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THE  
LITTLE CHRISTIAN,  
OR  
EARLY GOSPEL INSTRUCTION :  
FOR THE USE OF  
*Elementary Schools.*

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BY THE  
REV. CÆSAR MALAN,  
Minister of the Protestant Church, Geneva.

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TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH.

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*THIRD EDITION.*

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THE

**Little Stucco Image Merchants,**

*A Conversational Narrative.*

Translated from the French. Third Edition, with an Engraving, 3d. or 2s. 6d. per doz.

“ ‘ On Friday the 4th of June 1818, we ascended the ramparts on the Lake of Geneva, to try a telescope. While we were looking at some objects, two little boys, from 8 to 10 years of age, attracted by the sight of the instrument in our hands, drew near, and regarded us with much curiosity.’—Page 1.

“ They were indulged with a peep through the glass, and the opportunity is embraced of inquiring into the state of their religious knowledge; they answer ingenuously, and exhibit all the deplorable ignorance of those who inhabit Popish countries. By degrees they are led forward in the dialogue to the acknowledgement of their depraved and dangerous condition by nature; they are then instructed in the work of the Spirit, and the great salvation of Jesus Christ; all this is most interestingly and ably managed, and we trust that this golden Tract will have a most extensive circulation.”—London Christian Instructor, or Congregational Magazine, No. 60. Dec. 1822.

“ There are not many Tracts in which the way of salvation is explained in a more plain and simple manner, suited to the capacities of children.”—Baptist Magazine, Feb. 1823.

THE  
**Little Christian :**

A CONVERSATION BETWEEN A LITTLE CHILD  
AND ITS TEACHER.

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T. My dear child, what are you ?

C. I am a child, some years ago I was not alive ; but now I am in the world.

T. Can you tell me who placed you in the world ?

C. It was God ; he wished that I should be born ?

T. Who is God ?

A. It is he who made the heavens and the earth, and every thing that is there : it is he who made me.

T. What did he make you of ?

A. God made my body of the earth ; and I have in this little body a soul which he made to live.

T. What will become of your body ?

A. It will die in a few years—perhaps sooner, and will fall into dust.

T. And your soul?

A. My soul will never die.

T. Why has God created you?

A. That I shall do his will.

T. What does this good God ask of you?

A. He wishes me to love him with all my heart.

T. Do you love God with all your heart, my dear child?

A. Alas! no; I feel that I love him very little.

T. Why do you think that you love God so little?

A. Because I do not think of him often; and when I know that any thing would please him, I am slow to do it, and sometimes I do not do it at all.

T. How is it, my dear child, that you so little love him who made you?

A. It is because I am sinful.

T. What do you mean by being sinful?

A. I mean a sinner; one who in heart loves sin.

T. What is sin?

A. It is the loving ourselves more than God, and liking better to do what pleases ourselves than what pleases God.



T. And how is it that you have this sin in your heart?

A. It is because my father and mother had it; I got it from them.

T. And how did sin get into the heart of your father and mother?

A. They were born with it like all other people.

T. But when did all other people get this sin?

A. The first man and the first woman had it in their hearts, and all their children got it from them.

T. And how did the first man and woman get it?

A. They got it from disobeying God.

T. Does God love those who have sin in their hearts?

A. No: God does not love the wicked.

T. What becomes of those whom God does not love?

A. They are very unhappy during their life, and when they die, they go into hell, to the devil.

T. What is hell?

A. It is the place of the wicked after this life.

T. And who is the devil?

A. He is a lying and bad spirit, who

made the first man and the first woman sin, and who makes all their children sin : It is he who makes me sin.

T. How can the devil make you sin ?

A. He tempts me, and because my heart loves sin, it consents to do it.

T. And why does this wicked spirit tempt you ?

A. To put me away from God, and to get my soul.

T. Why does he wish to get your soul ?

A. For the sake of evil, and to take it away from God ?

T. And, my dear child, do you wish to be taken away from God.

A. Oh ! no : all my wish is to be the child of God in this world, and to be with him always in the next.

T. What must you do for that ?

A. To be a child of God, I must not be wicked, that is, I must not have any more the love of sin in my heart.

T. Can you take sin out of your heart yourself ?

A. No : because I cannot change my heart.

T. And then what will become of you ?

A. If God does not take pity on me, and take away sin from my heart, I shall be lost.

T. When will you be lost ?

A. At the last day; when God will judge men, and ask the account of their lives.

T. But do you think that God will have pity upon a wicked child ?

A. The Father eternal is so good, that he was touched with mercy towards me before I was in the world, and prepared a way of taking sin out of my heart: that so I might become a child of God.

