

DARTON'S SCRIPTURE SERIES

OF

COLOURED SIXPENNY BOOKS.



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## P R E F A C E.

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JESUS loved little children, and blessed them. When he was here on earth, people used to bring their little children that he might lay his hands upon them. And his disciples sometimes were vexed with the people who brought them. But when Jesus knew it, he was much displeased, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven. And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands upon them, and blessed them. There are many accounts in the Bible, both before and after the birth of our blessed Saviour, of those who loved God when they were young. In this book you will find something about a few of these children ; but there are many more, whose names are not here, because there is not room to tell you about all. In this picture you see Jesus as a child, holding a cross. This is to show that even when he was a child he kept in his heart the thought of what he came on this world to do, namely, to suffer and to die for our sins. Thirty-three years he sojourned on earth, and went about doing good. Then he was put to death upon the cross, with a crown of thorns upon his head. And after death he rose again to glory in heaven where he still loves and listens to little children.





## Joseph.

**J**OSEPH was the son of Jacob, or Israel. Jacob had eleven other sons, but he loved Joseph better than the rest; and he made him a coat of many colours. One day Jacob sent Joseph to see his brothers, who were much older than he was. And they were keeping sheep at a distance from the house of their father. Now Joseph's brothers hated him, for he was better than they. And when they saw him coming, the wicked thought came into their minds that they



would kill him. But one of them said, Let us not kill Joseph, but let us cast him into a pit. And so they did. But just then there came by a party of Arab merchants, with their camels, who were going down into Egypt. Then Joseph's brothers took him up out of the pit, and taking off his gay coat of many colours, they sold their young brother to the merchants for twenty pieces of silver. And they dipped his coat in the blood of a kid, and showed it to Jacob their father. Then Jacob was in heavy grief, for he thought his poor Joseph had been eaten by a wild beast. And the merchants took Joseph down to Egypt. And there he was so good and wise that he soon came to great honour and wealth. And he returned good for evil to his wicked brothers, and they and Jacob their father went down and lived with him in Egypt.

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## Moses.

THE sons of Jacob and their descendants lived in Egypt for a very long time. And at last they were so numerous that Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, grew jealous of them. And he said he would oppress them. So they were made to work very hard at making bricks, and building. And he gave a command that all the little boys that were born amongst them should be put to death. And there was one woman who had a little boy called MOSES. And she loved him very dearly, and could not bear to think that he must die. So for three months she hid him, so that no one knew of his birth. But at last she could hide him no longer. And she made an ark or cradle for him of bulrushes, and she covered it with pitch, that the water might not soak through it. And she put Moses in the ark, and laid it amongst the flags by the river's brink. And his sister



stood at a distance to watch what would become of him. And the daughter of king Pharaoh came down to wash in the river. And she saw the ark, and sent her maid



to fetch it. And when she opened it she saw the child, and it wept. Then the princess pitied it, and said, This is one of the Hebrews' children. And Moses' sister ran and said to the princess, Shall I fetch a nurse for him? And she said, Yes. So the child fetched her own mother. And Pharaoh's daughter said, Take and nurse this child for me and I will give thee wages. So she took her dear son home once more. Oh how glad she must have been! When Moses was grown up, he became a prophet of God. And God saved by the hand of Moses all the children of Israel from the wicked king Pharaoh.





## Samuel.

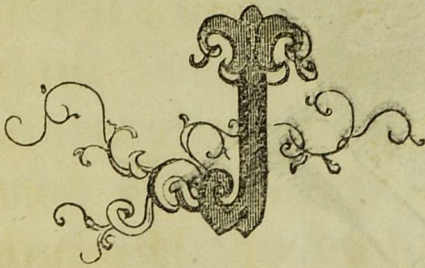
**S**AMUEL was the son of Hannah. For a long time Hannah had no children. So she went to the temple of God, and there she prayed for a son. And God heard her prayer and gave her a son. And she called his name SAMUEL, which means, asked of God. And because God had been so good to her, she



said she would give up her son to serve before God in his temple for ever. So when he was weaned she took him to Eli the high priest, and solemnly gave him up to God. And Eli blessed her, and took Samuel to live with him in the house of the Lord. And his mother came to see him every year, and brought him a little coat. And Samuel used to serve before God in the temple in a linen ephod. And he grew, and was loved by God, and also by every one who knew him. And one night, when Samuel was gone to bed, he heard a voice calling him. And at first he thought it was Eli, and ran to see three times. But Eli told him it was God speaking to him. And when Samuel knew that it was the voice of God, he answered as Eli had told him to do, Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth. Then God told Samuel what he meant to do to Eli and his sons. This was indeed an honour for a little child, to hear the voice of God. And Samuel always loved and served God as long as he lived; and he was a prophet of God till he was a very old man.

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## Joash.

