

**THE CABIN BOY.**

Captain John Davis commanded a vessel running to the Cape of Good Hope. On one of his voyages the vessel left the English station in good order, and all went well with the ship for some days. One morning, however, the captain did not make his appearance on deck at the time expected. After an hour the first mate went to the captain's cabin, and knocking gently at the door said:

"All hands are on deck, sir, waiting for orders."

"Come in," a voice faintly replied.

The mate entered. A marvelously sudden change had taken place in the captain. He was very ill; his face wore a pallid hue, and he was evidently very weak. To the mate's inquiry he answered by saying, "It am very ill; I believe I am dying. You will have to take command of the ship, for I shall never go on deck again. But oh, can you—can you help me now that I shall have to appear before God?"

"Well, captain," said the mate, "I'm afraid I can't help you in that matter. As you know, I have never had a bad mark during my entire record; but I've never thought much about God and the next world; and I can't tell what to say to you, for I have had no time to think about these things."

"Well, then, call the second mate," said the captain.

The second mate came, and like questions were put to him, and similar answers returned. He knew nothing about real religion, and had never given any real attention to it.

Others of the officers and crew were called, until, one after another, the whole ship's company had stood before the captain, who, telling them of his fast-approaching end, begged them, if any of them knew how, to tell him what he wanted to know, how to find peace with God and to be prepared to meet him.

Alas! they were all alike in the dark as to the way of salvation.

A sad picture is presented here—a scene all too common.

These men were nominally Christians, but with the name their religion began and ended; but one had been enlightened and taught by the Holy Spirit to see his guilty and condemned state as a sinner, not one knew anything of the way of salvation through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

In his great distress the captain inquired if all the men had been called down.

"Yes, every one; all the ship's company, excepting the cabin-boy."

"Then send him to me," said the captain, eagerly.

The cabin-boy, whose name was William Smith, was a young hand, and this was his first voyage. The unexpected summons made the little fellow tremble, for he feared lest he might have done something wrong.

"Did you go to Sunday-school while you were on shore?" asked Captain Davis.

"Yes, sir."

"Boy, can you tell me anything that may help me as a dying man soon to appear before my God?"

The astonished boy replied: "I don't know that I can tell you anything, captain; but I've got a Bible in my chest, which my mother gave me; shall I fetch that?"

"Yes, go and get it."

The boy returned with the Bible, and asked, "What shall I read, captain?"

"Read where you used to read to your mother," said he.

The boy opened the Bible, and began to read Isaiah 53: "Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground. He hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief."

When the boy came to the fifth verse, "But he was wounded for our transgressions," he paused and asked:

"Shall I read this as my mother taught me to read it?"

"Yes, by all means," said the captain.

The boy proceeded—

"But he was wounded for William Smith's transgressions; he was bruised for William Smith's iniquities; the chastisement of William Smith's peace was upon him; and with his stripes William Smith is healed."

"Stop," said the captain, "read that over again, and put my name instead of yours; John Davis instead of William Smith. Read it slowly."

The boy read as he was directed. "But he was wounded for John Davis's transgressions; he was bruised for John Davis's iniquities; the chastisement of John Davis's peace was upon him, and with his stripes John Davis is healed."

"Ah, that will do," said the captain; "that is what I want, that gives me hope."

Thus the anxiety, the gloom, the fear, and the crushing sense of guilt, through the teaching of the Holy Spirit, gave place to hope, to firm reliance, and to peace.—*Sailors' Magazine.*

**HELPING PEOPLE.**

Sometime since we were invited to a small gathering at the house of a friend. One of the guests was to come on the train from a neighboring town. After hearing the whistle of the engine we went out on the porch to await her arrival. Soon we saw her passing up a neighboring street carrying a large and heavy carpet bag, with a feeble old lady, poorly dressed, was walking by her side.

"That is just like C—," said the hostess; "she has found that old woman at the depot, and is lending her a hand."

So it proved. This young girl was beautiful, talented and accomplished. Yet she was not ashamed to be seen carrying the burden and acting as a guide for the aged and poor. Many ladies of far less position and culture would have been horrified at the very suggestion.

In conversation afterward we found that this little act was but an index finger pointing to her whole life. She not only enjoyed helping people who need help, but made it the rule of her life. Every day she asked God to give her an opportunity to lift some burden. And her burden-bearing was done in such a modest way that the burden-bearer never seemed prominent. Helping people! It is more a privilege than a duty.—*Epworth Herald.*

In both these cases, do you not see that what you are begging for is not more faith, although you think it is, but sight? Faith says not, "I see that it is good for me, and so God must have sent it," but, "God sent it, and so it must be good for me."—*Phillips Brooks.*

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Weary, tempted soul, fear not; trust to the end; say with Job: "Though he slay me, yet will I trust him." Every moment he seems to tarry will but make all the more glorious his revelation at the last. "Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him." Believe, and thou, too, "shalt see the glory of God."

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