

The Family and the Farm.

A Leap for Life.

Mrs. Watson was a poor, pious widow, in a country town in the north of Ireland. She was a sick-nurse. She had an only child, some eight years old. One winter night the house in which she and many others lodged took fire. When the firemen arrived, the question was put—"Are the people all out?"

"No," replied one of the lodgers, "Mrs. Watson and her little son are not here."

"Oh," said a second, "the child must be away with its mother."

"Impossible," said a third, "that she could bring her child to a sick room." By the light of the lurid flames bursting from the door the little fellow was standing on the sill of the garret window. The ladders were applied, but all too short.

"A bed! get a bed fast!" shouted a loud voice. A woman's screams are heard in the distance. The next moment Mrs. Watson rushed through the opening crowd, exclaiming, "My child! oh, where's my child?"

And into the blazing house she would have dashed to save her son, or die in the attempt, had not a strong man seized her in his arms and carried her away forcibly. The bed was now brought and held by able and willing hands directly under the garret window. Five minutes longer and poor Johnnie's night-dress had been his blazing shroud.

"Now," said a fireman, "drop yourself down on this bed. We'll hold it up. Don't be afraid. Make haste."

Through crackling embers, and clouds of smoke, and flashes of light, a tiny form is seen falling, and in an instant Johnnie is safe on the feather bed, not a hair of his head singed, not a bone of his body broken. Every heart beat with joy, and a loud cheer of triumph and gratitude rose in unison from the dense multitude.

"Well," said a big, rough man, taking Johnnie in his arms—"well, my little hero, were you not afraid?"

"I was choked, and I cried awhile. Then I minded what mother used to read me about the children put into the fire by the wicked king, how God saved them, and I prayed to God to save me, as mother learned me, and you see He has."

In all the crowd the little fellow in danger was the only one who had peace. He trusted God as his mother taught him, and he had "peace in believing." What a power there is in simple faith. In the case of this little boy it made all the difference between a dreadful death, or of falling in perfect safety into arms able and willing to bear him up. All turned upon his instant decision; and nothing could have induced a child to take such a fearful leap in the dark but the conviction that what the fireman said was true, and that he would only be safe in trusting to his word. This is exactly the kind of faith which God requires of us—not so much the knowledge of how he will save us, as the assurance that he will do so if we only cast ourselves into the arms of his mercy.

So, on the other hand, we are not so much to ask, How do we believe? or, Is our faith strong enough? but, Do we simply take God at his word, and trust Him to save us. Many persons give themselves needless trouble, and keep themselves from peace by asking, Is my faith of the right sort? or, Is my faith strong enough? God says to us, Only believe.

Our Lord seems to teach us in one of his most striking sayings. The disciples had asked him to increase their faith. They felt, as probably we do, how small was the amount of their faith, and they said, "Lord, increase our faith." Our Lord's answer is very remarkable: "If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamore tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey thee." It is as if he had said to them, "Do not seek, in the first instance, to do great things for me—leave that on one side. Strength for this will be given when the time comes to do those great works. But see for the present that your faith be of the right sort. See that it be a living trust in me and my grace, not a mere dead dependence on certain notions about my person and work."

What can be less than a grain of mustard seed? And what can be feebler than the beginnings of faith in the soul of the newly-awakened child of God? But a feeble faith will become a mighty faith as soon as it is called into exercise. The child that boldly leaped from the parapet of a burning house at a word from its mother, would probably at another time have cried when left alone in the dark. What made little Johnnie, then, a hero on that night, and made those rough firemen admire him for his bravery? Clearly it was his trust. He took the fireman at his word. He saw the danger: he saw the only way of escape. He was no blind credulity, or a mere leap for life of a bold and adventurous nature. It was the trust of a child that knew it was in danger, but also knew that there were friends at hand, and that if he trusted to them he would be safe.

Now faith in Christ is just that childlike disposition. It is genuine trust in One who is all-truth, who is all-mighty, and all-merciful. If we trust in his truth, we believe that we are in danger of dying eternally—standing as it were on the parapet of a house soon to be lapped in flames. If we trust in his might, we believe that he has provided for us a way of escape sure and certain. And if we trust in his mercy, we believe that he will not call us to do anything beyond our strength, or require of us to make an attempt in which we shall fail for ever.

