

SHORT STORIES.

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Vol. I.

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$\frac{1}{2}$  Anna.



## ADAM AND EVE HIDING.



You see in the picture, Adam and Eve, our first parents, trying to hide themselves from God among the trees of the garden. Once they were glad when God

came to the garden; they were pleased to thank and praise Him for His kindness to them. The nearer they were to God, the better they were pleased. Why did they afterwards try to flee from God? Because they had sinned.

God made our first parents holy and happy, and placed them in the beautiful garden of Eden. If they were obedient, they would live for ever; but if they sinned, they would surely die. Adam and Eve ate of the tree of which God had told them not to eat. They felt that

they had done wrong; they were ashamed, and afraid of punishment.

It was very foolish in Adam and Eve to think that they could hide themselves from God. "Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the Lord." To God the darkest night is as the brightest day. Children sometimes misbehave when their father is away. When he comes back in the evening, instead of running to meet him as on other days, they try, like Adam and Eve, to hide themselves. This is not the right

\* way. It makes their conduct the worse.

When we have done wrong, instead of trying to run away or to conceal our fault by a lie, we should confess it sorrowfully. This will sometimes lead to our pardon, or, at least, our punishment will be lightened.

Especially should we confess our sins to our heavenly Father. For the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, He will forgive us, and receive us as His children.

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## THE BURIED GIRL.



A missionary was living  
in a far country among some  
wild black people whom he

\* SHORT STORIES, No. 2. FOR REWARDS, &c. \*  
1 Anna per 100.

\* was trying to teach. One day, a woman walking in the jungle near his house, heard a very faint cry, like that of a kitten. She looked about, but could see nothing. She then called at the missionary's house and asked him if he had lost a kitten. No; there was no kitten lost.

In a little time after, another woman came, and said she had heard that a mother had thrown away her baby. "Who knows," said the other woman, "but it was the little baby I heard crying as I came along?"

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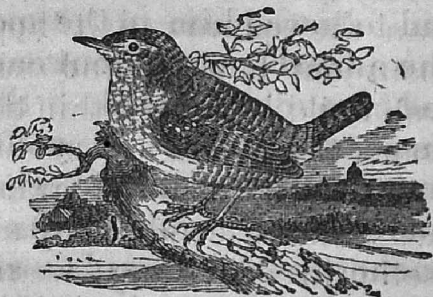
The missionary then went quickly to the place where the sound was heard, and looked around, but could see nothing. When about to go away, he happened to set his foot on a part of the ground which was quite soft. On looking down to examine it, he thought he heard a very soft sound. This made him quickly set to work and pull away the loose earth with his hands. When he got down about a cubit, there was a large flat stone. He lifted the stone, and there lay the poor baby. It was nearly dead. He took it up



and gave it to his wife, who had followed him to the spot. She nursed it with great care, and the child lived. She grew up to be a young woman, and came to England to be trained as a teacher. Afterwards she returned to her native country.

When we were lying in our sins, as helpless as this poor baby, God sent His Son Jesus Christ to save us. Let us trust in Him, love Him, obey Him.





## THE BIRD LESSON.



One day when Jesus Christ was teaching, He said, "Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? Fear not therefore; ye are of more value than many sparrows."

No bird is better known than the sparrow. It hops about our houses, and will even build its nest within the rooms, if allowed.

Sparrows feed on grain, seeds, and insects. They are useful in devouring worms which destroy fruit and the crops of the farmer.

The sparrow is a little bird, neither attracting our notice by the beauty of its plumage, nor the sweetness of its song. But small and mean as it may seem to us, it "is not forgotten before God." He cares even for the sparrow, supplying it with

every thing it needs. Not one of them falls to the ground unseen by Him.

If God thus watches over the fowls of the air, will He not much more take care of you?

You are of more value than many sparrows; for you have a soul that will live for ever after your body is dead.

