to give them everlasting life.

Man was amenable to the law of God. For disobeying that law, death was pronounced upon the whole race. But Christ graciously offered himself to die for us, if only we might be saved. The Father accepted the sacrifice. Christ was crucified, and his body placed in Joseph's tomb. Had the Father been unable to raise him from the dead, then there could be no resurrection of the dead in the future. But he did arise, after three days, a triumphant victor over death and the grave. Paul says, 1 Cor. 15: 14, "If Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain." Why would it be vain? If the souls of those to whom they preached went to Heaven at death certainly their preaching would not be in vain. And if they themselves were already possessed of immortal spirits,

how would their faith in the resurrection of Christ affect them? The apostle expected to receive eternal life through the resurrection.

Christ, in instructing his disciples, said to them, "When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, nor thy kinsman, nor thy rich neighbors; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompense be made thee. But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind; and thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee; for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just." All will be rewarded according to the deeds done in the body. Those whose deeds have been righteous, will be rewarded with everlasting life, and will receive it, Christ says, at the resurrection of the just. May you and I, dear reader, receive the reward which is to be given at the first resurrection.

"I Want to Go There, Too."

THIS is a lovely May morning. The fruit trees are full of blossoms, making the air fragrant with their perfume. The earlier forest trees are putting forth their leaves. The river flows gently by; and the air is clear and refreshing. The beauty of nature has reminded me much this morning of the earth when it shall be renewed. I have thought of the city of God. I have been reminded of the river of the water of life; and while seeing the fruit trees covered with blossoms, I have thought of the tree of life, whose very leaves contain healing properties.

My mind has also been carried forward to the time when patriarchs, prophets, and the vast company of redeemed "from every nation, kindred, tongue, and people," shall return and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads. They will enter the city of God. They will eat the fruit of the tree of life, and drink of the water of the river of life. They will gather around the throne of God, an innumerable company, and will give vent to their feelings of joy and gratitude for their deliverance from sin and Satan, in songs and praise to God and the Lamb forever. Dear young friends, when I think of these things, I feel that, as is expressed by a line of the chorus of an old hymn, "I want to go there, too."

This earth is beautiful, but there is a time coming when it will be renewed and will far surpass its present beauty. Here the leaves soon wither, the flowers fade in a few days, the buds are frequently blasted, and even the bright green grass may be scorched and dried up by the hot rays of the sun. Nothing is sure. Though the fruit trees are now so full of bloom, yet we are not certain that autumn will bring a rich harvest of fruit.

But in that land foretold by prophets and holy men of old, whose descriptions have filled our hearts with earnest longings to behold it with our own eyes, there will be no uncertainty. There will be no disappointment to the company who shall come up every month and gather around the tree of life; they will not fail to find abundance of fruit. The deserts shall blossom as the rose; and there will

be no signs of decay in all the earth. Why is this? Sin, which was the cause of death and decay, and Satan, who first sinned, and made others do so, and sinners who loved the seeming pleasures of sin, will then have all been destroyed. God will have a clean universe. Those who live on the earth renewed, will be pure and holy. If we "want to go there," if we want to join that company of happy ones, we must get ready now. This is the time and place for preparation. And if we ever get through, and stand on the shores of deliverance, if we see the Father who has manifested such great love for us, and Jesus who endured such sufferings that we might enjoy life, and the glorious earth that is to be our home forever, we will be ready to say, "Heaven is cheap enough." E. R. F.

Keeping the Heart.

MUCH is said in the Bible about keeping the heart. In Prov. 4, we read, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." By this, we understand that we should carefully watch every thought, and closely guard ourselves at all times, that we cherish no wrong feelings. Every motive by which we are actuated should be well weighed, and all that we do and say should be with reference to the glory of God.

We read that God "tries," "knows," "searches," "understands," and "ponders," the heart. He has promised special blessings to those who hearken unto him, to those who love and serve him with "all the heart."

We should seek above all things for a heart upright, clean, pure, single and sincere, honest and good. We should seek for a meditative heart. The young should train themselves to think of the greatness and goodness of God, to have more exalted views of his spotless character, and a clearer and more vivid sense of the holiness of his sacred law. In this way, our hearts may be enlarged.