T. Tell me the way ?

A. The way is my Saviour Jesus Christ.

T. Who is Jesus Christ ?

A. The only and well-beloved Son of the Father, and God blessed for ever.

T. What has Jesus Christ done for you ?

A. He loved me so much that, in order to save my soul, he has wished to take sin out of my heart.

T. What has he done for that ?

A. He left the glory of heaven, where he has ever been with the Father, and came upon earth in a body like ours.

T. Is that long ago ?

A. It is many years since his birth upon the earth.

T. What did Jesus Christ do on the earth ?

A. He preached the gospel.



T. What is the gospel?

A. It is good news to the sinner; showing him that he may be delivered from his sin, and become a child of God.

T. How can that be?

A. Jesus Christ has been so good to the sinner, who could not deliver himself from sin, that Jesus Christ has taken this sin upon him, and borne it himself.

T. Did Jesus Christ suffer much in thus taking sin upon him?

A. O yes, very much; for it was necessary for him to bear the punishment of it also.

T. What was the punishment?

A. The curse of God, and death.

T. When did Jesus Christ bear this punishment of sin?

A. During all his life in the world, and above all when he was crucified.

T. But cannot sin be taken out of the sinner's heart any other way?

A. God has chosen this way only.

T. Jesus Christ has been punished then in the place of the sinner?

A. Yes; Jesus Christ has borne this punishment, to save the sinner from the punishment of his sin, and from eternal death.

T. Jesus Christ then has been very good?



A. The goodness of Jesus Christ is so great, that one will only be able to understand it when one is in heaven.

T. But how can one be in heaven with Jesus Christ, since he was crucified?

A. Because after he laid down his life to save sinners, he took it again, and is now in heaven with the Father.

T. Has this good Jesus thus borne the punishment of your sins?

A. Yes; it is for me that he died; for I believe with all my heart, that it was because of my sin he was crucified; and that so he is my Saviour.

T. But, my dear child, is your heart changed because you believe that?

A. Jesus Christ has promised, that he who truly believes in him as the Saviour, will receive the Holy Spirit.

T. What is the Holy Spirit?

A. It is the Spirit of God.

T. What does the Holy Spirit do in a heart?

A. As he is God, he destroys sin in it, and puts the love of God in its place.

T. From whom will you receive this Holy Spirit?

A. If I ask my heavenly Father, he will give him to me, he will not refuse.

T. But, my child, how will you dare to pray to God, you who have sin in your heart?

A. I will pray to him in the name of Jesus Christ.

T. What do you mean by this?

A. I mean that, if I believe, God will receive my prayer for the love of Jesus Christ.

T. Will you then be heard?

A. Yes; because Jesus Christ is my Saviour, and he has promised that I shall receive the Holy Spirit if I ask him.

T. How will you know that you have received him?

A. At first, I shall have grief because of having sinned, and I shall repent of it; then I shall begin to love God more, and at last my conduct will change.

T. What do you mean by saying you will repent?

A. I mean that I shall be very sorry for having done evil; and that I shall wish very much not to do so again.

T. And how will your conduct change?

A. I shall hate sin, and not willingly commit it any more.

T. Give me some example.

A. If I am now a liar, or disobedient to

my father or mother, or idle,—when I shall have received the Holy Spirit, I shall be ashamed and vexed for my faults, I shall become obedient, I shall no more love lying, I shall love to work.

T. And then, my dear child, will you do the will of God?

A. As I shall begin to love God more for his having saved me, I shall try to do his will, to show him that I love him.

T. How will you be able to know the will of God?

A. By the holy Bible.

T. What is the holy Bible?

A. It is a book that God caused to be written, in order that his children might know what they ought to do, to please their heavenly Father.

T. What does this holy book command the children of God?

A. It commands them, to love God with all their heart, and to love their neighbour, that is, other people, as themselves.

