





W. J. MASON.

THE JUBILEE OF THE ISRAELITES.

THE
JUVENILE MISSIONARY MAGAZINE.

SEPTEMBER, 1844.

THE YEAR OF JUBILEE IN JUDÆA.

WHAT is that deep, loud, glad sound on the great day of atonement—that sound of joy mingling with the tears and confessions of the Israelites on the day in which God had commanded them to afflict their souls? It is the sound of the silver trumpet, (Lev. xxv. 9), announcing the year of Jubilee; for it is Tisri, the month of September, the first month of the fiftieth year*. Look how the tear of joy unites with the tear of sorrow. "To-morrow we shall be free from our bondage," is the inward thought of many a heart. The father thinks of his family whom he shall then embrace again; the children that their father will come back to them again; and many who have been long away from their cottages in the village, and from the lands and fields of their inheritance, think that *to-morrow* they shall return to them. Oh the joy which the sound of that trumpet has given! As if the bright sun-light had streamed forth from dark clouds, so are the faces of the sorrowing changed. And many a boy, and many

* The frontispiece, which is taken in part from a painting by Poussin, is designed to represent the scene.

a girl shouts and sings, "*To-morrow*, and father will be home again; *to-morrow* I shall work in our own garden again, and run in our own field, and live in our own house, and sleep again in my own little room." Oh it is a beautiful year, the year of Jubilee! and the sound of its arrival is all the more welcome because it is heard on the day of sorrow.

And now the first streaks of morning light are shining upon the day of release, and the whole land of Judæa is awake, and songs, and prayers, and shouts of joy are filling the air. It is a blessed day. Look at that family, with smiles and tears, standing round that rich man's door. They are come for their father. He has been six years a bond-servant, and now he will be their own father again. How they meet! how they feel! how they weep! They hang upon his neck; they clasp his knees; they do not speak; their tears speak for them. He was a good man, although he was poor; and many losses had compelled him to sell his house and land, and then to sell himself. But now (Lev. xxv. 10, 41) he is to be free again, and to have his house and land again. There stands his master; he also is a good man. He does not refuse to part with his faithful servant, for he remembers the word of his God, and thinks that his own father was a bondman in Egypt, and God redeemed him; and his heart is filled with love to the God who has pity upon the poor bond-slave; and his loss is more than made up to him when he looks at the joy of that reunited family. There stands the goodly offering which he gives as (Deut. xv. 12—15) a parting

gift to his faithful servant—the sheep and the goats, and the wheat and the wine. With his own hands he gives them, making them doubly precious by the kindness with which he gives them. Now they weep and part, and the happy family go once more to their own home. Oh, the prayer of that morning which the good man offered to the God of his deliverance! Angels listened to it and would have wept, if angels could weep. Thus were many, many families made glad on that day. The poor debtor was freed from his debts; and every one had his own again; and every one was free; and (Ex. xxiii. 10, 11) there was no labour and no care throughout all that year, for they ate of that which grew of itself; and the poor and the rich mingled together, and they had all things common; and man and beast had rest and refreshment; for it was the Sabbath of the Lord, a holy year, a year consecrated to God, wherein they might have leisure to think of Him; and might learn that all things come from Him, that Judæa was His peculiar land, that they were His peculiar people, and that He watched and cared for them as no earthly king ever did or could. Oh, it was a happy, happy year, the year of Jubilee*! Each of its moments taught the Jews that God is love. Oh, happy people! if they had known their own happiness, and not neglected their heavenly King. W. H. D.

* We trust our young friends will read carefully the chapters of the Bible to which we have referred, and which give an account of this festival. Sunday-school teachers will find it a profitable exercise to explain them to their classes.

THE SPIRITUAL JUBILEE.

THE Jubilee in Judæa, which has been described in the former paper, only celebrates the freedom of the body; there is a higher Jubilee, the Jubilee of the soul, when it is set free from the chains of guilt, and sin, and fear. How great has been the joy, even on earth, which some Christians have felt, when brought into "the glorious liberty of the children of God!" Dr. Conyers, one of those eminent servants of Christ whom God raised up to bless the world in the days of Whitfield and Wesley, is a remarkable example of this. He became a minister before he was converted, as, alas! many do. One sabbath, while reading the lesson for the day, the words of Paul, (Eph. iii. 8), "The unsearchable riches of Christ," made a deep impression upon his mind. He was led to think thus, "*The unsearchable riches of Christ! I never found, I never knew, that there were unsearchable riches in Him.*" He saw that his experience and views of Christ must be quite different from those of the Apostle. At the same time he had deep convictions of sin, and was greatly troubled by the thought, that, if he was wrong in his views of Christ, he must be also wrong in his preaching, and have misguided his flock to the great danger of their souls.

