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The Lamily Circle.

[For the American Presbyterian.] "O GOD BE NOT FAR FROM ME," Psalm lxxi. BY JESSIE GLENN.

Be with me, when My spirit is light! When hope hath flung Its magic spell o'er a heart still young. Weaving the future a robe of joy When dreams of youth my heart employ,— Be with me then.

Be with me, when My spirit is sad ! When love's bright day, With hours of hope has pass'd away ; When each sweet tone and love-lit eye Are counted with things long since gone by-Be with me then.

Be with me, when A lonely sigh from my heart will swell; When a teur its tale of grief will tell; When thoughts in flashing acros the mind Sadden, by leaving new pangs behind,— Be with me then.

Be with me, when, My wounded heart seeks peace in prayer, When low, I bend, 'neath earthly care; Lord! when in sorrow to Thee I come, Teach me to murmur, " Thy will be done ;" Be with me then.

Be with me, when I bid farewell to the scenes of earth, To scenes of trial, to scenes of mirth, When breath grows faint, when the form grows cold, When Death's grim clasp doth the heart enfold;---Be with me then.

. Be with me, when I journey on to a world unknown, O let my tread follow close thine own ! Dear Lord! be near! show thy child the way To realms of peace, and of endless day,---Be with me then.

HOW THE DOG SPITZI HELPED THE **REFORMATION.**—III.

(From Carters' " Tales from Alsace.")

In the forester's hut in the depths of the wood, the men had meantime awaited in anxious suspense the end of the storm, and when at last its fury had subsided, and the streaks of dawn were beginning to redden the eastern sky, they sought earnestly to devise the most successful plans for the liberation of the pastor. The Hart, then known also by the name of the 'High Forest,' extended at that time beyond the town lands to very near the village of Modenheim; several paths led through it to the Ensisheim road, a few through the Mulhausen territory, others through that belonging to Austria, towards Sauersheim. No one, however, could know by which of these roads the soldiers would convey their prisoner. It was therefore reselved that the armed townsmen should lie in ambush in detachments through the thicket, while Vincent the forester, Frank and Hansli, traversed the forest in a different direction, taking Spitzi with them, in the hope that he would with the greatest security lead them to his master's track. But lo and behold, on their looking round for the dog, it was discovered, to the consternation of all, that it had disappeared, and no one knew what had become of it !. ' Well ! then, let us, in the name of our God, and with good courage, do our part! The Lord can lead you to the right path even without the dog !' said Oswald von Gamsharst with a tone and spirit well fitted to cheer them on. And so they parted, hastening each to his appointed post.

Let us now turn from them to the poor captive pastor, whom 'the Austrian troopers,' as the Chronicle has it, 'violently bound on a horse, his face downwards, and led away.' As since Peasants' War the sen men, and Pastor John in particular, had been uncommonly beloved among the country-folk, the troopers had received instructions to convey their prisoner through the deep recesses of the wood, avoiding the villages, lest any rising should take place among the inhabitants, and any attempt be made to set him free. At nightfall, however, they were overtaken by the storm, and obliged to seek shelter from the wind and rain in a charcoal-burner's hut, being unable to pursue their way in the thick darkness. The soldiers gathered round the fire which the mistress of the hovel had kindled on her hearth. They left the horse on which the prisoner was bound outside, fastened to a tree; and being rough and inhuman, as men were in those days wont to be in their treatment of prisoners, they abandoned him to the fury of the elements. Then indeed the unhappy victim learned to know the force of these words, 'Another man shall gird thee, and shall carry thee whither thou wouldest not.' He was truly a devout man, resigned to the will of God in all things; he loved his Saviour with his whole heart uprightly; but he felt at the same time that he had a human, a sinful heart within, that trembled at the thought of death as the penalty of sin. Then, from the very depth, in his moment of extremity, did he cry to his Lord, the Conqueror of death, entreating Him for increased faith, for consolation, and for grace to overcome the fear of death, and that he might be enabled, amid the pains of martyrdom that awaited him, to praise the Lord even to his latest breath. And as he lay thus bound, the thunders rolled and crashed overhead, the lightnings enveloped him in a glare of light, and torrents of rain poured upon him. Then, awe-struck, he felt an instinctive shrinking at the voice of the Lord, as if a foreboding of the terrors of judgment seized him, and in his inward conflict with fear and faint-heartedness he could only ejaculate with a sigh, 'Lord, have mercy upon me?' But the intercessory prayers, then rising in the Augustinian church on his behalf from the hearts of Theresa and the brethren, were not in vain. The rain ceased, wind and thunder were hushed, and in the tempest-darkened heart of the man of God the day-star arose. All grew still,-light sprung up in his soul, he breathed more freely, and felt relieved, as if an angel had taken from him the deadly load of anguish. Presently he heard a stirring among the bushes. It was Spitzi ! The faithful Spitzi leapt out of the thicket, and, as the old Chronicle relates. immediately began to lick and caress its master's face, hanging down towards it as it stood below.' How much good did these love tokens of the faithful animal do to the suffering pastor! 'Spitzi, my good Spitzi !' said he tenderly, the tears that moistened his eyes at this glad surprise bringing him relief, and the canine friend quickly responding by ardent endeavors, after