Says David, "I will run the way of Thy commandments, when thou shalt enlarge my heart." Ps. 119: 32. Writing on greatness of heart, some one says:—

"A boy's heart is not like his vest, which would split open if he should grow into a man in five minutes. The heart may be very small—so small as only to embrace one's self in its thoughts and desires—this makes a very mean, selfish, person. The heart may be enlarged so as to embrace a town—this makes a good townsman; or it may take in one's whole nation—this makes a patriot; or it may take in all mankind—this makes a philanthropist; or it may embrace in its affections the whole universe and the great Creator of it—this makes one godlike. And all the way, let me tell you, from the narrowest limit to the vastest expansion, its happiness will be in proportion to its enlargement."

A. S. HUTCHINS.

An Incident.

WHILE riding on the cars the other day, I saw a striking illustration of the terrible effects of the use of liquor. Could little boys realize what wicked deeds and what misery it leads to, they would never learn to drink. If we do not take the first drink, we will never become drunkards. But to what I saw: Four men came on the cars. It was soon evident that they were partially drunk. One began to abuse another of them, threatened to strike him, put his fist in his face, and wrung his nose. The poor fellow took it patiently, as he was afraid to say anything.

Finally the one who was abusing the other, drew back, and with all his might struck him square in the face, right on his nose. I heard the bone of his nose crack as if it were a stick. The blood spurted in every direction, and ran in a stream as large as my finger. The conductor stopped the train, and put them all off. What they did then, I do not know.

All this was the effect of drinking. When a man is drunk there is no telling what he will do. He will abuse and injure his best friends. No drunkard can go to Heaven. Boys, keep away from the saloons and taverns where men drink. It may ruin you some day if you do not.

D. M. CANRIGHT.

MAY.

MAY has come—bright, joyous May;
Earth has donned her robes of green;
Covered o'er with blossoms gay,
All the hillsides now are seen.

Bright winged minstrels fill the air
With their music wild and sweet;
Joy and gladness everywhere
Our delighted senses greet.

Little brooklets dance along
On their bright and pebbly way,
Joining in the merry song
Of earth's glorious holiday.

While we on such beauty gaze
Thus spread out o'er field and wood,
Let us lift our hearts in praise
To the Giver of all good.

ALTA I. CHIPMAN.

Battle Creek, Mich.

Eddie's Sermon.

EDDIE JONES (a little colored boy) knocked timidly at Mrs. Ray's door, and begged for a piece of bread for his sick mother. Mrs. Ray knew that when Eddie's mother was well, she was very industrious, and made her family comfortable; and she was quite ready to comply with the little boy's request, and give her a helping hand, now that she was unable to work. Accordingly, she took a loaf of bread, wrapped it in a paper, and gave it to Eddie; but, just as he was taking his leave, she remembered that he was probably hungry. She called him back, seated him at the table, and gave him a plate of cold griddle-cakes, with sirup poured over them. Eddie ate them with infinite relish; and when he had finished the last mouthful, he said, "These cakes are so good, it 'pears like as if the Lord had given 'em to me; and I thank Mrs. Ray, too."

Eddie did n't think of preaching a sermon when he said these words; but they answered the purpose of one to little Sarah Ray, who was standing by the table where he was eating; for they made her think how many more blessings she enjoyed than Eddie did, and, alas! how much less grateful she had been to God. So far from thanking him for her food, she remembered that the very day before, at dinner, she had pushed away from her, in displeasure, a plate of pudding, because there were no raisins in it. It was a small action; and perhaps, although she knew it grieved her kind mother, she never would have thought of it again if Eddie's words had not roused her conscience. If he was so grateful, she thought, for the crumbs which fell from her father's luxurious table, how sinful it was for her ever to complain! She felt very much ashamed and reproved; and from that time, by God's assistance, her conduct in this particular was much improved; and as reformation in one respect often leads to the correction of numerous faults, so it happened, in this case, that Sarah not only felt more thankful for her own comforts, but she was more compassionate, and thoughtful of those who were

in want and distress, and willing sometimes to deny herself that she might relieve them.—*Child at Home.*

The Mocking-Bird.

WHILE I am writing, I hear a mocking-bird warbling his morning song. He has selected a tree near where I am sitting, on the bank of a beautiful stream, whose running waters are murmuring over rocks and pebbles, while extending from its banks are green meadows, presenting beautiful scenery.

I am pleasantly entertained by this morning warbler. He sings for a moment the robin's song, then, without stopping, changes his voice to that of the meadow lark, then the blackbird, now the quail, swallow, bluebird, whippoorwill, chickadee, in fact, nearly all common birds that he hears. Truly he is rightly named the mocking-bird.

He mocks other birds so correctly that were it not that I could see him, I should conclude there was a group of birds together, each commencing his song when the other had closed.

