

THE SABBATH SCHOOL BOY AND HIS BIBLE.

BY MRS. LYDIA BAXTER.
"Dear father," said a lovely boy,
With sweet and penitive look,
Arising from the nursery floor,
He closed his favorite book,
And saugly, against his little breast,
With tiny hand the Bible prest.

"Say, father, when my body dies,
And sleeps within the tomb,
And my tried spirit mounts the skies,
To find with Jesus room,
Shall I not there, on that bright shore,
This sacred volume have once more?"

"My child," the father quick replies,
"This book God's will declares;
It points unto the glorious prize
Which every victor bears;
Tells us how the conquest's won,
By love to God through Christ his Son.

"And when the crown of life is given,
Our warfare is complete,
And every wish and thought in heaven,
Unbounded love will meet,
And like a swelling, mighty flood,
Exalting raise in praise to God.

"Eternal praises will unfold
New beauties every hour;
And our immortal eyes behold
God's wisdom, might and power,
E'er shining through the wondrous plan—
Redeeming love to fallen man."

All wrapt in solemn thought, awhile
The little one did stand,—
Then with a sweet but placid smile
He raised his soft white hand,
And from his bosom gently took
His precious treasure, God's own book.

Then hardly conscious of his voice,
He said,—and wiped a tear.—
"My Jesus to revere,—
But can't sometimes steal away,
And read how David loved to pray?"

Pen Illustrations from the Lord's Prayer.

AND FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US."

"I'll never forgive him—never!"

"Never is a hard word, John," said the sweet-faced wife of John Locke, as she looked up a moment from her sewing.

"He is a mean, dastardly coward, and upon this Holy Bible!"

"Stop—husband! John! remember he is my brother, and by the love you bear me, forbear to curse him. He has done you wrong, I allow—but O! John, he is very young and very sorry. The momentary shame you felt yesterday will hardly be wiped but with a curse. It will only injure yourself, John—O please, don't say anything dreadful!"

The sweet-faced woman prevailed—the curse that hung upon the lips of the angry man was not spoken, but he still said, "I will never forgive him—he has done me a deadly wrong!"

The young man who had provoked this bitterness, humbled and repentant, sought in vain for forgiveness from him, whom in a moment of passion, he had injured almost beyond reparation. John Locke settled his heart against him.

In his little store sat the young village merchant, one pleasant morning, contentedly reading the morning paper. A sound of hurried footsteps approached, but he took no notice until a fearless boy burst into his store, screaming at the top of his voice, "Mr. Locke, Johnny is in the river—little Johnny Locke!"

To dash down the paper and spring for the street was the first impulse of the ungodized father. On, like a maniac, he flew till he reached the brink of the river pallid, and crazed with anguish. The first sight that met his eyes, was little Johnny lying in the arms of his mother, who, with her hair disheveled around her, bent wildly over her child. The boy was just saved; he breathed, and opening his eyes, smiled faintly in his mother's face, while she with a choking voice thanked God. Another form laid insensible stretched near the child.—From his head the dark blood flowed from a ghastly wound. The man against whom John Locke had sworn eternal hatred, had, at the risk of his own life, been the saviour of the child. He had struck a floating piece of driftwood, as he came to the surface with the boy, and death seemed inevitable.

John Locke flung himself down on the green sward, and bent over the senseless form. "Save him," he cried, huskily, to the doctor who had been summoned; "restore him to consciousness, if it be for only one little moment—I have something important to say to him."

"He is reviving," replied the doctor.

The wounded man opened his eyes—they met the anxious glance of his brother in law, and the pale lips trembled forth—"Do you forgive me?"

"Yes, yes, God is witness, as I hope for mercy hereafter, I freely forgive you, and in turn ask your forgiveness for my unchristian conduct."

A feeble pressure of the hand and beaming smile was all his answer.

Many days, the brave young man hung upon a slender thread of life, and never were there more devoted friends than those who hovered over his sick-bed. But a vigorous constitution triumphed, and pale and changed, he walked forth once more among the living.

"O! if he had died with my unkindness clouding his soul, never should I have dared to hope for mercy from my Father in heaven," said John Locke to his wife, as they sat talking over the solemn event that had threatened their lives with a living trouble. "Never, now I have tasted the sweetness of forgiveness, never again will I cherish revenge or unkindness towards the erring. For there is new meaning to my soul, in the words of our daily prayer, and I see that I have only been calling judgments upon myself, while I have impiously asked—"For give us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

"LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION." The prayer was carelessly said, and the

boy bounded up and away. The ripe fields glistened in the amber light of morning, the dew trembled as if in ecstasy after the sun of the sun, and the peach trees on father Bligh's plantation, as it was called, turned their rosy cheeks for an early kiss. Not a single soul was seen about the old man's grounds, and now Jack remembered that the farmer had gone on a visit to a sick and dying son.