Let our prayer, then, be, "Lord, increase our faith." For this we deeply need the gift of God's Holy Spirit. But when we are brought to know ourselves and our need, then we begin to examine ourselves whether we have such trust at all. There is life and salvation in trust of this kind, however feeble in degree. Reader, may you be led to make the great decision, to cast yourself into the arms of a merciful Saviour; and be assured that none who trust in him shall ever be ashamed.

SAM AND JIM—"Come, Sam, let's go in and take a little. Old Bob Bummer keeps the best liquor in town. Come, don't hang back; let's go in."

"Jim, I have been thinking this matter over since I saw you last, and I can't do it. To be plain with you, Jim, I have given my heart to the Lord Jesus, and you will never see me drink again. Besides, I have been figuring on this matter some, and what do you suppose it costs us to patronize old Bob?"

"Well, a dollar or two a week, I suppose," said Jim.

Sam, taking a pencil and a piece of paper from his pocket-book, handed them to Jim, and said, "Let us look at it fully, and make a fair calculation. You deposit—"

Your money—and lose it.

Your time—and lose it.

Your character—and lose it.

Your health of body—and lose it.

Your strength of mind—and lose it.

Your manly independence—and lose it.

Your self-respect—and lose it.

Your sense of right and wrong—and lose it.

Your home comfort—and lose it.

Your wife's happiness—and lose it.

Your children's rights—and lose them.

Your country's honor—and lose it.

Your own soul—and lose it.

Sam, I'll take the pledge for life on that. Come, let's go up to the Young Men's Christian Association Room, and sign the pledge together.

Is it not just as true of gambling as of rum, that they destroy everything before them? Are they not twin crimes?—American Messenger.

RAISING DUCKS.—I could never understand why our farmers do not keep ducks; as a matter of profit they are more profitable than hens. It may be the impression, that in order to keep ducks a person must have a pond or stream of water near by, has deterred many from keeping them; but there is no need of anything of the kind. It is true that it is better to have a pond or stream; but you can raise ducks just as well elsewhere. I know of parties that have a very successful raising them; that have only a shallow tub set in the ground and filled from the pump occasionally. In fact, the trouble of raising ducks, and about the only one, is letting the young go into the water too soon after they leave the nest. When I speak of the profits from ducks, I do not have reference to the common duck that is seen every day. I mean a breed of ducks that will weigh twelve pounds to the pair, alive—such as the Rouen and Aylesbury, and both excellent layers, easily kept and reared, and being very large, and excellent for the market; and it costs no more to rear them than the common ducks that will only weigh, on an average, about eight pounds to the pair. The Rouen is a very handsome duck in plumage; the drake has a glossy green head and neck down to a white ring on his neck; the lower part of the body is a beautiful green brown gray, and shaded with brown on the back. The duck is of a beautiful brown, with about every feather shaded on the outer edge with black. They are acknowledged the best of the varieties, laying very early, and continuing through the season and late in the winter. The Aylesbury is pure white, both in the duck and the drake, and about the same size as the Rouen. Both become very familiar, and being large and heavy, do not care to roam as much as the common kind.—Maine Farmer.

"Now," said a fireman, "drop yourself down on this bed. We'll hold it up. Don't be afraid. Make haste."

Through crackling embers, and clouds of smoke, and flashes of light, a tiny form is seen falling, and in an instant Johnnie is safe on the feather bed, not a hair of his head singed, not a bone of his body broken. Every heart beat with joy, and a loud cheer of triumph and gratitude rose in unison from the dense multitude.

"Well," said a big, rough man, taking Johnnie in his arms—"well, my little hero, were you not afraid?"

"I was choked, and I cried awhile. Then I minded what mother used to read me about the children put into the fire by the wicked king, how God saved them, and I prayed to God to save me, as mother learned me, and you see He has."

In all the crowd the little fellow in danger was the only one who had peace. He trusted God as his mother taught him, and he had "peace in believing." What a power there is in simple faith. In the case of this little boy it made all the difference between a dreadful death, or of falling in perfect safety into arms able and willing to bear him up. All turned upon his instant decision; and nothing could have induced a child to take such a fearful leap in the dark but the conviction that what the fireman said was true, and that he would only be safe in trusting to his word. This is exactly the kind of faith which God requires of us—not so much the knowledge of how he will save us, as the assurance that he will do so if we only cast ourselves into the arms of his mercy.

