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THE
TERRIBLE RED DWARF.

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THE TERRIBLE RED DWARF.

Any one much below the usual size is called a dwarf. There have been dwarfs who, when thirty years old, have not been taller than children of three years. But of all the dwarfs that ever did live a little Red Dwarf did the most harm, and made the most noise about it. This was all the more wonderful, because he was so very small. You never saw, you never heard of, any dwarf so small as this. He measured only a few inches in length,—not the size of your hand.

This wonderful little dwarf lived in a wonderful little cave. It was dark, low-arched, and strongly guarded. Then there were two ivory gates to shut him

in, and outside there were two other gates that were made to fasten quite closely. There was no other dwarf that was so secured; and yet, in spite of all this, there was not another dwarf that it was so difficult to shut up. There was no smith living who could put a lock on that dwarf. Robbers might be locked up and wild beasts kept in iron cages, but never a bolt or a bar could keep in this little creature, who was quite different from any of his kindred.

The Red Dwarf's nearest neighbour dwelt in a cave, that had not any gates at all; but he was so quiet and gentle that he was scarcely ever heard, except sometimes in his sleep when he was quite off his guard. Farther up the mountain-side there dwelt two brothers, who only let

down a thin coverlid over their cave. And round on either side of the mountain lived two other dwarfs whose caves could not be shut up in any way—night and day their gates stand always open.

Now of all the strange things I could tell you about this wonderful Dwarf, perhaps the strangest was this—that he never went away from home. Sometimes, indeed, you might catch sight of him, peeping out of his ivory gates, but he would be in again before he could say a word.

But though the terrible Red Dwarf never went beyond the cave himself, he had hundreds of messengers whom he sent forth on his errands. No one could see these messengers, much less touch them. They also moved so quickly that they went ever so far

in a very little time. Many of these messengers were armed with poisoned arrows, which wounded severely, and often left painful sores that were very long in healing.

Sometimes the cruel Dwarf would open his cave and pour forth a swarm of his cruel little men with torches and firebrands, and set fire to a house or a street—sometimes even to a whole village or a city.

At other times a band of robbers would creep forth from the cave, and waylay some unfortunate man, and rob him very quickly of all that he valued most in the world.

None were too great for this dreadful Dwarf to get at them, and nobody was too low or poor. Weak women and children were just as badly treated as strange

men. Some who lived farthest away fared worst. Such was this terrible Red Dwarf.

But this Dwarf was only the slave of a mighty King who lived in the interior of the country. The Dwarf was the king's slave, and could only do what this king bade him. The cruel old king was dethroned and a new king put in his place. He ordered the arrows to be flung away, the spears to be broken, the torches and fire-brands to be destroyed.

The Dwarf's messengers were never to go out unless on some good errand. A guard was also sent to watch that these commands were obeyed.

There was then a wonderful change. The Terrible Dwarf was terrible no more. He and his band tried to do all the good

they could, comforting the sorrowful, guiding those who were out of the way, spreading peace and joy all around.

Who is this Red Dwarf? The Bible, God's Holy Book, will tell us.

Even so THE TONGUE is a little member, and boasteth great things. The tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity... For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: but THE TONGUE can no man tame.

What are the Dwarf's arrows, causing rankling wounds? Sharp and bitter words. Who are the robbers? Slanders taking away a man's good name.

Who is the king whom the Dwarf obeyed? "*Those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the HEART.*" The HEART is the

king, and nothing but a good *Heart* can make a good *Tongue*.

My reader, how has the Red Dwarf of whom you are king been employed? Has he ever sent forth cutting, bitter words, causing angry feelings which last for years? Has he ever spread quarrels, or stirred up strife? Has he been guilty of evil speaking, taking away a man's good name, what is of most value to him?

The Red Dwarf does harm in many other ways. Many people mention God's name in jest. This is a great sin. Lying and the use of filthy words are very common, but very wrong.

Remember that God is always hearing us, and that every word we say is, as it were, written in His Book, and that we must give an account of it in the day of

judgment. Oh how many are the sins of our tongue!

What are we to do? First we should seek pardon. God so loved us that He gave His only Son, Jesus Christ to die for us. He will blot out all our past sins, if we ask forgiveness in the name of Jesus Christ, trusting in Him as our Saviour. But our heart must also be changed, for our words come from the heart. Say, "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." Let this also be your daily prayer, "Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth, keep the door of my lips."

Thus the arrows and spears of the Red Dwarf will be broken, and instead of evil, he will send forth messengers of love and joy.

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