

THE
GOLD MINE.

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THE GOLD MINE.



“I WISH, mother, there was a gold mine in our little garden; I would then soon be rich.”

“Why do you wish to be rich, George?”

“I could then get everything I want, and people would think much of me as I grew up to be a man. Besides, mother, you would not have to work so hard as you do, for I would make you rich too.”

“But what has made you think, George, about finding a gold mine, and getting rich?”

“It is because I have heard of so many leaving our village, to go a long way off, that they may dig gold out of the ground.”

“Yes, George, it is true many have left their homes, and gone to other lands. They hope to find riches among the sands of the rivers, or in the mines by the sides of the hills. But I would rather wish you to get some of the

‘hid treasure,’ and to search for it with all your might. I should then be truly a happy mother, and you would be my rich son. There is a mine, where you may get *much* gain, and you need not travel far to find it.”

“What, as much as men do who go abroad?”

“Yes; and what is more, it is *sure* gain. They expect soon to find wealth, and this makes them willing to bear any present loss and hardship. But very many of them, I fear, get little for all their labour. And if they do get that which they seek, it seldom satisfies their wishes; and at best they will not hold it for many years. In the ‘hid treasure’ which I wish you to seek, I may

promise you that it will prove riches that will both satisfy and last for life."

"May I begin to seek now, mother, or must I wait till I grow up and am a man?"

"You may begin at once, George. But as I find you do not see what mine I allude to, or what is the gain I wish you to possess, I will at once tell you. The mine is THE BIBLE, and the gain is that *heavenly wisdom* which you may get therefrom."

"Oh! mother, is that what you mean?"

"Yes, George; and may I not say that such would be to you the *best* riches? Gold and silver are not the only, nor are they the true wealth. Fires may burn

them ; floods may drown them ; moth and rust may waste them ; and the robber may steal them : or, if they are held for life, they must be left behind at death. Those only are the best riches which are not kept in the purse, but are treasured in the heart, and which last for ever. The word of God is a large and wealthy mine. If you do not know the worth of its riches, no matter what else you have, you must be poor indeed. Young Timothy and David found in it that which was better than thousands of gold and silver. But, what is strange, since their days this mine has become larger and richer. Good and wise men have been searching in it for hundreds of years, but

it is still quite full, and must remain so to the end of the world. Every one is invited to come and search for the best treasure in this mine of God's word. Open your Bible, and read the fourth and fifth verses of the second chapter of Proverbs."


George reads:—"If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God."

"There, George, do you not see that if you would get this 'hid treasure' of heavenly wisdom, you must seek and search for it? It will not do merely to turn over the pages of the Bible, and read without care or thought.

You may indeed commit verse after verse to memory, and yet not find the treasure that is in them. The mere words are not the treasure, but the great and gracious truths they express. And what are some of these truths? They are, that God is a loving Father; and that when he saw that we, his children, had become sinful, he sent his Son, Christ Jesus, to seek and to save us. The Bible tells us how Jesus came into the world as a poor babe, and that for us he lived, and for us he died on the cross, that we, through faith in his precious blood, might be forgiven. It teaches us that the Holy Spirit is given, in answer to prayer, that we, through his grace, may

have a heart made sorry for sin, and filled with holy desires. Then, too, to know that God can bless us, and make us happy in this world,—that he will hear our prayers offered to him in the name of Jesus Christ,—and that at last, if we believe in his Son as our Saviour, he will take us to dwell with him for ever in heaven ;—oh, my dear boy, are not these truths worthy of being sought out? and are they not more precious than all the gold that is in the world? I hope, then, that instead of vainly wishing to dig in a mine of gold, and getting rich for this world, you will be a true miner in God's holy word, and become rich unto eternal life."

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WHAT a blessing, what a treasure,
I possess in Thy dear Word!
There I read with holy pleasure
Of the love of Christ my Lord.

God's bless'd word reveals the Saviour
Sinful children deeply need;
Oh! what mercy, love, and favour,
That for sinners Christ should bleed!

Oh! the blessedness of knowing
Christ the tender Saviour's love,
Freely on a child bestowing
Grace and mercy from above.

Heavenly Father! give thy Spirit
To each child who looks to thee;
May we thy rich grace inherit,
May we like our Saviour be!