So, on the other hand, we are not so much to ask, How do we believe? or, Is our faith strong enough? but, Do we simply take God at his word, and trust Him to save us. Many persons give themselves needless trouble, and keep themselves from peace by asking, Is my faith of the right sort? or, Is my faith strong enough? God says to us, Only believe.

Our Lord seems to teach us in one of his most striking sayings. The disciples had asked him to increase their faith. They felt, as probably we do, how small was the amount of their faith, and they said, "Lord, increase our faith." Our Lord's answer is very remarkable: "If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamore tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey thee." It is as if he had said to them, "Do not seek, in the first instance, to do great things for me—leave that on one side. Strength for this will be given when the time comes to do those great works. But see for the present that your faith be of the right sort. See that it be a living trust in me and my grace, not a mere dead dependence on certain notions about my person and work."

What can be less than a grain of mustard seed? And what can be feebler than the beginnings of faith in the soul of the newly-awakened child of God? But a feeble faith will become a mighty faith as soon as it is called into exercise. The child that boldly leaped from the parapet of a burning house at a word from its mother, would probably at another time have cried when left alone in the dark. What made little Johnnie, then, a hero on that night, and made those rough firemen admire him for his bravery? Clearly it was his trust. He took the fireman at his word. He saw the danger: he saw the only way of escape. He was no blind credulity, or a mere leap for life of a bold and adventurous nature. It was the trust of a child that knew it was in danger, but also knew that there were friends at hand, and that if he trusted to them he would be safe.

Now faith in Christ is just that childlike disposition. It is genuine trust in One who is all-truth, who is all-mighty, and all-merciful. If we trust in his truth, we believe that we are in danger of dying eternally—standing as it were on the parapet of a house soon to be lapped in flames. If we trust in his might, we believe that he has provided for us a way of escape sure and certain. And if we trust in his mercy, we believe that he will not call us to do anything beyond our strength, or require of us to make an attempt in which we shall fail for ever.

Let our prayer, then, be, "Lord, increase our faith." For this we deeply need the gift of God's Holy Spirit. But when we are brought to know ourselves and our need, then we begin to examine ourselves whether we have such trust at all. There is life and salvation in trust of this kind, however feeble in degree. Reader, may you be led to make the great decision, to cast yourself into the arms of a merciful Saviour; and be assured that none who trust in him shall ever be ashamed.

SAM AND JIM—"Come, Sam, let's go in and take a little. Old Bob Bummer keeps the best liquor in town. Come, don't hang back; let's go in."

"Jim, I have been thinking this matter over since I saw you last, and I can't do it. To be plain with you, Jim, I have given my heart to the Lord Jesus, and you will never see me drink again. Besides, I have been figuring on this matter some, and what do you suppose it costs us to patronize old Bob?"

"Well, a dollar or two a week, I suppose," said Jim.

Sam, taking a pencil and a piece of paper from his pocket-book, handed them to Jim, and said, "Let us look at it fully, and make a fair calculation. You deposit—"

Your money—and lose it.

Your time—and lose it.

Your character—and lose it.

Your health of body—and lose it.

Your strength of mind—and lose it.

Your manly independence—and lose it.

Your self-respect—and lose it.

Your sense of right and wrong—and lose it.

Your home comfort—and lose it.

Your wife's happiness—and lose it.

Your children's rights—and lose them.

Your country's honor—and lose it.

Your own soul—and lose it.

Sam, I'll take the pledge for life on that. Come, let's go up to the Young Men's Christian Association Room, and sign the pledge together.

Sam, I'll take the pledge for life on that. Come, let's go up to the Young Men's Christian Association Room, and sign the pledge together.

Sam, I'll take the pledge for life on that. Come, let's go up to the Young Men's Christian Association Room, and sign the pledge together.

Sam, I'll take the pledge for life on that. Come, let's go up to the Young Men's Christian Association Room, and sign the pledge together.

Sam, I'll take the pledge for life on that. Come, let's go up to the Young Men's Christian Association Room, and sign the pledge together.

Sam, I'll take the pledge for life on that. Come, let's go up to the Young Men's Christian Association Room, and sign the pledge together.