comfort, never wearying of springing up to him, and repeatedly licking either his face or his fastbound hands. The charcoal-burner's wife, who in the glimmering dawn had stepped to the gathered in the forest glades before the sun was threshold, saw the black creature hovering round up. Von Gamsharst, also, and Father Bernard in the glimmering dawn had stepped to the threshold, saw the black creature hovering round the captive pastor, and instantly retreating with-in the hut, and crossing herself, she came to the soldiers and ovelaimed in terms of the care to the caldiers and ovelaimed in terms of the care to the caldiers and ovelaimed in terms of the care to the caldiers and ovelaimed in terms of the care to the caldiers and ovelaimed in terms of the care to the caldiers and ovelaimed in terms of the care to the caldiers and ovelaimed in terms of the care to the caldiers and ovelaimed in terms of the care to the caldiers and ovelaimed in terms of the care to the caldiers and ovelaimed in terms of the care to the caldiers and ovelaimed in terms of the care to the caldiers and ovelaimed in terms of the care to the caldiers and ovelaimed in terms of the care to the caldiers and terms of the care to the terms of the care to the caldiers and terms of the care to the terms of the care to the caldiers and ovelaimed in terms of the terms of the care to the caldiers and ovelaimed in terms of the terms of terms of the terms of te

lows him like his shadow !' said one of the troopers. 'Gladly would I yesterday have horn, hoisted a flag, and shouted the glad news earned the reward which Finninger's youngster Mike promised me if I could strike the accursed animal its death-blow. But I never could contrive to get at it, and assuredly it must be possessed of the devil, a very fiend incarnate, for it bit me in the calf of the leg, and tore my trousers besides !'

'Let us see now if we cannot massacre it and earn the reward !' said another. When, however they issued forth from the hovel, Spitzi had slipped away, darted like lightning into the thicket and vanished, leaving not a trace behind. gladsome confidence-'It must have been the Evil One himself !' said the charcoal-burner's wife, again crossing herself, as the soldiers moved off with their captive. The fact of this black dog having shown itself once more was truly most unwelcome news to those men, for they feared, not without good grounds, that tidings of the road by which they had struck off had reached the town, and that the Mulhausen folk might have sent armed men into the Hart to set their pastor free. They consequently resolved to exercise the greatest caution : they bound the victim yet more tightly, and placed in the centre of the troop the horse on which he lay strapped. The leader gave the word of command to the soldiers surrounding him, that, in case of a surprise and of their being unable to hold their ground, they should give him his death-blow at once; 'for,' added he, even if we cannot bring him alive to Ensis heim, they will be satisfied if they know we have stopped his mouth forever from preaching. As Pastor John heard these words, he commit ted his soul in faith to his God and Saviour.