You are of more value because you are made for nobler ends than they. The sparrows know not the God who made them, the hand that feeds them; but you can know and remember your

\* \*  
Creator; you can love the God who feeds and clothes you; you can pray to Him daily for the mercies you want, and give Him thanks for what you receive. You can love Him as your kind and gracious heavenly Father.

Remember that God expects more from you than from the fowls of the air. He has done more for you. He gave His only Son to die for us. Should we not thank Him, and love Him with all our heart?

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## HEALING THE SICK.



When a person is very ill with fever, he sends for a doctor. Perhaps after taking medicine for some days or weeks he may get better,

but perhaps he may die. In either case the doctor expects to be paid.

Long ago there was a wonderful Physician, or doctor, who could cure any sickness at once without giving any medicine. To a man sick of the palsy, lying on a mat unable to move, He said, "Rise, take up thy bed, and walk." You know what a frightful disease leprosy is. The body becomes all sores, and wastes away; no medicine can cure it. When this wonderful Physician touched a leper, immediately his flesh was restored like

that of a little child. And He did other wonderful works. The blind were made to see; the lame to walk. Even the dead were raised. Once when He was walking along the road, a funeral came out of the gate of a small town. A young man, the only son of his mother, who was a widow, was going to be buried. He said to the dead body, "Young man, arise," and he that was dead stood up, and began to speak.

This great Physician took no payment; received no gifts; He healed all freely.

No wonder those who need-



...s help crowded around  
 ...a. What a change took  
 place! They came in pain,  
 but returned in health; they  
 came with tears, but return-  
 ed with joy and singing.

Who was this wonderful  
 Physician? The Lord Jesus  
 Christ, the only Son of God,  
 who became man to save us.  
 He can do more than cure the  
 body; He can heal the far  
 more dreadful disease of the  
 soul. He can say to us,  
 "Thy sins be forgiven thee."  
 Ask Him to heal you. Trust  
 in Him, love Him, obey Him.





## WHO IS EVERYWHERE?

Some nice sweetmeats were kept in a jar on a high shelf. A little girl was told that she was not to take any

of them without leave. But one day, when her mother was not in the house, she got a stool, and stood on it to try to reach the jar. You see in the picture what happened.

The stool turned over; the jar with the sweetmeats fell on the floor and was broken. The little girl hurt herself so much that she cried, and she deserved to be punished for her disobedience and trying to steal.

People are often tempted to do wrong because they think that no one sees them. They forget that "The eyes of the Lord are in every place,

beholding the evil and the good." God not only sees what we do, but He knows the thoughts of our hearts.

When you rise in the morning; through all the hours of the day; when you go to bed at night; in the darkness when you are fast asleep; always, everywhere, *God sees you.*

When you are tempted to speak harshly to those around you or undutifully to your parents; when you are tempted to say bad words, to lie, cheat, or steal,—ask yourself, "How dare I do this wicked thing, when God can see me?"

When in trouble or tempted to do wrong, lift up a prayer to God for help. "The Lord is nigh unto all that call upon Him, to all that call upon Him in truth," This will save you from many evil tempers and evil actions.

If you love God, then think with pleasure that God sees you. He watches over every one of His children. He gave His own Son to die for them; and with Him will He not freely give them all other things which will be for their good?



## BEWARE OF DOGS.

You see in the picture a dog leaping to the length of its chain, and barking. It has been set to watch the house, and it sees some per-

sons coming. It was a custom among the old Romans to chain a dog at the door of their house, and to warn people not to come near it, there was a notice, "Beware of the dog."

Several classes of persons may be compared to dogs that we should shun. The Bible therefore says, "Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers."

Beware of *dirty* dogs. They will spoil your clothes, and make you foul like themselves. If you choose bad companions, you will soon be like them.

Beware of *greedy* dogs. There are some dogs that can never have enough. So there are some people who are always grumbling and discontented.

Beware of *sarling* dogs. They howl, and bark, and snap at every thing. Who are like them? Quarrelsome people. Make no friends with an angry man. Solomon says, "He that meddleth with strife belonging not to him, is like one that taketh a dog by the ears."