The mocking-bird is not handsome. He is small and slender, his color is dull brown, and were it not for his pretty singing, but little notice would be taken of him.

When I saw and heard him, I thought how interested all the INSTRUCTOR family would be with his concert. I wonder if they would all learn a lesson from him.

God has made many different kinds of birds, and has given to each a peculiar song, but to this kind, he has either given no song at all, or has bestowed upon him the gift of imitating the songs of all other birds. Be this as it may, we find him a very interesting creature; and I could not but think how many lessons could be learned from him. First, of the kindness of our dear Heavenly Father in giving us pleasure in so many ways; for we are taught in the holy Bible that all the blessings this world affords were created for the comfort and enjoyment of man—animals to help him, birds with their beautiful songs to cheer his heart, and impart to him a lesson by their songs of praise to God, that he should also praise and worship his Maker for his goodness. Yet for all this and numerous other benefits, we have only given in exchange sin and wickedness; for God withholds not his goodness from us. Though we may have but few or no good graces of our own, may we not learn to imitate those of others, and finally as other birds are not ashamed of the humble mocking-bird singing their pretty songs, because so correctly imitated, may we not follow in the plain footsteps of our dear Saviour so nearly that he may never be ashamed of us.

Let us all try to be pure and holy, that we may be saved at last.

E. B. LANE.

Edgefield Junction, Tenn.

The Strawberries and the Dying Child.

A LITTLE girl once had a bed of strawberries. Very anxious was she that they should ripen and be fit to eat. The time came. "Now for a feast," said her brother to her one morning, as he pulled some beautiful ones for her to eat.

"I cannot eat these," said she, "for they are the first ripe fruit."

"Well," said her brother, "all the more reason for our making a feast, for they are the greater treat."

"Yes; but they are the first ripe fruit."

"Well, what of that?"

"Dear father told us that he used to give God the first out of all the money he made, and that then he always felt happier in spending the rest; and I wish to give God the first of my strawberries too."

"Ah! but," said her brother, "how can you give strawberries to God? and even if you could, he would not care for them."

"Oh! I have found out a way," said she. "Jesus said, 'Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me,' and I mean to go with them to Mrs. Perkins' dying child, who never sees a strawberry, they are so poor."

Away went the children to give them to the dying child, and when they saw her put out her thin arms and take the ripe, round fruit in her little shriveled fingers, and when they saw her eyes glisten, and her little faded lips smile, they felt as if they had a far richer treat than if they had kept the ripe fruit for themselves; and something within them told them that God had accepted their little offering.—*Sunday at Home.*

A Word of Entreaty.

WHEN the first step is taken in declension from God, no one can say where it will lead. Each step makes the return more difficult, and the thought of it more disagreeable. If any of the INSTRUCTOR family have taken this path, it is to warn and encourage you that I write.

Having obtained one advantage over you, Satan will be very artful in his attempts to do more. And having once yielded, you will find it harder now to resist.

There is only one course left for you. If you do not adopt it, you will be lost. You must return to God, and you must do it now. Time is too short to admit of any delay. Pause and consider what you are doing. Have you determined to forsake Christ forever. Are you prepared to say, I have no part or lot with Jesus Christ? No; you shrink with horror from such suggestions. You expect sometime to return to your allegiance, and walk again in the way of God's commandments. But, my dear young friends, you are doing what you will hereafter repent of, and you know not how bitterly. Besides, if you expect to return to the Saviour, and be received by him, you expect he will pardon you for the very sins you are now committing; you expect in infinite tenderness and compassion he will wash away your guilt, and own you once more for his child.

And can you go on sinning against such love? Does not the thought melt your heart? Does it not constrain you to return at once to your Saviour, and seek to wash his feet with tears of sorrow?

The enemy may tell you you ought to be ashamed to come back after wandering so long and so far from God. But let not this keep you back; for the longer you stay away, the more you will have to repent of and be ashamed of. The best thing you can do, nay, the only thing you can do, is to return at once. Go humble, penitent, broken-hearted, yet go confiding in Christ's love. And if you say, I cannot go so, for I have not such feelings; still you should go. Go and tell the Saviour what a hard heart you have, and beg him to soften it. Remember the words of the Lord Jesus when he said: "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." John 10 : 28.

E. E. STURGES.

Fairfield, Conn.

A Comparison.

"BEWARE of dogs." Phil. 3 : 2. "Without are dogs." Rev. 22 : 15.