Resplendent and victorious over night with all her dark horrors did the sun now rise in the clear azure sky. The storm had purified the air, and the morning burst forth with wondrous beauty. The little birds on the bright green trees were busily shaking and trimming their plumage after the rain, singing their morning hymn, or chirping a friendly greeting to one another; the crystal drops were glistening on the leaves, the forest flowers and the tender mosses, like diamonds in the sunbeams, and a balmy fragrance was wafted up to heaven from the monarchs of the forest, refreshed after the tempest,-sweet as the savor of praise and thanksgiving ascending from a devout heart after it has been exercised in silent prayer.

For some time the long convoy moved forward in the best possible order. In some places, however, the rains had flooded the paths and made them impassable. The soldiers were obliged to strike into bypaths with their prisoner, and suddenly found themselves in a free, open space, overshadowed by lofty beeches, and unknown to them before. As they were ignorant to which side they ought to turn, they halted to confer, the matter of chief importance for them being to remain on Austrian territory, and never to set foot on ground subject to the jurisdiction of the town. When they looked around they observed a small boy diligently engaged in gathering strawberries among the bushes. 'Hey!' youngster,' the soldiers cried to him, 'which is

tower descried the wreath-encircled cart, and the hats and boughs carried aloft, he blew his to the citizens below through his speakingtrumpet at the highest pitch of his voice. The tidings ran like wild-fire through the place, every man hastened to the walls, and when at last the procession arrived, and the gates were thrown ness;" and to this day have not forgotten its open, then our pious ancestors gathered on the import. And now we firmly believe that ramparts, united in the hymn of faith of the

early church of the Reformation-

'A safe stronghold our God is He,'

and those returning replied from without with

'A trusty shield and weapon;'

the bells of all the churches accompanying the soul-elevating anthem of praise with their festal peal. The cortege went first to the church of St. Stephen. Pastor John led the van, supported by Oswald von Gamsharst and Frank. He was received with a joyous and cordial welcome by the burgomaster and his brother magistrates, and forthwith sank, deeply affected on his knees before the altar. Otto Binder addressed the assembled multitude with much feeling from the words,- 'And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud' (Gen. ix. 14). 'Over our city,' he remarked, 'the Lord has brought clouds, but in mercy and forbearance He has suffered them to pass away.' The audience were inspired with the same strong emotion that animated the orator, and it seemed to one and all as though at that solemn moment they beheld the seven-hued bow of grace extending its glorious arch. The Lord had graciously helped, had confirmed faith, revived hope, raised the courage of His saints, and by His goodness His own work in our Church was thenceforward carried on steadfastly.

Pastor John's first visit was to the home of the Finningers. The old wheelwright, Hans, received him with much embarrassment, dreading the reproaches he expected to receive, and the announcement of a well-merited penalty. The man of God, however, held out his hand in a friendly manner, and said,- 'Your son Michael thought to do me an injury, neighbor, but God has brought good out of evil; therefore let us live in peace with one another, and forgive and forget injuries mutually, as we wish that the Lord may forgive us our trespasses.' After

which he solemnly and lovingly spoke to the heart of the father, exhorting him earnestly to consider the matter of the salvation of his children's souls. Hans Finninger seemed touched and even impressed ; he willingly gave the pastor his hand in token of reconciliation. Hostilities ceased ; but alas ! as soon as the old wheelwright died, his wife and five children all went post-haste down the broad road leading to destruction, so that their names are indelibly marked by a bloody track in the page of our city's history