In some cities, fierce, hungry dogs wander about at night, feeding on carrion and



\* the refuse of the streets. It is said of heaven "without are dogs." Quarrelsome, unholy people who seek happiness in sinful pleasures, can never enter heaven. \*

How different is the gentle lamb from the dog! It is an emblem of Jesus Christ, the spotless Lamb of God, who is meek and lowly in heart. Learn of Jesus if you would have His disposition trust in Him as your Saviour; and when dogs are shut out, you will find an entrance into heaven for ever.

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## THE MAN FED BY RAVENS.



A long time ago a prophet, called Elijah, stood before a wicked king, and told him that there would be no rain for years in the land.

As the king would seek to kill the prophet, God told him to go to a desert place, where there was a brook, or small river. Elijah was to drink of the water, and ravens were to come and feed him. The prophet obeyed, and the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening. Ravens are wild, greedy birds; but instead of eating the food themselves, they brought it to Elijah, and then they flew away.

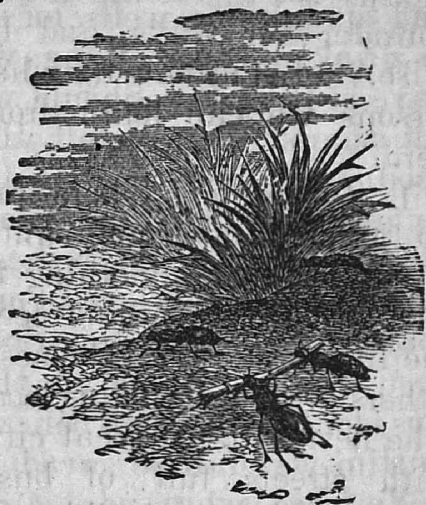
How glad Elijah must have been when he saw the

ravens coming with the food ! It showed that though he was alone in the desert, God was remembering him. He ate his daily food and was thankful. He knew that God would send him more on the morrow, if it pleased Him. And then Elijah could lie down in peace, none making him afraid.

You are fed by God as much as Elijah was. Ravens do not bring you food, but God has given you kind parents who provide you with all you need. He makes the grain to spring up for our use. He causes the nice

pure water to flow in rivers, and to rise up in wells, for us to drink. Every thing we have is His gift. Should we not thank Him for all His goodness? Yes, we should be grateful to Him for all He has done for our bodies; and for His great love to our souls. He gave His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for us; and if we believe in Him we shall be saved.

You see what care God took of Elijah. He will take the same care of you, if you love Him and pray to Him.



## LESSONS FROM THE ANT.

What a very little thing an ant is! But Solomon, the wisest of men, sets up a little ant before us as our teacher.

He says,—“Go to the ant,—consider her ways, and be wise.” Let us now try what lessons we can learn from her.

1. *Industry.* There are no idlers among the ants. Every one has something to do. Some nurse and feed the little ants inside the nest. Others are busy bringing food. The nest is like a great city, with streets full of busy people, each knowing his own work, and doing it with all his might. Learn to be diligent and active like the little ant.

2. *Helpfulness.* If you

see an ant trying to drag a burden beyond its strength, you will usually see another run to help it. Sometimes an ant will drop its own load in order to help another over a difficult place, and then trot back to its own work again. While we should be earnest and diligent in doing our own work, we should never forget that it is part of our work to help our neighbours.

3. *Prudence.* This means looking before, and preparing for what is to come. The ants store up food in harvest



against the times when they cannot gather it.

It is our harvest-time when we are young. We should be diligent in learning. This will help to make us useful and happy when we grow up.

But we should follow the example of the ants also in preparing for the life to come. This life is the harvest-time which God has given us to make preparation for that life. We must have our sins pardoned, and our hearts changed;—we must love and serve Jesus. Thus we shall be ready for death whenever it comes.



