

THOUGHTS  
ON  
THE SEA-SHORE.

---



---

LONDON:  
Printed for  
THE RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY;  
And sold at the Depository,  
*56, Paternoster-row;*  
AND BY J. NISBET, BERNERS-STREET.

53.



When I see a plain honest fisherman I think of the apostles. Christ chose some of them from among the fishermen of Galilee. When he called them, they left all they had, and followed him. How few of us there are, who are willing to give up any thing that we like, for Christ's sake! Are you ready to give up your naughty tempers and evil passions, for his sake, and to try to do the works of love for his sake? They are mentioned 1 Corinthians xiii. 4, 7.

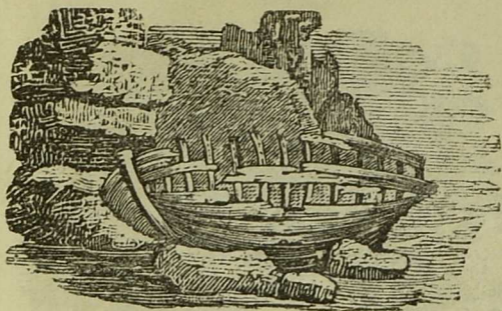


I forget how many thousand different sorts of shells there are; and I believe two shells, even of the same sort, are very seldom found exactly alike. How wonderful are the works of God! and, remember, in wisdom he made them all. No man, however rich, or great, or powerful, is able to make even one of the least of these shells, but God created all things, from the least to the greatest, the sea, and all that therein is. The earth is full of the riches of God, so is the great and wide sea, wherein are things creeping innumerable. (Ps. civ.) These all do the will of God and he provides for them all.



*Mary.* William, how fast the muscles stick to the rocks.

*William.* Yes, Mary; and this shows us how we should cleave to Christ: even the little shell-fish stick to the rock. Though you are only a little girl you may cleave to Christ, and if you do not, you will be tossed about and troubled, just as the shell-fish are, if they let go their hold of the rock.



How dirty the sea is when it is rough! You have, I dare say, observed this, and the more so if you have often bathed. The prophet Isaiah thought of this when he said, "The wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt." Remember, that it is added, "There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked." Seek for peace with God through Christ.





God has placed the sand for the bound of the sea, by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it; and though the waves thereof toss themselves, yet they cannot prevail: though they roar, they cannot pass over it. Jer. v. 22.

As God keeps the waves from going further than a certain place, he surely can do any thing for us that he sees fit, and can keep troubles from overwhelming us. So let us trust in him.



How beautiful the light of the moon appears when shining on the calm surface of the sea! Where does that light come from? It is from the sun, and the moon only reflects it upon the water. So all that is good in us comes from God, and we should reflect it, or let it shine so that men may glorify our heavenly Father.



That ship is just beginning a long voyage; she is fresh painted, and looks very gay and beautiful, and sails along very pleasantly. But before she reaches the port to which she is going, she will, most likely, meet with storms. Or, some accident may befall her which will take away that gay and beautiful appearance. You are just beginning the voyage of life: all now looks very gay, and smooth, and happy; but troubles will arise, and God alone can bring you safely through them.