And Spitzi, the hero of the day, whose praises were on the lips of all ;-we must not forget to record something also concerning him. Did not for missions, or for educating young men Theresa, as soon as he leapt down from the cart, catch him in her arms, and press him to her tions, and the like, if you want to stir up heart as tenderly as she had done her dear little their wrath! That is "money-preaching; Crooked Beak of old? And does not the old and, to them, it smacks strongly of carnaliautumn hymn say—

his own fashion, to inspire him with hope and in which a couch of straw was prepared in all one of the finest points of Christian dochaste; Spitzi took up his position at his feet, trine. Shall we discountenance thought spirit, is the most securely invested, for while Hansli sat beside his head, and refreshed on the subject? If you would you could time and eternity. What is wrongfully him with fragrant and delicious strawberries, not. You cannot even trace the narrative kept, when it ought to be given, can be hearing a discourse on the words, "All of the people, as to preach repentance and Scripture is given by inspiration of God, faith.—Reformed Church Messenger. and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteouswere our children and you th in the Sabbath schools of our evangelical churches better instructed in the doctrines of God's Word, as far as they could understand, and encouraged to think more for themselves, we should have far stronger men and women scriptural knowledge! how many to accept were not better instructed in "the truth as it is in Jesus !" By ignoring theology we make the cross of Christ of no effect.

We would not teach simply a dogmatic theology; but we would bring the truth to light through our teaching of Christ. We would make the Gospel more effective by instruction in the grand cardinal doctrines of the cross, which is the foundation of the true Christian life. How often may the heart become affected and lifted to a higher level by contemplating Christ as revealed through some of the doctrines of the Bible The Christian who thus understands Christ, who has learned by experience something of the beauty and exceeding richness of the Christ, may hereby elevate the Saviour to a loftier sphere in his affections. Let more of theology be mingled in the teaching of the "sincere milk of the Word,' that Christ may be glorified thereby.-Watchman and Reflector.

SAVING AND LOSING.

People differ more in their religious notions than in almost anything else. Some only have their meetin' houses, while others have churches. Some join their society, and others are members of the Church. The of unbelieving parents, under no religious "church people" are often held up to influences at home, and who may be exreproach for spending money in paying ministers; while the preachers of the "meetin" give their people the gospel free. A blunt old gentleman, once being urged to join a certain meetin', because it was cheaper than the "church people's religion," inasmuch as the preaching in that society was given "for nothing," replied: for them prayer unceasing ought to be "That is just as much as it is worth, too." That kind of religionists don't do much towards carrying or sending the gospel to the destitute heathen world.

Stingy, narrow souls take to that kind of religious thinking, like a duck does to water. Talk about money for the minister's salary, or repairing or building a church, or

Church, to the Lord's cause in any proper

in the hut, and crossing herself, she came to the soldiers and exclaimed in terror, 'May God have mercy on us! the Evil One, in the shape of a black monster, is performing his pranks about that parson prisoner of yours!' through His death; what is Christ to me made. It is a Christian grace; and the without these truths becoming fixed in my minister has as plain a duty to enforce the heart? When a mere child, we remember necessity of its growth upon the attention

PRAY FOR THE YOUNG.

The Day of Prayer for Colleges was observed in various sections of the land. There is something hopeful in the fact, that Christians every where are more deeply interested in the youth and young men in our liter-ary institutions. All denominations are asking for more ministers, and the Church in our churches. Besides this they would be altogether more likely to embrace and to hold fast to the truth. How many have of our Seminaries and Colleges. The foldrifted away to unbelief because of lack of lowing extract from the New York Observer shows the great importance of prayer for the errors of human reason because they young men, not only on set days, but at the family altar, and in our sanctuaries every Sabbath:

> "In the beginning of the 18th century a revival of spiritual religion began in the University of Halle, and such was its power and result, that Prof. Tholuck says more ministers were given to the Church in Germany in forty years than she had in all her previous history.

> One such fact as this illustrates the relation of prayer for Colleges to the work of the world's conversion : and sets it so clearly before the mind and heart of the Church that the two stand to one another as means and ends, premises and conclusion. If our youth are converted, many of them will be ministers of the gospel; they are the heralds of the cross; the world will get the word through them and so will be saved. How shall they hear without a preacher?

> There are six millions of children in a course of school and college education in the United States. Of these but few, compared with the whole number, are trained for the Christian ministry, but they ought all to be made the subject of earnest prayer, that they may be trained to virtue, usefulness and heaven.

