

THE
AFFECTIONATE
FRIEND.

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A Reward from the Sunday-School.  
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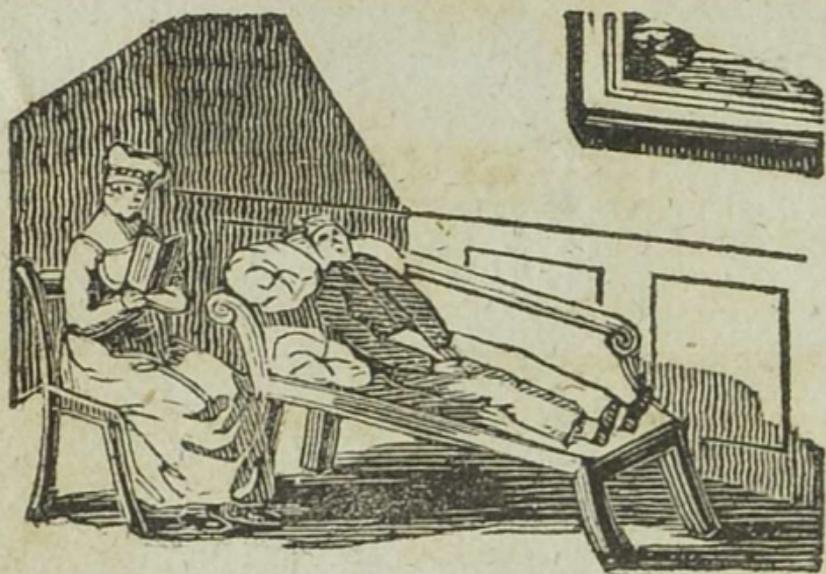
LONDON:

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Long-Lane, W. Smithfield,

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Id,

FRONTISPIECE.



See the condescending Lord
Owns the little infant race,
Bids us note them in his word,
Emblems of his heavenly grace.

THE
AFFECTIONATE
FRIEND.

A Present from the Sunday School.



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THE
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MY DEAR CHILD,

WHEN you look abroad in the day time, and observe the trees, the hills, the clouds, the sky, or the sun; or when you look upwards, in the evening, and observe the moon

and the stars, are you not led to inquire, 'Who hath made all these things?' You have been taught that there is a God, Creator of heaven and earth. With this God it concerns you to become acquainted; for if he is the Maker of heaven and earth, he is likewise your Maker. From what you see of God's works, you perceive that his power must be very great. He is not only powerful, but unspeakably wise and holy. Hating all kinds of wickedness, he is pleased with them only who obey his commands. This God provides for you continually; he gives you health and ease of body, enables your parents to procure you food and clothing, and preserves you

from harm by night and day. You are always in his presence. Though you do not see him, he always sees you, and knows not only your actions, but your thoughts, and these not only in the light, but in the darkness also.

God made men that they might love and serve him, and be happy for ever: but men would not love and serve him,—they chose to offend him by their wicked doings. They became proud and cruel, idle and profane; they then deserved to be punished and destroyed; but God, who was very merciful and kind, would not destroy them; but sent his only-begotten and dearly-beloved Son, to teach men the right way, to make them sorry

for their sins, and to procure for them pardon.

This Son of God is our blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. He was entirely happy with his Father in heaven before the world was made ; yet he pitied mankind, and could not bear to see them hurting and destroying themselves, doing wickedly, and thus making themselves miserable. Our blessed Saviour, the Son of God, was so kind that he came down from heaven, and suffered much pain and trouble for the good of men. He not only suffered, but did much, with the same design. He went about doing good ; he preached good news to poor people ; he shewed them, that if they were good and

holy here, they would be happy after death,—a great deal more happy than the richest men now are, and as happy as the best of them ever will be !

He did much good to all, but no harm to any ; yet he was scorned and ill-treated. At length being influenced by a desire to fulfil his father's will, and to save souls, he willingly yielded himself to his wicked enemies, who murdered him in a very cruel manner.

This was he to whom, when alive on earth, they brought little children ;—this was he who was so greatly displeased with his disciples, because they were not willing that little children should be brought to him ;—this

was he who said, 'Suffer little children to come to me and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven; and he took them up in his arms, and blessed them.'

How exceedingly kind and gracious was it in him to regard not only the flock in general, but the lambs of the flock,—to discover such affection for infants and children! But if he were so gracious while on earth, he has the same kindness now he is in heaven. If he once said, 'Suffer little children to come to me,' he says so at present. He has the same desire to make them happy now, which he had then; for 'he is the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever.'

But you must know, my dear child, that your heart is much inclined to sin; that you have in a thousand instances, offended God already; and, therefore, you have need of divine mercy to pardon what is already done; and of God's Holy Spirit to make your heart pure and your life holy.

You see that all sorts of people die; some older and some younger than yourself; but men do not die as the brutes die. They are not destroyed at death, but have a life afterwards,—a life too which will never have an end. Their bodies die, and all their bodily powers cease. They can neither speak, nor walk, nor labour; yet their souls are alive,

and will always continue so ;— they can think, and be happy or miserable ; and they are a great deal more happy or more miserable, than ever they were before they died.

The reason why some are made happy and others miserable is, that some have been good and others have been wicked ; some have repented of sin, and loved Christ ; others have not repented of sin, but obeyed the dictates of a wicked heart.— Those who love and serve God, will be made happy for ever with him in heaven ; others, who have not loved God, but have been wicked and profane, will be cast off from God and happiness, and made miserable among wicked

spirits. But if you desire to be informed what the blessed God requires of you, in order to your being made happy after death, I will tell you:—You must love God and obey his Son Jesus. If you do love God and Christ, you will pray to God in Christ's name. You must pray daily that God would take away the corruption of your heart, make you holy, teach you what you ought to do, and dispose you to serve him in all things: that he would keep you from the snares to which children are exposed, and not suffer you to be led astray by the bad conduct of the wicked.

At night, when you go to rest, you must repeat some prayer which you understand, and which

will express your sense of entire dependance on God. In the morning, think of God's goodness in preserving you the past night, and pray to him to keep you from harm and from sin all the day.—Always be sure to attend to your parents when reading, or when engaged in family prayer. When you are called to family prayer, see that you attend in a solemn manner, and think of nothing else. So far as you understand the prayer that is made, join in it, and pray for the same things. You must avoid all wicked language, all lying, forgetting of God, disobeying of parents, and unkindness to others.

If your heart and life are a-

greeable to these directions, you need not fear death; for whenever you die, you will go to be with God and Christ, and good men, in perfect holiness and endless joy; but if you live wickedly, and without God in the world, you will be sent to the place of despair and misery.

May God take you under his care, and give you his Holy Spirit!—and may Jesus Christ, who while on earth, took little children into his arms and blessed them, receive you into favour, and give you his grace, that you may be for ever with the Lord!

FINIS.

