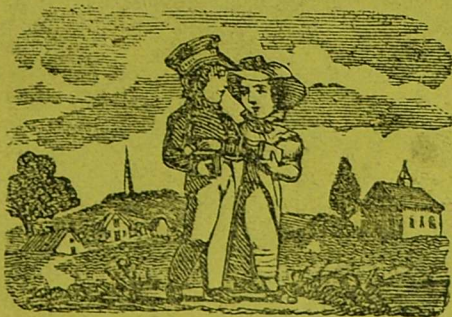


EDMUND

AND

MARY.



LONDON:

RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY,

36, Paternoster-row;

SOLD ALSO BY J. WISBET, BERNERS-STREET.

EDMUND AND MARY.



INDUSTRY, honesty, and a good character will be rewarded: this was the case with widow Bean, who was left with two children to take care of. Her first and best impressions, which formed her character, were received at a Sunday-school; and

having tasted the sweet enjoyments which flow from the grace of Christ and from walking in the fear of God, she was very anxious that her children should be directed in the same path. She early taught them to lift their little hands morning and evening in prayer to their Father in heaven, that their sins might be pardoned for Christ's sake, and that they might be made holy children. As there was a free school in the village where she lived, at a proper age her two children, Edmund and Mary, were admitted as scholars.

A portion of the Bible was explained every day in the school, and it was requested that those who had any time before the next morning, would search for Scripture texts as proof of what had been said; or learn two verses of poetry from the school selection of hymns.

One morning, after Mary had finished her breakfast of bread and milk, she sat with her book on the bench by the cottage door, close to the woodbine, the pride of the garden, which grew round the casement window. Here she learned the verses which had been selected, that her mind might be

prepared for an address which was to be given that morning, on the death of one of the female scholars :

“Death has been here and borne away
A sister from our side ;
Just in the morning of her day,
As young as we she died.

“We cannot tell who next may fall
Beneath thy chastening rod :
One must be first, so let us all
Prepare to meet our God.”

Edmund took his station under the elder-tree which hung over the garden-gate, and found proofs from his Bible for the subject given, which was, that God sees, knows, and can do all things. For the first he fixed on the 2nd and 3rd verses of the 139th Psalm, “Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways.” For the second, part of the 13th verse of the 16th chapter of Genesis, “Thou God seest me ;” and for the last, the 9th verse of the 33rd Psalm, “He spake, and it was done ; he commanded, and it stood fast.”

As soon as they understood it was time to prepare for school, Edmund collected the books in his bag, and slung it across his shoulder; and when Mary had tied on her straw bonnet and put on a clean pinafore, she took her bag on her arm, and both cheerfully tripped away towards the school-room. Their mother stood at the garden-gate, watching them down the lane, and with an anxious and fond heart, lifted up a secret and fervent prayer, that "the Lord would direct their hearts into the love of God," and make them his children.

Harry Brown soon joined them: he came hallooing down the lane, throwing stones and driving the horses, which he had wickedly prevented from grazing the scanty grass on the road-side. Harry's father and mother were honest and industrious cottagers, and very thankful for what was done for their lad; but unless parents support the school teachers by enforcing an attention to what is required, their labour of love may prove fruitless.

"Well, Harry," said Edmund, "what proofs have you found?" "Oh, I had not time," he replied; "and I have a good ex

cuse to make, for last evening I helped mother in the garden, and this morning I have been across the marsh to Farmer Brown's field with father's breakfast."

Now this was true, but not all the truth ; and idle, naughty children will try to quiet their consciences by telling part of the truth to hide their faults. His mother had kept him a very short time in the garden, and this morning he had wasted his time in running up and down the lane after the horses. Children should remember that a lie is a sin, whether about a great or little matter. At the school he boldly told his story, but seemed somewhat ashamed when he heard the teacher promise to call and mention to his parents how much his lessons were neglected.