> Millions of them, are indeed, the children pected, in the ordinary course of things, to grow up as their parents. But in these schools are also hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, of children who have pious parents, and to them the Church looks for her future members and ministers. The for them prayer unceasing ought to be made."

[Prepared weekly for the American Presbyterian.]

LESSONS ON PAUL.-IX.

Acts 13: 14; 15: 36-36; 1I. Cor. 11: 26, 27. Where do Paul and his company go next? Who composed his "company?" What is

shown by this expression ? Where they probably directed by special revelation ? Do you suppose Paul had a vision? What four reasons for their going there? Are any of these reasons like those which led them from Antioch to Cyprus? In what direction do they sail? Across what sea? What bay do they enter? What noted battles were fought on and near In what direction from Cilicia was Pamphylia? What province on the west? Meaning of Pamphylia? Of what nation were the inhabitants chiefly? Where was Perga? How did its situation resemble that of Tarsus? For what was it noted? How long did they stay there? Did they preach there? What painful event toos place at Perga? Was this return against Paul's wishes? What led Mark to leave them ? Was he right or wrong? Did he forfeit his claim to be thought a Christian ? What had been his home-influence in religious things? What was there to make him timid? Are there times when timidity is wrong in in every one? How can we gain courage in doing right? Had anything taken place recently which would make him discontented ? Did Mark ever return to the work ? On what occasion ? What did Barnabas then wish ? What did Paul say when Mark wished to go? Did they ever work together again ? Prove that Paul afterwards became attached to Mark ? Where did Paul and Barnabas now go ? What dangers would they be likely to encounter on the journey? What famous robber-region were they near? What was the character of the population of the mountains? How does Paul describe the dangers of this What perils were there arising from the char-At what time of the year is it supposed they What custom prevailed among the people of What would make the first part of the journey animated and interesting?

l to Sauersheim

'I have always heard,' replied he, 'that the best way thither lies through Modenheim.'

'But we do not wish to pass through Modenheim. Can you not tell us where the Mulhausen territory begins ?'

'At the boundary-stones.' (Bannsteinen).

them out for yourselves; you are all taller than as faithful to our Lord and Master in heaven as I am !'

That the soldiers had already entered the townlands, a good quarter of a mile from the Baunsteinen, sly, long-headed Hansli knew full peace, und the next day never thought he had well. And when the long cortege was broken up, the soldiers having drawn off to the one side in this? or have we not all reason to confess to which he had pointed, and the horse on which with our pious bard, Paul Gerhard,the prisoner was bound being no longer sur-rounded by the murderous band, he sprang forward like lightning to the pastor, and whispered, 'Be of good cheer, uncle; they are coming to set you free ! See, there is Spitzi already !' and as the faithful dog rushed foaming out of the thicket, and with one bound darted forward and was up on horseback, prepared to defend his master, Hansli ran in among the bushes, and cried with all his might, 'Here, here, and God for us!' 'God for us!' resounded on all sides so loud and so earnestly that the forest echoed with the cry. The armed men advanced and the fight began. But now Spitzi too joined bravely in the combat ; for as, on perceiving the armed troops from Mulhausen, one of the Austrian soldiers hastened towards the captive, to execute his leader's behest by putting him to death with a single stroke of the javelin, Spitzi sprang at him furiously, and bit him in the hand so severe-ly that his weapon dropped on the ground. And so God was for our forefathers; they gained the victory, drove the Austrians to retreat, and led off Pastor John in triumph to the forester's hut, where Oswald von Gamsharst and Father Bernard received him with hearty love,

ever ! But for him we should hardly have succeeded in finding thee! At daybreak, when we not endeavor to impress on the infant mind fancied he had run away, he suddenly came back to fetch us; he had run on ahead, returning thing more of Christ than a "model life," to us again to point out the way, until he led us to the open space, where by God's gracious help | must touch upon the Divine love which we found thee, and set thee free. Let no one ever came to seek and to save; a love grieved say again that dogs have no heart or understanding; Spitzi at any rate is cleverer and more faithful than many a proud human being !'

