

1824

Little Susan and Her Lamb

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LITTLE SUSAN
AND
HER LAMB.



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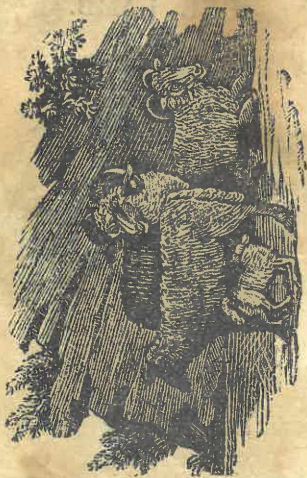


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LITTLE SUSAN

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ONE fine summer's morning little Susan's mother called her to come and have her breakfast. She took her porringer, and sat down on a green bank near the cottage door to eat the bread and milk she had that morning, and liked it very much, as she did not always have milk for breakfast. While Susan was eating her breakfast, she thought about a very pretty book which had been given her the week before as a reward for her regular attendance at the



Sunday School, during the last half year; for it had pleased God that she should enjoy good health, and Susan knew too well the value of what she learned at the Sunday School, ever to be absent when she could attend. I never heard of her playing about on a Sunday with rude idle children; she knew that would be breaking the Sabbath, and she desired to keep it holy. Which children do you think are the happiest, those who play about and get into mischief on a Sunday, or those good children who attend public worship and endeavour to keep holy the Sabbath day?

While Susan was eating her breakfast, she thought about her reward book, as I told you—it was “Little Jane, the YOUNG COTTAGER,” and she wished that she might love the Saviour and be happy like “Little Jane.”

When she had nearly finished her porringer, a man came by driving a cart loaded with lambs, which he was going to sell at the next town. As he was passing, one of the lambs fell from the cart, and was so stunned by the fall as to seem to be dying. “Well,” said he, “I’ll have your skin, at any rate.” So saying, he was about throwing it into the cart again, when Susan spoke to him, and begged

very hard that he would leave the little lamb with her, and she would nurse it.



"Why, as for that," said the man, "I suppose I might as well give it you at once, for I don't reckon I can make much hand of it; and I think I'll e'en give it to you, for now I recollect, you are the little girl who ran after me over the common last summer, and told me of the boys who had driven two of my

best sheep down yonder lane; I should not have found them again in a hurry if it had not been for you. Well, if you like to have the lamb, take it, and much good may it do you."

He then called his dog, and drove his sheep on. Susan thanked him; she put down her porringer, and took up the lamb, and began to think what she should do with it: its eyes were shut, and it seemed dying. "Well," said she, "it is no great matter to you, for I suppose they would have killed you to-morrow or next day, but I should have liked you to have lived and played with me. I would have tried to be kind to you, for the Bible says we are to be merciful to poor dumb creatures, like you. God made you as well as me, and I recollect it is written, 'that his tender mercies are over all his works'."

While she was talking in this manner, the lamb opened its eyes a little way, and gave a faint bleat. Susan was delighted. "Poor little thing, perhaps you are hungry," said she, and, taking her spoon, she put a little of the milk into its mouth, and, to her great joy, saw that it was swallowed. Susan then gave the lamb some more, and wrapped it up closer in her apron. It soon revived with the warmth, and presently was able to

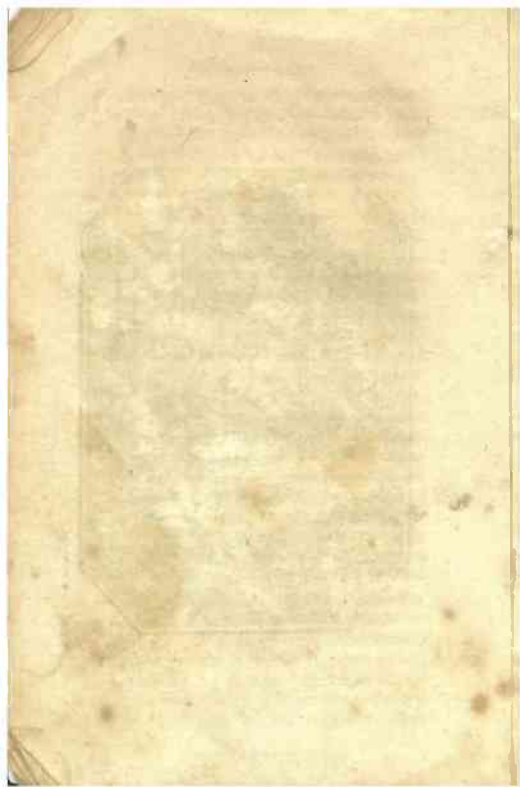
stand, it then went to the porringer and drank the rest of Susan's breakfast; you may be sure she did not grudge it.