Sam, I'll take the pledge for life on that. Come, let's go up to the Young Men's Christian Association Room, and sign the pledge together.

Sam, I'll take the pledge for life on that. Come, let's go up to the Young Men's Christian Association Room, and sign the pledge together.

Sam, I'll take the pledge for life on that. Come, let's go up to the Young Men's Christian Association Room, and sign the pledge together.

Sam, I'll take the pledge for life on that. Come, let's go up to the Young Men's Christian Association Room, and sign the pledge together.

Sam, I'll take the pledge for life on that. Come, let's go up to the Young Men's Christian Association Room, and sign the pledge together.

Sam, I'll take the pledge for life on that. Come, let's go up to the Young Men's Christian Association Room, and sign the pledge together.

Sam, I'll take the pledge for life on that. Come, let's go up to the Young Men's Christian Association Room, and sign the pledge together.

Sam, I'll take the pledge for life on that. Come, let's go up to the Young Men's Christian Association Room, and sign the pledge together.

Sam, I'll take the pledge for life on that. Come, let's go up to the Young Men's Christian Association Room, and sign the pledge together.

Sam, I'll take the pledge for life on that. Come, let's go up to the Young Men's Christian Association Room, and sign the pledge together.

Sam, I'll take the pledge for life on that. Come, let's go up to the Young Men's Christian Association Room, and sign the pledge together.

Sam, I'll take the pledge for life on that. Come, let's go up to the Young Men's Christian Association Room, and sign the pledge together.

Sam, I'll take the pledge for life on that. Come, let's go up to the Young Men's Christian Association Room, and sign the pledge together.

Sam, I'll take the pledge for life on that. Come, let's go up to the Young Men's Christian Association Room, and sign the pledge together.

Sam, I'll take the pledge for life on that. Come, let's go up to the Young Men's Christian Association Room, and sign the pledge together.

Sam, I'll take the pledge for life on that. Come, let's go up to the Young Men's Christian Association Room, and sign the pledge together.

Sam, I'll take the pledge for life on that. Come, let's go up to the Young Men's Christian Association Room, and sign the pledge together.

Sam, I'll take the pledge for life on that. Come, let's go up to the Young Men's Christian Association Room, and sign the pledge together.

Sam, I'll take the pledge for life on that. Come, let's go up to the Young Men's Christian Association Room, and sign the pledge together.

Sam, I'll take the pledge for life on that. Come, let's go up to the Young Men's Christian Association Room, and sign the pledge together.

Sam, I'll take the pledge for life on that. Come, let's go up to the Young Men's Christian Association Room, and sign the pledge together.

Sam, I'll take the pledge for life on that. Come, let's go up to the Young Men's Christian Association Room, and sign the pledge together.

Sam, I'll take the pledge for life on that. Come, let's go up to the Young Men's Christian Association Room, and sign the pledge together.

Sam, I'll take the pledge for life on that. Come, let's go up to the Young Men's Christian Association Room, and sign the pledge together.

Sam, I'll take the pledge for life on that. Come, let's go up to the Young Men's Christian Association Room, and sign the pledge together.

Sam, I'll take the pledge for life on that. Come, let's go up to the Young Men's Christian Association Room, and sign the pledge together.

Sam, I'll take the pledge for life on that. Come, let's go up to the Young Men's Christian Association Room, and sign the pledge together.

Sam, I'll take the pledge for life on that. Come, let's go up to the Young Men's Christian Association Room, and sign the pledge together.

Sam, I'll take the pledge for life on that. Come, let's go up to the Young Men's Christian Association Room, and sign the pledge together.

Sam, I'll take the pledge for life on that. Come, let's go up to the Young Men's Christian Association Room, and sign the pledge together.

Sam, I'll take the pledge for life on that. Come, let's go up to the Young Men's Christian Association Room, and sign the pledge together.

Sam, I'll take the pledge for life on that. Come, let's go up to the Young Men's Christian Association Room, and sign the pledge together.

Sam, I'll take the pledge for life on that. Come, let's go up to the Young Men's Christian Association Room, and sign the pledge together.

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR

WEED SEWING MACHINE.

With the Latest Improvements, made by the

NORTH AMERICAN SEWING MACHINE CO.