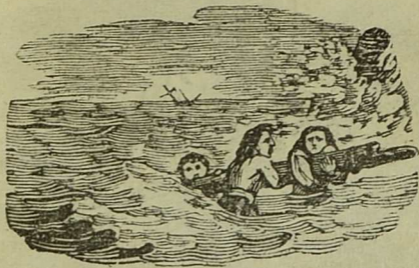




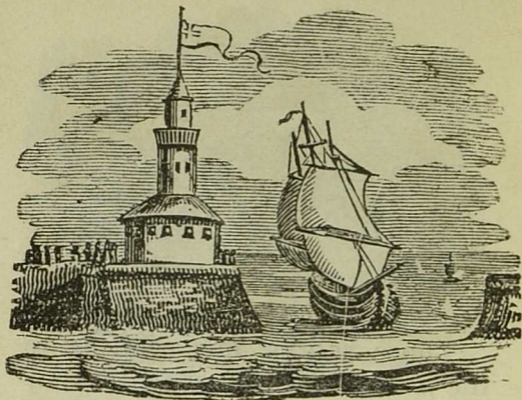
What beautiful pieces of sea-weed are sometimes picked up on the sea-shore after a storm. They grow at the bottom of the sea, quite out of the sight of man, and no one would see them if they were not thus torn up and driven to the shore by rough weather. In the heart of the real christian there are many graces, which are the work of the Holy Spirit; but often they do not appear, unless troubles call them forth. When temptations or trials beset us, it is all for good, and let us seek to show forth the glory of God, and not do what is evil and displeasing to him.



That ship has struck upon the rocks, and will be very much damaged, or, perhaps, will be lost. When she began her voyage, the crew and passengers did not expect this. Perhaps, proper care was not taken to keep her from the rocks. There are many rocks which you may meet with, and which will hurt you much. Be careful to avoid them. There is the rock of pride, of self-conceit, passion, envy, idleness, unbelief, ignorance, and many others. Pray to God that you may be enabled to steer clear of them.



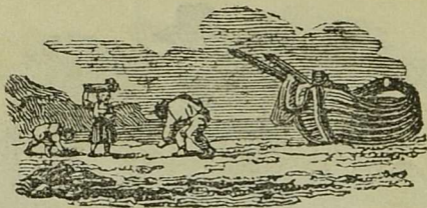
Those sailors cling very fast to the plank. They know that if they let go their hold they will be lost. So should a poor sinner cling to Christ, taking fast hold of him—that means, believing in him and loving him, and then they will be kept from perishing. All have sinned, you are a sinner, and you will be lost except you believe in Christ, who died for us, as you read in the gospel.



The lighthouse gives light, that ships may avoid rocks, and be guided safe into port. The Psalmist said, the bible was a light to him. The ministers of Christ are lights to guide people to him. Every one that loves Christ may tell others the way to escape from the wrath to come. Let us try to help others.

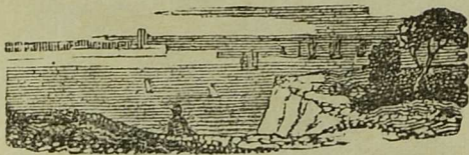


Fish soon die when they are taken out of the water. They cannot live any where else. A christian taken away from those things which are pleasing to God, would be like a fish taken out of the water. If we belong to Christ his service will be our chief delight, and we shall not have pleasure in any thing which is not according to his will.

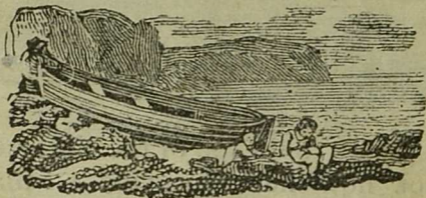


Can you count the grains even in one handful of sand? No; and it would be no use your trying to do so; they are more than you can number. Well, if one grain of sand were taken from the shore every year, when they were all gone from all the shores of the sea, still eternity would be as far from ending as when the first grain was taken away. Remember, that you will either be happy in heaven or miserable in hell through all eternity.





Go up to the top of the cliff, and look how the sea covers all that vast space, and you know that the sea extends all round the world. A time will come when the knowledge of the Lord shall cover all the earth as the waters cover the sea—which means, that all people and nations shall know and love the Lord Jesus Christ. The missionaries go abroad to make known how Christ died for sinners. Bibles and tracts are printed and sent to different foreign nations for the same purpose. Cannot you help the societies that do these things?



In every object here, I see  
Something, O Lord! that points to thee,  
Firm as the rocks thy promise stands;  
Thy mercies countless as the sands;  
Thy love a sea immensely wide;  
Thy grace an everflowing tide.

In every object here, I see  
Something, my heart, that points to thee;  
Hard as the rocks that bound the strand;  
Unfruitful as the barren sand;  
Deep and deceitful as the ocean;  
\* And, like the tides, in constant motion.

37131 054 905 484