A dog is a malicious creature, ready to revenge an injury at any time or place, and is often so jealous of his rights that he will for years remember what he considers an insult. When he gets a prejudice against an antagonist, or any one, he is ready to manifest it by

such signs as are natural to him. He is sagacious—will follow up whatever he considers will pay his labor, with untiring zeal.

How different the characteristics of the sheep, to which Christ compares his people, harmless, unsuspecting, forgiving, not even noticing the most gross abuse or insult. The sheep is quiet, never interfering with other animals, minds its own affairs, and yields its wealth of wool without a thought of pride or grudging. It clings with the utmost constancy to its own kind. How different the dog! greedy, snarling at other dogs, and at anything which displeases him. He is often savage and dangerous. Shall we learn a lesson from these, my youthful readers?

JOS. CLARKE.

THE CHILDREN'S CORNER.

THE BEAUTIFUL SPRING.

Thank God for the beautiful, beautiful spring!
He has lifted the sun on high again.
And he smiled on the earth, so cold and white,
Till winter was weary of so much light,
And, gathering his robes, with sighs and pain,
He left the earth to the beautiful spring.

Thank God for the spring, the beautiful spring!
The sun sent messengers down from the skies
To waken the waters out of their dreams,
And take the ice away from the streams,
To teach them to flash in a thousand dyes,
And babble and sing of the beautiful spring.

Thank God for the spring, the beautiful spring!
It has brought the robins with flaming breasts,
With so much happiness and love in their throats,
They are all the time spilling out silver notes.
The bare trees knowingly wave their crests,
For there's promise of leaves in the beautiful spring!

Dear Father, we thank thee again for the spring,
We know 'tis thy smile on the sun-blighted earth;
'Tis because of thy love this light is so sweet;
Thou givest the grass, and the corn, and the wheat.
Come closer, we pray thee, our souls are in dearth,
Oh, waken in them a beautiful spring!—Sel.

The Robins.

ROBIN REDBREAST! What a beauty he is! and what a sweet song he sings! In a large apple tree by the side of the path that leads from the house to the barn, there is a robin's nest with five young ones in it. Little downy creatures they are, cosily huddled together. While passing them lately, I observed three little girls under the tree. Seeing one of them reach toward the nest, I thought perhaps they might be tempted to carry away captive one or more, so I said, "Do n't disturb them, children."

"We're just going to feed them," said the eldest.

"Are you?" said I; "but their mother can do that much the best; and you see she is greatly troubled by your presence." So they came away. I hope no reader of our little paper will venture to rob a nest of birds this spring, but will find more pleasure by looking at them and listening to their merry songs. The Saviour has said, "Blessed are the merciful." God has a care even for the birds, so says Jesus.

SAMUEL O. JAMES.

Children Can Do Good.

EVEN little children can do good. Not long since, a small child of my acquaintance was the means of causing his parents, especially his mother, to feel as though a blessing should be asked at the table when they surrounded it to partake of their meals. A Christian friend had been stopping in the family for a number of days, who said grace at the table. After he went away, a little boy be-

tween three and four years of age bowed his head, after they had taken their places at the table, as he had been taught to do while the friend was there; but hearing no one say anything, he looked up, and said, "Why do n't you pray?"

A short time after, the father went away to be absent several days. The mother, who was a professor of religion, then took up the cross of asking a blessing at the table, and continued it while he was away. When he returned, she left it off, until one day this same little boy told his father that while he was gone, his ma prayed at the table. The father then wished her to continue to do so. Very soon the father began earnestly to serve the Lord; for which we praise our kind Heavenly Father.

May these parents have strength to take up every cross, and grace to enable them to endure unto the end. May this little boy love to pray to the Lord, and get help to be good and obedient. Youth is the time to seek the Lord. May every reader of the INSTRUCTOR seek Jesus. Children, be good and do good.

We are sinful, but Jesus is pure and holy. He can help us to do good, when without his aid, we could do nothing. Remember what good a little child may do. You can help and encourage your parents by doing right, and God will reward you. Nothing could encourage them more. It will be but little longer and Jesus will come and his reward will be with him.

M. A. LOUGHBOROUGH.

California.

Letters from Little Folks.

Levi Mesrole, Convis Mich., says: I am trying to be useful, obedient, and good. I pray with my mother and sisters every day. I want to meet you on Mount Zion.

Franklin G Holly writes from Iowa: I want to be a good boy so I can be saved when Jesus comes.

MONTGOMERY, Vt.

DEAR FRIENDS: I am trying with my parents to keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. I like my Testament and my INSTRUCTOR better than any toys. I have many trials to go through; yet I mean to "fight the good fight of faith," and hope to be among the jewels when Christ comes.