After many days of deep sorrow, the sighing of the prisoner was heard, and the hour of release came. On the 25th of December, 1758, while walking in his room, he was led to think of these two passages of Scripture, (Heb. ix. 22), "With-

out shedding of blood there is no remission of sin," and (1 John, i. 7) "The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." Placing his hope of pardon and acceptance with God on the atoning blood and righteousness of Jesus Christ, the darkness and sorrow of his mind immediately passed away, and he became the partaker of unspeakable joy.

"I went up stairs and down again," said he, "backwards and forwards in my room, clapping my hands for joy, and crying out, *I have found Him, I have found Him, I have found Him whom my soul loveth*; and for a little time, as the Apostle said, whether in the body or out of it, I could hardly tell*." This was *the jubilee* of that good man.

It is Jesus Christ who proclaims to the world this highest Jubilee, the fruit of His own death, and who sends His ministers to blow its silver trumpet. He says, (Is. lxi. 1), "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because He hath anointed me . . . to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; to *proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord*." For fifty years have the servants of Christ, sent forth by the London Missionary Society, been publishing these glad tidings in the South Sea Islands, in Africa, in India, in China; and now we have a year of Jubilee, a Jubilee of Jubilees, a year to be specially holy to the Lord, consecrated to holy thanksgivings for

* Life and Times of the Countess of Huntingdon, vol. 1, p. 320.

the past, to holy purposes for the future, and to new and generous offerings for the rescue of them who are still the slaves of Satan. Beloved young friends! you will rejoice with us in our joy; you will mourn with us in our humiliations; you will unite in our songs of praise; you will enter into our plans; you will help us now as you nobly helped us for the Missionary Ship; and you will give yourselves to work and to pray henceforth with new zeal for *the Jubilee of the world*, that glad resurrection morning when the last captive shall have been rescued; and when a multitude which no man can number, gathered out of *all* nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, shall be welcomed by the shouts of angels into the heavenly world. We earnestly hope and pray that *you* may be found among them, and all your brothers and sisters with you!

Receive a word of caution. Be humble while you are joyful. We cannot afford to buy even your joyful efforts at the expense of your humility. And that you may be humble, let all you do be done "in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!" Let love to Him be the motion, and faith in Him the spring, of all your actions. And remember! oh remember! this year and every year, His own words, "*Without me ye can do nothing.*"

W. H. D.

"A survey of the state of the world presents to us more than one-half of the human race destitute of the knowledge of the Gospel, and sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death. What have *we* done for their salvation?"—*Dr. Bogue, Evan. Mag.*, Sept. 16th, 1794. Just fifty years ago!

WHAT IS THE NEW MISSIONARY SHIP
LIKE?

MY DEAR LITTLE FRIEND,

CAN you answer this puzzling question? Think a moment; picture to yourself the splendid "John Williams" which has lately left us for a distant land; its masts, its rudder, its beautiful sail. What is it like? Are you tired of guessing, and want me to tell you. Well, then, it is very like *you*. Like me! perhaps you exclaim. How can a vessel be like me?

You are just setting out in life, and all may appear gay and smiling, but soon you will find that this is a world of change and trial. Wave after wave of trouble may roll over you; but if Christ be your friend and walk with you on this stormy sea, your bark will ride securely over every billow. You have set sail, but whither are you going? Will heaven or hell be your landing-place? You are steering to one of these two. Ah! which is it? Do you feel anxious to know? then, ask yourself this question. Is the Saviour my pilot, the Bible my compass, God's fear my ballast, and a good hope through grace my anchor sure and steadfast? If your heart can humbly and joyfully answer—yes, then, my dear young friend, you have nothing to fear. The tempest may howl, and the waves rise high; but you have One on board, who can say in the darkest hour, "Peace, be still!" And what can you do for Him who has done so much for you? Go, like this gallant ship, carrying the flag of Gospel peace to

those who know not Jesus. Spread the tidings of a Saviour's love, and shew your attachment to His cause by a life of cheerful, self-denying zeal. But does conscience whisper, that it is not thus with you? Oh! listen to its voice. Come as a poor sinful child to Him who hath said, "Those that seek Me early shall find Me." Ask Him to guide and guard you through life, and then heaven will be your haven of eternal rest.

DAISY.

SOMETHING MORE TO BE DONE.

DEAR FRIENDS,

WE are told that the purchasing of the "John Williams" reflects great honour upon the juvenile friends of the Missionary Society; but will it not be a lasting disgrace to us, if we now throw her on the income of the Society? Shall we incur this disgrace? No, never! The ship is ours, we bought her; and let us shew we mean to keep her, and will subscribe every farthing necessary for her. A penny-a-month subscription has been proposed, but, I think, a much less sum will do, for we must not take from our contributions to the general fund of the Society to give to our ship; and, then, the Jubilee is fast approaching, and we must begin to save our pence for the Juvenile Jubilee Fund. Now, just look how easily we can support our Ship without interfering with any thing else: if the 150,000 purchasers of this Magazine will subscribe *a farthing a month*, it will raise a sum annually of 1875*l.*, which (if