 OASH was the son of one of the kings of Judah. His father's mother was a very wicked woman. Her name was Athaliah. When her son, the father of Joash, died, she wished to be queen herself. So she had all the king's sons that she could find put to death. But one, the youngest, named JOASH, who was then a little child of a year old, was saved by his aunt. She hid him with his nurse in the house of God. And Athaliah could not find him, and



he was hidden there with his aunt for six years. And all that time Athaliah reigned over the land. But at last a very good priest named Jehoiada, who knew that God wished Joash to be king, sent for some soldiers. And he made them promise to obey him, and then he showed them the little boy who ought to be king. And they took weapons and stood round about the temple where Joash was, to guard him from harm. And then the



priest brought forth Joash, and put the crown on him, and anointed him, and made him king. And the people clapped their hands and said, God save the king. When Athaliah heard the noise, she ran to see. And she was angry when she saw that Joash was to be king



instead of her reigning any more. But the people put her to death. And they all promised to serve God only, and they broke down all the idols' temples, and destroyed the idols. And Joash was seven years old when he began to reign. And all the time that the good priest Jehoiada taught him, he did that which was right in the sight of God.

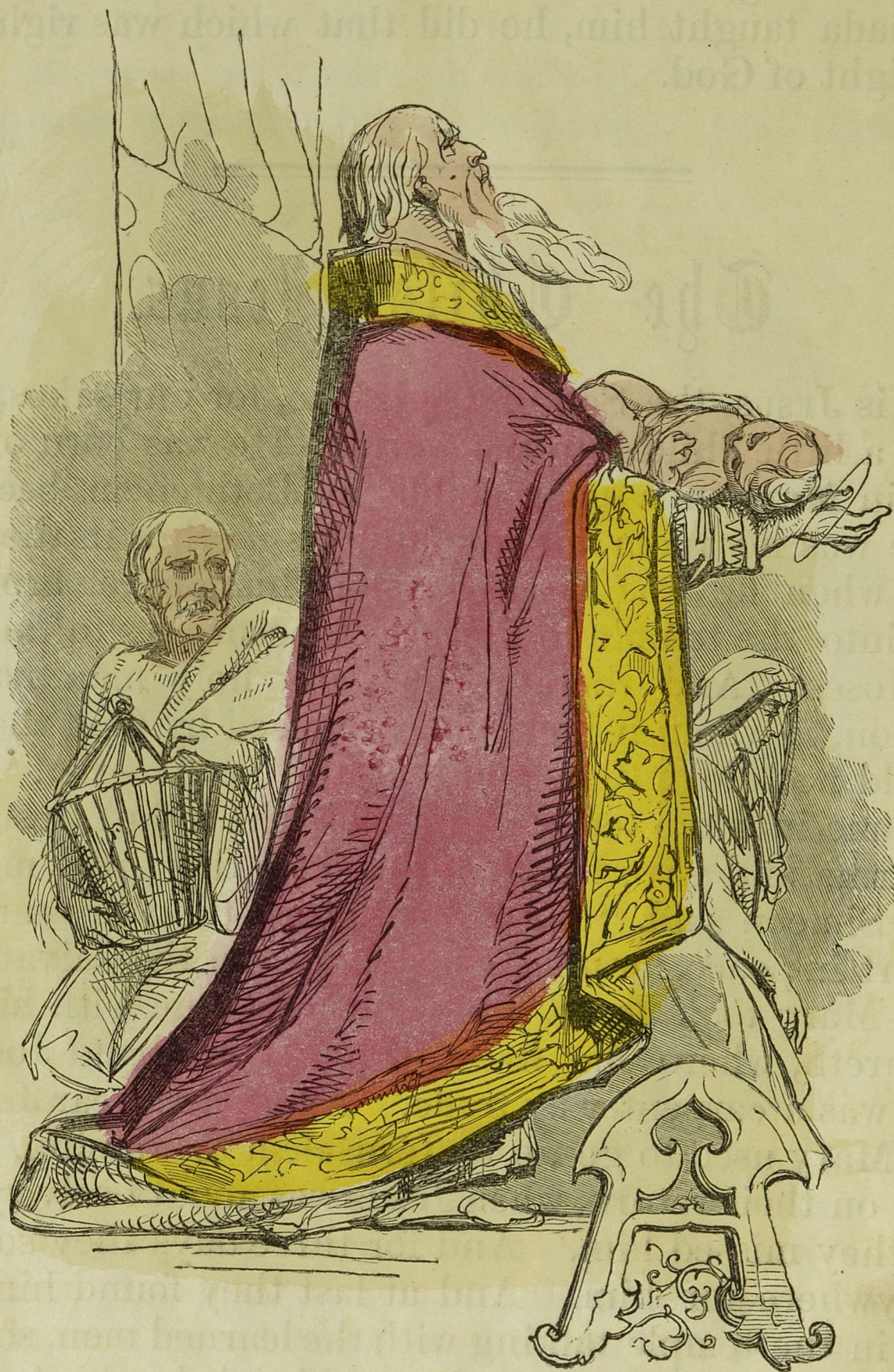
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## The Child Jesus.