He was alone—the peaches were so near they laughed in his face, and the tempting limbs seemed stretching over the garden wall. Jack stood irresolute, longing for the fruit. Little by little, he let one suggestion after another climb over his conscience, and down in his weak heart.

For three or four hours he lay thus gazing intently upward, as though he was looking into heaven; and almost incessantly, during that time, uttering these expressions in an audible and almost ringing tone.

Once he asked for a white rose. "Please, ma, get Robbie a white rose." A red one being the only one convenient, it was brought. When it was offered, he rejected it, saying, "No, ma, Robbie don't want that." After awhile he asked again for a white rose. "When it was brought, he said, "let me smell it. That will do; put it away now." There was but little intermission, during the last few hours of his life, of the above remarkable expressions, so that he must have uttered them scores, perhaps hundreds of times. At one time, as I stood over him, gazing with wonder, repeating the hymn,

"There is a happy land," he ceased to talk while I spoke, showing that the subject agreed with and filled up his thoughts; but as soon as I had done, he began again. "Please, God, take Robbie, &c. Again he was silent during most of the time that prayer was offered at his bedside. The last words he spoke were almost inaudible, a mere whisper—"Come, children, come;" he had not breath to utter the last word, and the fluttering spark of life went out.

Jack burst into tears. "And did you pray this morning?" asked his father.

"Yes, but not with my heart," sobbed Jack.

Ah! how many, like poor Jack, ask solemn gifts of God in thoughtless words, and blame his providences because they are not carried from danger and temptation, bodily. God help them to say from the heart, "Lead us not into temptation."

"BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL."

Although Mary Lee was almost a young lady, she did go to her little room when she first felt the shock of the disappointment, and letting her sunny curls drop over her face, wept with all the abandon of a child. For weeks she had nursed the thought of an anticipated pleasure, enjoying them by day, dreaming of them by night. And now a trifling indisposition of the aunt with whom she was to take her river journey, would detain her till the next trip—perhaps a week. All that beautiful sunny day she brooded over her loss, and there entered her heart a strange feeling of anger, when her aunt remarked at the dinner table, that she might have gone, after all, for her fairness lasted but a few moments. "But I expect there's some kind providence in it," murmured the sweet woman, smiling at Mary.

Mary tried to smile in reply, but her heart was rebellious, and she said to herself, "There was no other providence in it but just to disappoint me."

Alas! how often is God dishonored thus through our weak, willful judgment.

"What is it?" cried Mrs. Wharton and Mary, in alarm, as the husband and father almost staggered into the room, and sank palsied as a corpse, into his seat.

"The boat—Mary—my child. Oh! if she had gone; he faltered. "I am unmaned—I have seen a wretched father shrieking over the wreck of his whole family."

A few moments passed in awful silence. Mary's cheek blanched to the hue of her father's, and a nameless terror froze her heart. When he had grown calmer, Mrs. Wharton said—"The Reindeer is burned—your cousin Ella lost—two of our neig'bor boys burned in her—O! heaven—spare me such a sight as long as I live!" and he shuddered with an icy chill.

Mary arose, and though every limb trembled with the excitement of the shocking news, she dragged herself to her chamber, and fell prostrate before her God. "Have I dared to doubt Thee?" she sobbed, "to think rebelliously of Thy way? O! Father, forgive me, I knew not what I did."

When the little family circle gathered, unbroken, in the pleasant sitting-room, they knew that in a home near by, hands were wildly rung, shrieks uttered, and tears falling over the dead. Mary wept, and would not be comforted, and her sons grew louder, and her tears fell faster, as with a low, tremulous voice, her father said the Lord's prayer, and he faltered and paused as he repeated the words, "Deliver us from evil."

"FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM."

"Hosannah!" the shout resounded through heaven. "Hallelujah! with a rich burst of harmony, every harp of gold sent forth its strains, and melody such as no mortal ear hath ever heard, floated among the pearly columns, and along the golden streets. The Prince sat on the throne, whose splendor, even angelic vision could scarcely bear. Seraphim beat their bright heads before him, the brightest spirits of light waved their celestial wings, and all the host of heaven chanted the triumph strains, "Thine is the kingdom!"

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the death scene which I want to describe, is not of a ripe Christian, but of a little boy only two years and four months old! It was such a scene of wonder and pleasure to me, that I would fain have all the Sunday School children in the land acquainted with it.

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"A Child's Death." The death scene which I want to describe, is not of a ripe Christian, but of a little boy only two years and four months old! It was such a scene of wonder and pleasure to me, that I would fain have all the Sunday School children in the land acquainted with it.

"ANDE THE POWER, AND THE GLORY." And heaven and earth respond, "AMEN."

"LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION." The prayer was carelessly said, and the

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