Pastor John could not say much in reply; he was exhausted, his limbs were stiff and swollen God in his tender kindness sends Dumb teachers to instruct His friends '?

What lesson may we then learn from our good 'And where may these be?' 'There,—there,—over there. You must seek cious lesson of LOVE and HUMILITY. Are we Spitzi was to his earthly master? And after having saved him, on his return home, he lay down quietly in his corner, and fell asleep in

[•]I rest upon the ground Of Jesus and His blood. For 'tis through him that I have found The True Eternal Good. Nought have I of mine own Nought in the life I lead, What Christ hath given me,-that alone Is worth all love indeed'?

TEACHING THEOLOGY IN THE SABBATH SCHOOL.

Not long since a writer of the Watchman and Reflector, in "A Word to Sunday-school Workers" said, "Teach Christ; not theo-logy, but Christ; not biblical literature, hold them to account. but Christ. Show His as the model life," tian teacher can teach Christ and not at the same time teach something of theology? How shall I tell, to even a child, "that sweet story of old, 'when Jesus lived among men," and show Him as the 'sinless man,'

and with warm gratitude to God. 'And now.' exclaimed Frank, as soon as he had folded his liberated brother in his arms with overflowing joy, 'now all honor to Spitzi for that He is also God? I must show some-

to make a deep impression on the heart : transgression, if I would have that love lead to Him or to likeness with Him.

But the Sunday-school, certainly in this country, is not a mere infant school, but a was exhausted, his timps were stin and sworth to contry, is not a mere induction, but a solution, you asked me for a thou-owing to the hard knots of the rope; and the school where our youth, with expanding sand dollars?" "Yes; will you give it now?" blood had been driven to the head to such a de-gree that he could only with difficulty stand taught of Christ?" The very question, thousand !" How often does it thus happen! erect. He was immediately lifted into the cart; "What think ye of Christ?" involves in it to the minister, to the

ty. Evil communications corrupt good manners; and hence, some of our people are damaged badly by association with these surrounding sects and societies, whose religion does not cost anything. Come easy, go easy ! Cost nothing, worth—how much? Christianity cost the life of God's dear Son, and is worth more than all our money. Our ministers, in some charges, are so cowed down by this selfish feeling among the membership, so hostile to giving, that they are absolutely afraid to say "money" to their people, for any cause. There are members, who give their ministers cause enough for this fear. At the bare mention of the cause that calls for giving, they pack. er up, like a cat, when you rub the fur the wrong way. No sense of duty to God, or moral obligation for the means of grace, no thankfulness for the hope of salvation, moves their hearts to make an offering unto the Lord.

Money given to the operations of the Church, is so much thrown away, they think. And what is selfishly withheld from the benevolences of the Church, they suppose is just that much saved. This is, virtually, the practice of many members of the

Farmers do not save by withholding their seed from the ground. They sow the soil liberally, so that they may not reap sparingly. That is just what the Bible tells us, we should do, in giving. Sow, in order to reap! Lend to the Lord, to be repaid again with increase! Lay up treasures, to have them. in time of need. Put them safely in heaven, where they will always be ours; not on earth, where thief, and moth, and rust, may

a Saviour able to lift us Godward if I do by for a hundred dollars or more; they thought the servant of God who presented it, a little crazy to ask so much, and so gave | journey, in one of his letters ? nothing. Since then, they paid *twice* that What perils were the much to carry on a law suit, and lost their acter of the country? case. Can not God head up Jonah when he runs from duty? In how many ways do started? when we sin, a love ready to forgive our they not lose what they keep; and in God's good time, they securely gain to their own Perga? good what they give to Him. What

Said a man to a minister, not long ago, You remember, you asked me for a thou-

What changes in country and climate in going from Perga to Antioch in Pisidia.

The course of what stream did they follow? Where was Antiochiin Pisidia ? Why so called ?

• .p.<u>1954</u>