

# THE MONSTER.

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LONDON:

RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY,

56, Paternoster-row ;

SOLD ALSO BY J. NISBET, BERNERS-STREET.



## THE MONSTER.

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THERE are very few children who have not heard silly stories of dwarfs, and giants, and giant-killers; as well as of dragons, with forked tongues and tails, and monsters sometimes with one head, and sometimes with two. But the time children spend in hearing, or in reading

such silly stories, is not only thrown away, but mis-spent. It is thrown away, because no good is to be got from such silly stories; and it is mis-spent, because it increases a love of folly and falsehood, and lessens the desire for wisdom and truth.

What a difference there is between the butterfly which spends its time in fluttering from garden to garden, and from field to field, and the bee which employs itself in gathering honey from every flower it lights upon! The bee would die, like the butterfly, but having gathered a store of honey, he is enabled to live through the winter, and once more to wing his way from rose to rose, and to push his trunk into the buttercups of the opening spring.

Now, children who spend their time in hearing or reading silly tales, are like butterflies, for they make no provision for the future; but they who hear and read what will make them wiser, better, and more useful, resemble bees. Come, my little friend, be a bee! while I tell you something about THE MONSTER.

I am going to tell you of a real monster, which has been roaming about the world for almost six thousand years; the most frightful of all creatures, and by far the most dangerous. Woe to the man, woman, or child, who gets into the clutches of this monster!

Instead of having only one or two heads and tails, he has a thousand; ay, and ten thousand stings, sharp-pointed, forked at the end, and dipped in poison!

What makes this ugly monster still more dangerous is, that he possesses the power of changing his shape, so that he can look lovely to all eyes, until he has got fast hold of his victim, and then he directly turns into his own ugly shape again, with all his heads and tails, and pointed stings.

He has the power, too, of making himself invisible, and is often close upon us when we think ourselves free from danger; and he can imitate all sounds, from the roaring thunder to others as sweet as the warbling of the nightingale. He has overcome millions of people, and though armed men with helmets, and



breastplates, and swords, and shields, "able to stand in the evil day," are ever on the watch for him, he continues to roam about from one end of the world to the other. I have known many who have fought with this monster, and, to tell you the truth, I have had many a hard battle with him myself. Whenever you meet with him, you will find him to be a terrible enemy. If you give way to him, he will be sure to overcome you. It would be in vain for me to attempt to tell you one half of the mischief this monster has done in the world; for not an hour has passed since Adam and Eve came out of Paradise, in which he has not been at his evil work. More blood has been shed, and more people destroyed by this monster, than by all the enemies of mankind put together. Plague, pestilence, and famine, though they have brought many low, have not subdued a hundredth part so many as this monster.

He knows very well that a time is coming when he shall be destroyed, and loses, therefore, no opportunity of doing mischief while he can. At one time he

nearly destroyed the whole world ; for he was the cause of a terrible flood which covered the earth, and drowned all but one single family.

The monster is ever on the watch for evil, and frequents every place, — the city, and the country-village ; the palace, and the cottage. He attends all places of pleasure ; he even visits every Sunday-school, and often intrudes himself on the sabbath into the house of God. Oh ! he is a fearful creature ! and could you once discern him in his real shape you would say, that he is the most frightful thing that has ever been seen on the earth. He loves to meet with one who is proud and haughty ; for “ pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.” He loves to find one who depends on his own strength, for he knows that “ whoso trusteth his own heart is a fool ;” he is sure to overcome him. He loves to fall in with one who thinks he is very wise and very good, for he who is “ wise in his own conceit, there is more hope of a fool than of him.” All who are wise in their own

eyes are to sure to be subdued by the monster.

But as I have told you a few of the things which he loves, I must tell you of a few things that he cannot bear. He cannot bear any who are humble, and is afraid to attack them; for "the Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart, and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit." He cannot abide any who love the Bible, and treasure up its truths in their hearts; for he knows to his cost that "the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword." He is sadly annoyed when he observes any one at prayer.

The ugly monster of which I have been speaking is SIN, and the youngest child is as liable to be attacked by him, as the oldest man, and my intention in writing this account of him is, that you may be on your guard against him, and know how to act when in danger. Take, then, my advice, and though the monster were, if possible, more fearful than he now is, you would be secure.

I have before told you, that the monster



can take any shape ; that he can imitate all sounds, and become invisible at his pleasure. Sometimes he may try to frighten you into his den with his roaring ; at others to draw you to him by an agreeable form and pleasant voice. It is necessary, then, that you should have a rule to go by, that you may know when the monster is about to attack you.

The monster knows that evil deeds spring from evil thoughts, and, therefore, he generally begins his mischief by putting some evil thought in the mind, or some evil desire in the heart. Now, whenever you have a thought or desire which your conscience tells you is wrong, or which is contrary to the word of God, you may be quite certain that it comes from the monster. The thought, or the desire, may be very pleasant to you, and not appear likely to do you much mischief, but, depend upon it, you will have to pay dear for it if you do not cast it from you. The way to do this is to go to the Strong for strength, and to the Wise for wisdom. In other words, it is going to the Lord Jesus Christ, who by

his death subdued this monster, and took away "the sting of death, which is sin."

It was this cruel monster that first brought Death into the world, and gave him that dart with which he has laid so many low; but "the Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly." Trust then in Christ as your Saviour from sin and woe, for neither Death, nor his dart, nor the monster Sin himself, "nor any other creature, is able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

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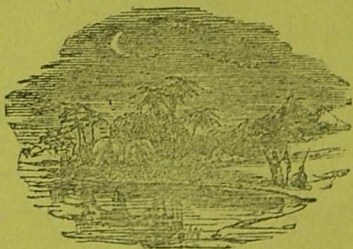
Sin has a thousand treach'rous arts  
To practise on the mind;  
With flattering looks she tempts our heart,  
But leaves a sting behind.

She pleads for all the joys she brings,  
And gives a fair pretence;  
But cheats the soul of heav'nly things,  
And chains it down to sense.

Sin, like a venomous disease,  
Infects our vital blood;  
The only balm is sovereign grace,  
And the physician, God!

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THANKS for our parents, dear and kind,  
Who strive our souls to win ;  
Thanks that they ever were inclined  
To check us in our sin.

Thanks for the sabbaths we have spent,  
The sermons we have heard ;  
For every kind encouragement,  
And every warning word.

Thanks that we know the joyful sound  
Of life, through Jesus' name ;  
And were not born on heathen ground,  
To which it never came.