Corner Charlotte and Main Streets, ST. JOHN, N.B.

HAS taken many First-Place Prizes, and is becoming

increasingly popular. Adapted to all kinds of Work.

Manufactures of Families. Making the Lockstitch with

Shuttle and Straight Needle. Exceedingly simple in

construction. Each MACHINE warranted, and the Manufacturer being

in St. John, the warranty is valuable.

Kept in order for a reasonable time free of charge. Purchasers, thus time and expense attending repairs of foreign

Machines is saved. Call and examine MACHINES; or, send for samples of

work done by them. D. MAGEE & CO.,

51 KING STREET, Hat, Cap and Fur Dealers,

Retail Agent for St. John.

All orders from the Country, where we have no

Agent, should be addressed, CHARLES A. BOVEY,

General Agent, 10 and 12 Nelson Street,

may St.

W.B.S. TAYLOR'S FLEXIBLE GAS LIGHT

TUBING, for Gas Stoves, Gas

Forbairns, Gas Drop Lights, etc.—Patented—This is the

most perfect and safe Tubing ever made. It is made of

iron, and is perfectly proof against all changes of the atmosphere, as well as against the action of

Gas. It is warranted to be such. This is what no other

Tubing offered for sale has been. It cannot be

permeated, it is free when in use from that disagreeable

smell peculiar to all previous kinds of Tubing. For sale by

April 8 Z. C. GABEL.

EARTHENWARE AND GLASS—Spring Stock, now

landing from New Liverpool, in Stock 4000 dozen

English Milk Pans and Crocks. Wholesale and Retail,

May 18 F. CLEMENTSON, Dock Street, St. John.

Unfailing Eye Preservers!!

LAZARUS & MORRIS'

CELEBRATED PERFECTED

SPECTACLES

AND EYE GLASSES.

THE large and increasing sales of these SUPERIOR

GLASSES is a sure proof of their superiority. We

are satisfied that they would be appreciated here as else-

where, and that the reality of the advantages offered to

wearers of our beautiful lenses, viz., the ease and com-

fort, the increased and ready service, the clearness of

the sight, and the brilliant assistance they give in all cases,

are in themselves so apparent on trial, that the result

could not be otherwise than in the almost general

adoption of our

Celebrated Perfected Spectacles

by the residents of this locality.

With a full knowledge of the value of the assertion, we

claim that they are the most perfect optical aids ever man-

ufactured. To those needing Spectacles, we afford at all

times an opportunity of procuring the best and most

desirable.

The following is a list of our only authorized agents for

New Brunswick:

GEO. HENDERSON, JR., St. John, N.B.

W. C. ANDERSON, Newcastle.

WM. DIBBLE, Woodstock.

GROSS & STEVENS, Hillsboro.

LINDSEY & JACKSON, St. John.

J. BROWN & CO., Dorchester.

S. F. SHUTE, Fredericton.

SMITH, HAMILTON & CO., Shediac.

GEO. H. STOKES, Yarmouth.

THOS. VONDI, Jr., Chatham.

G. H. WHITE & CO., Sussex.

J. H. STEVENS, Harvey.

J. C. HARPER, Bay Verte.

who have always on hand a full assortment, suitable for

every difficulty.

We take occasion to notify the public that we employ no

Stock of Spectacles, and that against those pretending to

have our goods for sale.

LAZARUS, MORRIS & CO.,

505 Notre Dame Street,

(P. O. Drawer 168),

Montreal.

Dec. 17-17

ROBINSON BROS., 45 PRINCE WILLIAM ST.,

Roads, Barkas, Herbs, Dandelion Root, Camfrey Root,

Manioc Root, Vinca Root, Cat's Claw, Sarsaparilla, and

other fine Goods, at Wholesale and Retail. Also, a full

assortment of Groceries, and a full supply of all kinds of

Provisions, and a full supply of all kinds of

Provisions, and a full supply of all kinds of

Agent for Produce of all kinds, Live Stock, &c.

THE Subscriber informs his Friends, and public in the

Country that he is doing Business on Market Street, at

the foot of Country Market, where he is prepared to

tend to all consignments that he is favored with.

Particular Consignments of Produce may depend upon quick

sales and prompt returns. J. C. PERRY,

100, 100, 100, 100, 100, 10