## THE DYING NEGRO BOY.

A little negro boy, called Frederick, about ten years' of age, who attended a Mission School, became very ill.

Believing that he would not recover, he wished to see the Missionary.

The little boy was much pleased to see the Missionary and laid his head on his knee as he sat by his bedside. "Frederick," said the Missionary, "why did you send for me?" "Because, Sir, I am going to leave you." The Missionary then asked him, "Where do you think you are going?" "To heaven, Sir," was the reply. "Who will take you to heaven?" "Jesus Christ." "Do you believe you are a sinner?" "Oh yes, Sir." "And

\* will God forgive your sins ?”

“ Yes ! Jesus died for sinners.”

In the evening Frederick wished to see his school-fellows. When they came he said to them, “ See where I am now ; I cannot play any more with you ; I am going to leave you. Seek the Lord while He may be found. Do not wait until you come on a death-bed ; it might be too late. Seek the Lord while you are in health.” He then shook hands with each of his schoolfellows.

In a short time after they had separated, he called his little sisters, with whom he

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conversed in the same affectionate and serious manner, and then took leave of them. About midnight he asked his father, in whose arms he lay, to place him on the bed. Soon after he said to his mother, "I must leave you. God calls me away. Give me the last kiss." His father and all present received his parting farewell. His last words were, "Lord Jesus, do receive me; I am a great sinner, but pardon my sins."

"Death comes to the young as well as the old. Seek the Lord now.



## OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN.



“Father!” is not that a sweet word? Is it not the name of a person whom you love very much, and who also dearly loves you?

Think of some of the things that your father does for you.

You live in your father's house. He works for you that you may have food and clothing. He sends you to school, and gives you every thing you have. He is pleased when you are good, and sorry when you misbehave. When you are sick, he takes great care of you, and tries, by medicine, to get you well again.

But you have another Father, who loves you better than even your earthly father, and who does far more for you. Who is He? God. He bids

us call Him Father, because He loves us as a Father. He is our Father in heaven.

God gave us life. He keeps us in life. Lay your hand close to your heart, and you will feel your heart beating. It beats day and night, when you are asleep as well as when you are awake. Were it stop, you would die? Who makes it beat? God.

God made the earth on which you live. He makes the sun to shine and the rain to fall. Every thing you have is the gift of your great Father in heaven.

You cannot see God, but



He always sees you. Your earthly father must sleep; but your Father in heaven never sleeps. He is pleased when you are good and happy; He is grieved when you do wrong.

Have you ever offended your heavenly Father? Yes, times without number. What should you do? Confess your faults to Him. Say, "Father I have sinned, and I am no more worthy to be called Thy son. Forgive me for the sake of Jesus Christ." God will listen to your prayer, and bless you.



## THE MOCKING BROTHER.



A long time ago a good man, named Abraham, had a son, called Ishmael. Sarah, Abraham's first wife, had no child till her old age; so she gave her maid Hagar to be Abraham's second wife. Ha-

gar was the mother of Ishmael. God had promised to Abraham that he should have a son, who would become a great nation, and in one of whose descendants all the people of the earth would be blessed. This son was born when Sarah was very old, and she called his name Isaac, which means *laughter*, to express her joy.

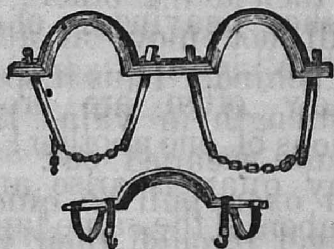
Abraham made a great feast when Isaac was weaned. Ishmael was envious of his little brother, for he knew that Isaac was more blessed than himself. While Abraham and his friends re-

joined at the feast, Sarah saw this bold boy mocking her son. She was so much vexed, that she asked Abraham to turn the boy out of the house as well as his mother.