THIS is JESUS, the Son of God, who, for our sakes, was born a little child into the world. He was born of the Virgin Mary in a poor stable at Bethlehem, because there was no room for him and his mother in the inn. And when he was eight days old his mother brought him into the temple to the priest, according to the law of Moses. And there was a very holy man named Simeon, to whom it had been promised by God that he should not die until he had seen the Lord Christ. And he came into the temple and took the infant Jesus in his arms, and gave thanks to God for this great mercy. And Simeon said, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, for mine eyes have seen thy salvation." And Mary took Jesus, and returned home with him to Nazareth, where she lived with her husband Joseph, who was a carpenter by trade. And every year Joseph and Mary used to go up to Jerusalem to worship. And once on their return, when Jesus was about twelve years old, they missed him. And for three days they sought everywhere for him. And at last they found him sitting in the temple talking with the learned men, so that every one was full of wonder at his wisdom. And he said to his mother, "How is it that you sought for me?"



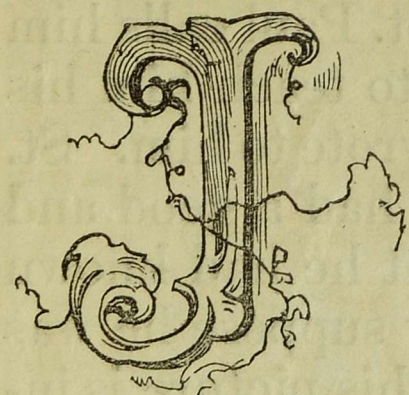
Did you not know that I must be about my Father's business?" Then he went down to Nazareth, and lived with his parents, and was subject unto them.







## John the Baptist.



JOHN the BAPTIST was the son of a priest named Zacharias and Elizabeth his wife. And Elizabeth was cousin to Mary the mother of our Lord Jesus. And Zacharias and his wife were very old ; and when God told him they should have a son, Zacharias would not believe. Then the angel whom God had sent to tell him said he should be dumb until the child was born, in order to punish him for his want of faith in God. And so he was. And John grew, and lived in the deserts. And he wore a dress made of camels' hair,



and lived upon locusts and wild honey. And when he was grown up he became a preacher to the people, and told them to repent and to be baptized. And some people thought that perhaps John was the Christ whom they were expecting. But John himself said, "I indeed baptize you with water, but there cometh one after me who is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose." And Jesus himself was baptized by John, in the river Jordan. And John said, "Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world." And because John was a good man and did not fear to tell wicked people of their sins, he gave great offence to the king. And the king, whose name was Herod, had him shut up in prison. And there he was kept some time, and at last put to death by having his head cut off.

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## Timothy.

IN the Frontispiece you may see TIMOTHY, to whom St. Paul wrote two epistles, which are called by his name. We know very little about Timothy, except that he was a very good and holy bishop; and that St. Paul calls him his beloved son, and takes much pains to teach him his duty in the beautiful epistles which he wrote to him. St. Paul also says that he knew Timothy had a good and pious mother and grandmother, and that he had known the Scriptures from a child, so we may suppose he was well and carefully taught. I suppose this picture is intended to show us Timothy learning to read from his grandmother; or else she is warning him against the love of riches, for, when he grew up to be a man, St. Paul dwelt upon the same subject, writing to him in a letter, That godliness with contentment is great gain, and that



when God gives us food and raiment, we ought to be content and happy and thankful to him for the blessings we have, not envious of our neighbours who are better off than we are : and should we be intrusted with riches, he strictly enjoins us to do all the good we can, "To be rich in good works, ready to distribute." We are not to be high-minded, nor place our trust in them, as they are ever uncertain, and can make to themselves wings and fly away, but we must place our trust in the living God, trying to serve him with all our hearts, and laying up in store for ourselves a good foundation against the time to come ; for we must all die, and in the hour of death we shall find our riches will avail us nothing, as we cannot take them out of this world with us, neither can gold purchase for us a place in heaven. "The pure in heart only shall see God." And we must be kind, and gentle in spirit, forgiving injuries, loving and serving each other, if we desire to gain heaven. It is when we are young that we ought to live to God ; so that when we are old he will not forsake us, but will say unto us, Well done thou good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of thy Lord. Try now, my dear children, to copy the example set before you by the children you have read about in this little book. They every one loved God, and tried to serve him with their whole hearts. And when you are older, and can read the Bible itself, you will find a great deal more about all these persons, and very many more. But at present, if you listen to the teaching of your parents, as Timothy did, you will learn quite enough to enable you to love and please God as you ought to do. He has been so good to you, you ought to give up your whole hearts to him, like the "CHILDREN OF SCRIPTURE."



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