T. How will you know if you love God?

A. If I love God, I shall feel it in my heart; and I shall obey all his commandments with joy.

T. And how will you know if you love your neighbour?



A. Because I shall do hurt to nobody, and try to do good to every body.

T. But, my dear child, can you do all that the Bible orders you?

A. By myself I cannot; but the Holy Spirit whom my heavenly Father will give me, by Jesus Christ, will dwell in me and make me to do it.

T. Then you will pray for him often?

A. In the morning, and often every day, in order that all my conduct may be agreeable to God.

T. Then you will not sin any more?

A. Sin will remain in my heart, as long as I am in the world?

T. If sin remain in your heart, how will God be able to love you?

A. Since Jesus Christ, whilst he was in the world, has perfectly obeyed his Father, he will offer his obedience to his Father in place of mine; and my heavenly Father will love me because of his Son.

T. What will that produce in your soul?

A. Peace, because I shall know that God takes care of me; joy, because he will be my father and I shall be his child; and, comfort, because I shall be happy in doing what God commands me.



T. What will become of you, my dear child, when you die?

A. If I die in believing with all my heart what I have said, that Jesus Christ is my Saviour, then he will receive my soul into heaven; and at the last day he will raise up my body by his Holy Spirit, for a happy life that will never end.

T. Are you sure, my dear child, that this is true?

A. Yes: all that I have said is truth; for it is in the Bible, which is the word of God.

T. What must you do then, my dear child, during your life?

A. While I live I must read the word of God with care; believe with all my heart what it teaches; and do with joy all that it commands.

T. May God give you, my dear child, the will and the power to do it. To Him, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, be all praise, honour, and glory, for ever and ever.  
*Amen.*

## Prayers for Little Children.

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### MORNING PRAYER.

O LORD, who art the Creator of the heavens and the earth, the Father of our Saviour Jesus Christ ! O thou who hast made me, hear the prayer of a little child, asking thy blessing.

It is thou, O God, who hast preserved me during the night. Thou dost wish me to be pious and wise. May I read thy holy word with attention. Let me be obedient, gentle, and humble. For this, O Lord, take pity upon me, and give me thy Holy Spirit, that my heart may be changed and that I may become good.

I pray thee also, O heavenly Father, to bless my father and mother, my teachers and my friends. Teach us all to live pious, and to love our Saviour Jesus Christ, in whose name I, who am but a little child, beg of thee to pardon all my sins, to take care of me, and to keep me from every evil, this day and all my life. *Amen.*

## GRACE BEFORE MEAT.

O LORD God, all things belong to thee. I bless thee through Jesus Christ my Saviour for what thou now givest me ; may I use it all with wisdom. *Amen.*

## AFTER MEAT.

O LORD, as thou dost feed and strengthen my body, feed also my soul, in making me know and love Jesus Christ my Saviour. *Amen.*

## EVENING PRAYER.

O MY God and heavenly Father, the day is ended, keep me while I sleep ; but before lying down, I beg of thee, in the name of my Saviour Jesus Christ, to pardon me as thy child, all that I have done wrong this day.

I do not know, O Lord, if I shall be alive to-morrow—thou only knowest. If I shall die this night, receive me into heaven ; if I shall awake in the morning, may it be to walk as a Christian child.\*

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\* See page 17, Prayer for Sabbath Evening.



O my good Father ! keep also my dear parents, give them sweet sleep. Bless my family, our magistrates, our pastors, my master, and my friends, and all those who love the Lord Jesus ; to whom with thee, O heavenly Father, and the Holy Spirit, be honour, glory, and praise, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*[On Sabbath Morning, the child will add what follows to the ordinary Prayer.]*

And as this is the holy Sabbath-day, which thou commandest to be sanctified, put piety into my heart, that I may read and learn thy word with care and with joy ; that I may go to thy house to pray with all my heart ; that I may attend to thy servant the minister, and that I may do no ill all the day. It was on this day my Saviour rose again ; he died upon the cross to save me : he came out of the tomb to return into heaven, where he is now praying for me. O my God, give me thy love for his sake, and may I soon be in thy presence in heaven, with all thy children. *Amen.*



## SABBATH EVENING.

*[After the words, Christian child, in the ordinary prayer, what follows will be said on Sabbath Evening.]*

Thou hast told me in thy word to be holy as thou art holy, and that thou wilt judge me at the last day. O God, I have passed many Sabbaths, I have often learnt that I must be thy obedient child, and yet week passes after week, without my growing any better. O heavenly Father, teach me then to do thy will. It is only thou who canst change my heart by thy Holy Spirit. Give him to me, O Lord, that I may live as thy child, and not as a child of the world. O my good Father, &c.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER.