Susan now went to her mother, and told all that had happened, and showed her the little lamb. Her mother said she might put it upon the grass-plot behind the cottage. The little girl did so, and before night it was quite well again.

Susan had to go every day to work, but you may be sure she did not neglect her little lamb; every morning when she had her own breakfast, she went and fed it very carefully; and the lamb was always ready to come as soon as it heard her little mistress call.

Do not you think Susan felt very happy when she looked at the little lamb? She had been kind to it, and felt much more pleased than if she had not taken any care about it. I have known little boys, and girls too, who have taken pleasure in teasing poor animals, but I have always remarked that they were bad children. Those who can take pleasure in killing flies, or hurting dumb creatures, would delight in tormenting their brothers and sisters, or companions, if they dared to do so; and when they grow up to be men and women, unless their evil habits are broken off, they will prove to be wicked people. Our





hearts are naturally inclined to do what is evil, and will always take pleasure therein, if they are not changed by divine grace. This is what Jesus told Nicodemus, as you may read in the third chapter of Saint John. Little Susan had been taught this. She felt that it was true, and prayed to God to give her a new heart. She prayed that she might love Christ and believe in him. Christ has said that those who ask shall receive; and in the book of Proverbs, which speaks of him as the True Wisdom, we read that those who seek Him early shall find Him.

Now, if Susan had not thought about these things, and been led to desire to do what was right, perhaps she would have helped the naughty boys in driving away the sheep, instead of telling them, as she had done, that it was wrong, and following after their owner when she found they would not do what was right. When we see others do wrong, we should always try to persuade them to leave their evil ways; but if they will not listen to us, then we should do all we can to prevent them from succeeding.

The lamb soon grew very fond of Susan, and followed her about everywhere. If she was absent from home longer than usual, it would lay down before the cot-

tage door, and watch for her, and as soon as she returned it would frisk about and look quite happy. It was just the same with Susan's companions, they were always glad to see her, because she was gentle and kind to them.

When I have seen little boys and girls cross, and teasing each other, I have sometimes wondered why they could like to make others uncomfortable, for I have always observed that they did not look happy themselves. But when I recollected that the Bible tells us that the heart of man is naturally inclined to do evil, I have not wondered any longer at what I have seen. I then thought how very sad it was, that children did not love the Saviour, for then they would have tried to be like him, and would have been much happier. I have longed to tell them about Christ, and how pleasant it is to know Him, and to love Him. Sometimes when little boys and girls have read "Janeway's Token for Children," and other little books which told them about children who have loved Christ, they have desired to be like them. Susan was like these good children; and if a poor man came to ask charity, she was always glad if her mother could spare anything for him.





Remember that the Saviour came down from heaven to seek and to save that which is lost; he died upon the cross that we might be cleansed from our sins by his precious blood, and he suffered for us, that we might be sanctified or made holy by the power and influence of his holy spirit, and thus be made the children of God, and heirs of his kingdom. My dear children, do you love the Saviour? Do you wish to be like him, kind, merciful, patient, and "of great goodness?" Your little hearts will tell you whether you really desire this; and if you are still strangers to him, pray that he will, by the power of his holy spirit, teach you to know him and to love him. If you refuse to listen to these things, and do not seek the Saviour, you will be unhappy in this world, and miserable in that which is to come.

I have a little more to tell you about Susan and her Lamb. Susan's mother spun its wool every year, and if you had gone to the cottage on a winter evening, you would have seen her busy with her spinning-wheel, while Susan and her brothers were employed in other works, and one of them read aloud the Bible, or some useful book. After the wool was spun, Susan knit stockings for herself and her brothers, which they found very

warm and comfortable in the winter. In the course of a few years the lamb grew up and had several other little lambs, so that in time Susan had a flock of sheep, which were a great help to the family. She was very glad that she had gone to the Sunday School and had been taught the texts which made her wish to be kind to the little lamb. I hope my little readers will try to remember all that they read in their Bibles, remembering that the Bible tells us the commands of God, and in keeping his precepts there is great reward.



Lucy Olson
at
Cork

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