Abraham was much grieved at the thought of sending his son away; but in the night God told him to do as Sarah had said. God promised to make a nation of Ishmael. Next morning, Abraham sent away Hagar and her son. What did Ishmael feel in having brought his mother into such trouble! There is many a boy that

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has ruined his parents by his wickedness. "A foolish son is the heaviness of his mother."

How often are brothers envious of one another! How many quarrels arise among members of the same family! How much evil do they thus bring upon themselves! If they learn of Jesus, who was meek and lowly in heart, brothers and sisters will live together in peace, and be helpers of each other's joy, and sharers of each other's sorrow. Let brotherly love continue.



## THE YOKE.



The ox is supposed to be the first animal trained to *work* for man. When a young bullock is first put under the yoke, it gives a great deal of trouble. Now it runs forward, and then it pushes back; sometimes it

\* tries to go to the one side and then to the other; now it will not move at all, or kick behind. Thus it spends its strength in vain, till it is quite wearied out. The other oxen pull on quietly, and get through their work with ease.

Children are often like the young bullock. They wish to have their own way, and do not like the yoke of obedience to their parents and teachers. If a strong young bullock would not bear the yoke, it would be quite useless. It is a very sad thing when children refuse

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to obey their parents. Thus they grow up to be good for nothing men, who only bring ruin upon themselves. On the other hand, the obedient child becomes useful and respected in life.

There is another kind of yoke besides that of obedience to parents and teachers.

Jesus Christ says, "Take my yoke upon you; for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

There are two masters, and two yokes. There is the yoke of Satan. He allows his servants to sin as they please, to follow all



the desires of their own evil hearts. But in the end, death is his wages.

Jesus Christ invites all to come to Him. He takes off from them the burden of care, because He cares for them, and will supply all their wants. He takes off the heavy burden of sin, which would sink them down to hell. He leads them in ways of pleasantness and paths of peace to heaven.

Take His yoke upon you, and learn of Him, who is meek and lowly, so you shall find rest for your soul.



## HOW TO BE WISE.



A great many years ago there was a little boy who had a good mother and grandmother. In the days

in which he lived, there were no printed books. As all the books were written, it took a long time to write one, and it cost much money ; so that there were very few to be seen. It was not so easy for a child to be wise then as it is now. But this little boy not only learned to read, but got the best kind of wisdom.

Look at the picture. The mother unfolds before her little boy a long roll of a kind of thick paper, made of skin, with the letters written upon it. She reads the story of Cain and Abel, of Joseph and of David. She tells him

\* of the baby Moses in the ark, and of Elijah fed by ravens. \*

The name of this child has come down to us. He grew up to be a minister, and was the friend of the apostle Paul, going to many places to tell the people about the one true God. He became wise in God's holy word. He loved Christ, and lived to serve Him all his days.

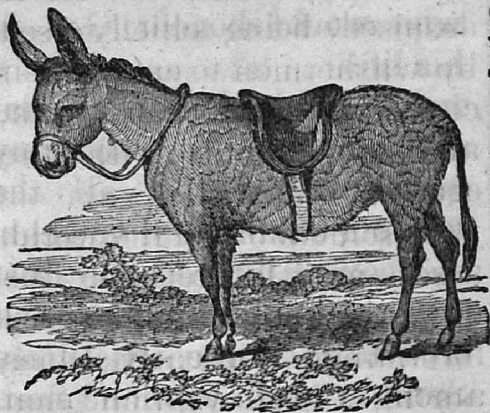
The little boy's name was Timothy, which means *worshipping God*. His parents, perhaps, gave him this name because they wished that he should not only grow up to be a wise, but a

\* \*

good and useful man—one who would honour God in his life.

Be thankful to God that the young have now so many good books. Get all the wisdom out of them you can.

Above all, get the best wisdom from the Bible. Ask God to give you His Holy Spirit to teach you, and that, like Timothy, it may be said of you, "From a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."



## THE ASS.

The ass is somewhat like the horse in appearance, but it is much smaller.. It has also longer ears and a thinner tail than the horse.