*[That is the prayer which our Lord Jesus Christ taught his disciples.]*

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the king-

dom, the power, and the glory, for ever.  
*Amen.*

THE SUMMARY OF THE LAW OF GOD.

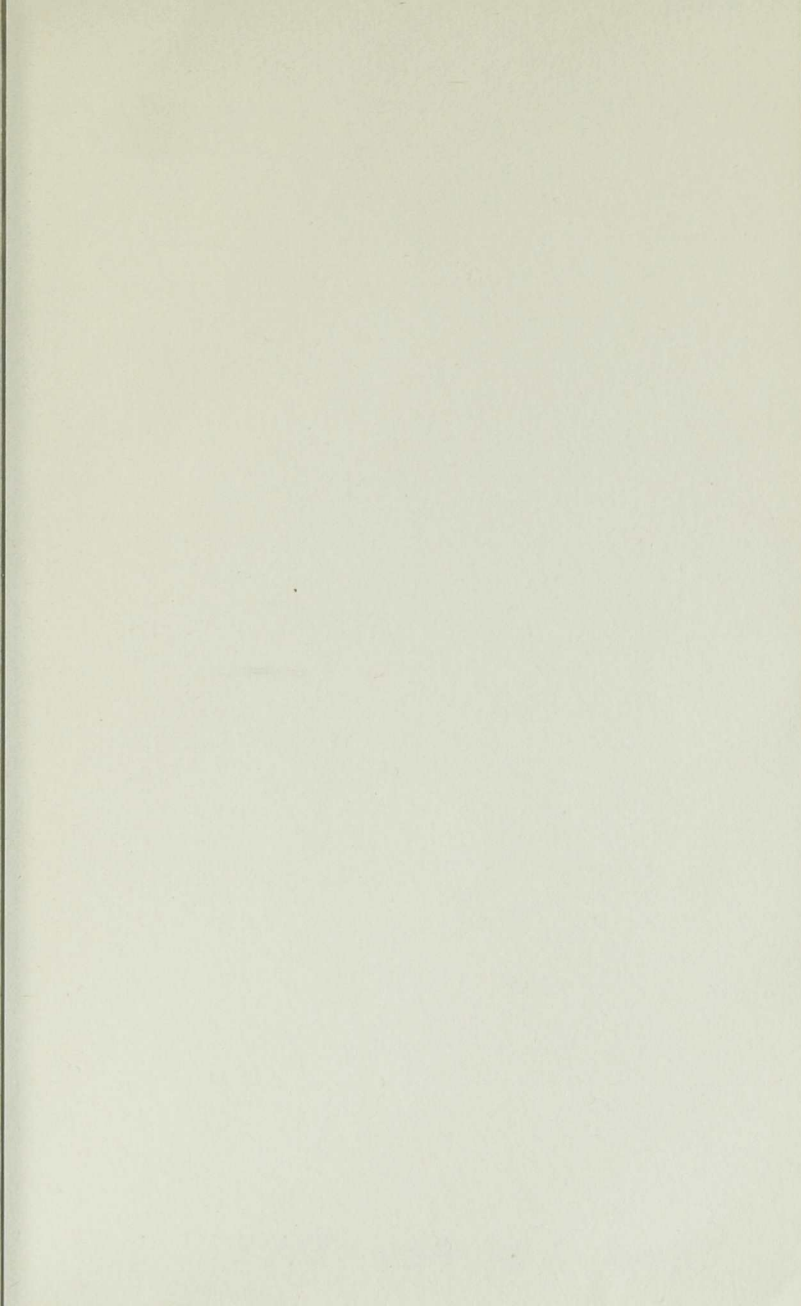
*[Our Lord Jesus Christ says, that all that God commands us in the Bible, is contained in these two commandments:]*

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, and with all thy mind: This is the first and great commandment. And the second, like unto it, is, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

*[Our Saviour has moreover given his disciples this commandment, which he calls his new commandment:]*

I give unto you a new commandment: That you love one another; and that as I have loved you, you ought also to love one another.

FINIS.







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