When the duty of the school was over, and silence required, some of the little girls began to shed tears on the name of Ellen Burton being mentioned. As their beloved and excellent minister entered the school-room, they all rose to pay him their respects. After inquiring about their little brothers and sisters, he affectionately addressed himself to the children on the death

of Ellen. "You all know," he said, "that she died of a fever, after an illness of only five days ; so true it is, dear children, that 'in the midst of life we are in death,' and we know not what a day or an hour may bring forth. I was with her a few hours before her departure, when she appeared to be suffering great pain, but there was occasionally a sweet-smile on her face, and an evident resignation to God's holy will. She was unable to speak much, but on my approaching her bed-side, she was heard to say faintly yet distinctly, 'Jesus died to save sinners ; I shall yet praise him for his mercy.' Very soon after she lifted up her pale hand, and for a moment opened her eyes, as if engaged in fervent prayer, then yielded to death, and closed them again for ever. Ellen is no longer a prisoner in pain and suffering ; the immortal spirit is released, and we shall see her face again no more. I do not wonder at your tears, and I am pleased to witness such a kind remembrance of one who was lovely in life and lovely in death. You have all received the same instructions and have been taught under the same roof : your voices were once

united in singing your morning and evening praises to the great Father of mercies and the Saviour of sinners; and now, dear children, you must pray to be prepared by his grace to join with Ellen in the everlasting song of the redeemed in glory. God loves to hear the simple prayer of little children who love Jesus Christ. In the graves your bodies will be re-united; there is a grave for you—and for you—and do not forget that we shall all meet again at the judgment of the last day. Ellen was permitted to enjoy only a short portion of the pleasures of earth, but early death has increased her eternal joys; earth is exchanged for heaven, where there are pleasures for evermore. ‘Sleep is a short death, and death is a longer sleep, but the same God watches over the Christian in his bed, and in his grave.’ Let me beg of you, therefore, to seek Christ as your only hope, who died for our sins, and rose again for our justification. Look to Christ as your guide through this world to heaven: with this protection you will be safe in all your amusements, safe in the family, safe in the fields, abroad or at home wherever God

sends you. Although life is not always a calm, even to the Christian, but is a sea where storms must rise, still you will be safe—with Christ in the vessel, you will smile at the storm. May every child now present hear the important question which God now addresses to you: “Wilt thou not from this time cry unto me, ‘My Father, thou art the guide of my youth?’”

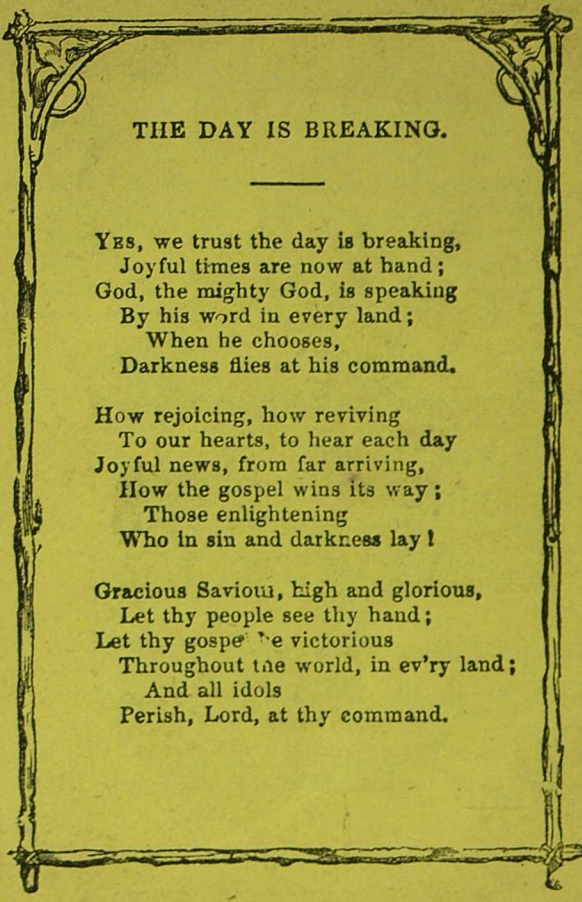
Around the throne of God in heaven
Thousands of children stand;
Children whose sins are all forgiven,
A holy, happy band.

What brought them to that world above,
That heaven so bright and fair,
Where all is peace, and joy, and love?
How came those children there?

Because the Saviour shed his blood
To wash away their sin:
Bathed in that pure and precious flood,
Behold them white and clean.

On earth they sought their Saviour's grace,
On earth they loved his name;
So now they see his blessed face,
And stand before the Lamb.

37131.048 628 317



THE DAY IS BREAKING.

YES, we trust the day is breaking,
Joyful times are now at hand ;
God, the mighty God, is speaking
By his word in every land ;
When he chooses,
Darkness flies at his command.

How rejoicing, how reviving
To our hearts, to hear each day
Joyful news, from far arriving,
How the gospel wins its way ;
Those enlightening
Who in sin and darkness lay !

Gracious Saviour, high and glorious,
Let thy people see thy hand ;
Let thy gospel be victorious
Throughout the world, in ev'ry land ;
And all idols
Perish, Lord, at thy command.