L. I. STONE.

Some one sends the INSTRUCTOR to Edmund Humphrey of Haverhill, N. H., for which he is very thankful. He writes as follows:—

DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS: For the first time, I write for the INSTRUCTOR. I love the paper very much, and can hardly wait for its coming. May it be the means of my becoming one of the Lord's true children.

His mother adds a few lines to his letter, and her request seems so earnest and heartfelt that we give it a place although we do not know that it was designed for publication. Dear children, remember Eddie and his mother, and ask your parents to pray for them, too.

My little boy has not a praying mother. May God soften her heart, that he may have one to guide and direct him aright. The Lord said, "Ask and ye shall receive."

MRS. A. HUMPHREY.

Allie Markham of Homer, Mich., writes that she thinks her paper a very good one, and would miss it very much.

ERIE, Ill.

DEAR EDITORS: I have piled wood for my pa, to earn the money for my INSTRUCTOR. I

like my little paper. My ma reads it to my little brother and me, as I cannot read well enough yet. She writes for me, too.

LEVI C. MATTHEWS.

The little boy who is so industrious as to earn the pay for his paper, will no doubt soon be able to read it well. Persevere, Levi, and you will come off victorious.

Here are answers to questions asked in No. 8.

1. It is not; it did not need to be.
2. If any shall have the true love of God in his heart, God will give him eternal life; but if he have it not, God will destroy him.
3. They could not. [We think they could if they had had more faith; for Jesus said, Matt. 17:20, "Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you."—ED.]
4. "Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee." Mark 5:19. I suppose Christ thought he might better be where he was known and had friends, and tell them what great things the Lord had done for his soul.

QUESTIONS.

1. Why could not Peter walk on the water?
2. What sort of men did Jethro advise Moses to choose as helpers?
3. How did Paul say the covetous should be treated?
4. What is covetousness?

MARY A. HUTCHINS.

Money Received.

Each 50 cents. Mary Evans 20-1, Edwin Maxim 20-10, Alvin Shippy 20-10, B Barnum 20-10, S A Whittington 20-10, L Graves 20-10, C Shirley 20-1, Wm Leonard 20-10, Julia E Green 20-4, A Keefer 20-1, Levantia Pratt 20-1, B R Nelson 18-7, Alice E Mann 20-10, M H Collins 20-1, A Brown 20-1, Obid Funk 20-10, Clarisa Rowley 20-10, Bell Adams 20-10, Ellen Hake 20-1, Oscar Dart 21-13, Elmer Francisco 20-1, Burlie Francisco 20-1, N A Lord 20-6, Jennie Belden 20-3, Fred Runney 20-19, H R Leighton 20-1, Joseph Brown 19-6, L Green 20-13, Kate E Lindsey 21-1, Ellen R Towle 20-8, M J Bartholf 20-1, Ebbie Barefoot 20-10, George King 20-10, Ada J Morris 20-10, Wm B Potter 20-1, L Desbro 19-2, E Kliese 19-7, N Wheeler 20-7, C S Barriclow 20-10, John Jordan 20-10, Geo Felschaw 20-1, Nellie M Taber 20-1, Frank Hamilton 20-10, John Leland 20-1, O E Swartout 19-1, L Crabtree 21-1, Amy Wakeling 20-8, Ellen Merrifield 20-13, Milo Rogers 20-2, Nancy Tubbs 18-13, Phebe Brisbin 19-1, C H Prescott 18-4, Lizzie Austin 20-10, Asa Lockwood 20-10, Mary Fowleson 20-1, D W Rice 20-9, B F Wardwell 20-10, A Morse Beaver 20-10, J C Toperts 20-10, B Walker 20-10, J Buttolph 20-2, Zillah Johnson 20-10, E A Putman 20-1, F Reynolds 20-1, Wm Harmon 20-5, A Miller 20-10, E A Neal 20-10, John Williams 20-1, W Earl 20-2, S Broadbridge 20-10, A Blake 20-1, Rebecca Dienst 20-10, Birdsey Perkins 20-10, Lizzie C Rice 20-2, Stella Pierson 19-5, J D Pierson 19-13, Amy Thomas 19-4, Dr Byington 20-3, Carrie Brackett 20-1, E Blain 18-14, M Kneeland 20-6, T H Lindsay 20-22, Geo Gaskill 20-6, F Hartshorn 21-12, Chas H Sanders 20-7, M Phillips 20-1, V H Whilbite 19-20, E F Wilson 20-10.

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