In this country the ass is despised, being chiefly used by washermen to carry their clothes. It does useful work, and is contented with the coarsest grass.

In some parts of the world, asses are large and fine animals, and are much used for riding. In early times among the Jews, rich men rode on asses, as there were then no horses kept in the country. White asses, which were scarce and valuable, were considered fit for judges. When Saul was met by the prophet Samuel, and told he was to be king, he

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was searching for his father's asses, which had strayed. After his time, however, many fine horses were brought into the country, and the kings and nobles chose them for riding; and the ass was left to be used by the poorer people. The horse was also specially used in war. When Jesus Christ rode into Jerusalem, it was upon a young ass, as foretold by the prophet. Thus He showed His meekness even when the people shouted His praises, and spread their garments to do Him honour. Jesus loves the

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humble, "but the proud He knoweth afar off."

Though the ass seems dull and slow, he knows his master, and will sometimes find him out among a crowd of men. God says, "The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib; but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider." Even this dull beast seems more grateful and obedient to its master than men are to God. We often forget our kind Father, who has fed and kept us all our days.



## THE LYING SERVANT.

A long time ago a prophet  
told a great captain how he

\* SHORT STORIES, No. 15. FOR REWARDS, &C. \*  
*1 Anna per 100.*

might be cured of his leprosy. When he got well he offered him a rich present; but the prophet would not take any thing. After the captain went away, the prophet's servant ran after him, and by a lie got some money and clothes. When the servant had hidden them, he went to his master. The prophet said to him "Where have you been?" The answer was, "Thy servant hath been nowhere." He told a second lie to hide the first. The prophet then said that God had told him where he had been, and that as the

\* servant had taken the captain's money, so he was to have his leprosy. The ser-  
vant went out "a leper as  
'white' as snow."

The Bible says, "a lying  
tongue is but for a moment."  
When children do wrong,  
they sometimes try to hide  
their fault by a lie. But one  
lie generally leads to another,  
and so at last they are found  
out, to their sorrow and  
shame. Liars are not be-  
lieved even when they speak  
the truth. The Bible says  
that God hates "a lying  
tongue;" that the devil is  
"a liar, and the father of it;"

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 and that those who are guilty of lying, if they die unpardoned, shall be cast into hell.

It is hard for the young to say, "I have done wrong;" but it is the next best thing to doing right.

While lying is soon found out, "the lip of truth shall be established for ever." God is a "God of truth." Try to be like Him.

We should confess the sins of our tongue and all our other sins to God, seeking forgiveness through Jesus Christ. We should also pray, "O Lord, keep the door of my lips."



## THE ROSE.



The rose is called the queen of flowers. There is no other in all the garden so lovely and so sweet.

Roses are grown everywhere for their beauty. They

are a great ornament around a house. The rose is also remarkable for its fragrance. In some parts of the valley of the Ganges there are large fields of roses, used in making perfumes. Rose water is made by heating roses with water in a close vessel. The rose water comes over like steam, and is cooled. It is used for sprinkling on visitors, and for many other purposes.

When rose water is exposed in large shallow pans at night, a little oil rises to the top, called attar of roses. It is very dear, for it takes

\* \*  
about two lakhs of flowers to produce the weight of a rupee in attar.

God gave the rose its beautiful colour and pleasant fragrance. It is a mark of His goodness.

Try to be like a rose. How? you may ask. By your gentle, loving conduct. An obedient affectionate child is like a rose to his parents: while one of opposite disposition is like a thorn. It is the same with your companions. If you are truthful, kind, and obliging, all will love you, and some may be led to follow your example.

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But if you are deceitful, selfish, and quarrelsome, you will be like a stinking weed instead of a rose.

A rose is sometimes given to visitors as a welcome. One in full bloom is chosen for this purpose—not one that is dry and withered. The best offering you can make to God sweeter than the sweetest rose, is your heart. This is what He asks. “My son, give me thine heart.” You cannot give it too soon. Do not wait till you are old.



