

sovereign he saved he buried in a hole under his floor near the fireside, and in the evening he would let it run through his hands and watch the glowing red light of the fire on it. Shut up thus in himself, his heart was like a prison.

One night he was out of his house, and a thief came and stole his gold. When he came back and saw the empty hole he grew quite mad, and rushed out again. While he had been away a poor woman had fallen down near the cottage and died. Her little child, feeling cold and wretched, went to the cottage, and, going in, she fell sound asleep by the fire. When the man came back, to his disordered brain it seemed as if his gold had been changed to the golden hair of the little child. Something tender came up in his heart as he saw the child asleep there; he wrapped things about it, and the end of it was that the little child stole into his heart. Women came,

and he let one of them help and teach him, and the strange thing was that he still thought his gold had been turned into a little child, and so he grew a soft-hearted, good man. It is true enough how, when the man was unconscious (asleep), God was giving him the best of gifts.

There is another story that I don't need to tell you at length. The story how our poor world was so sad-hearted with so much misery and sin, so weary of seeking good, and failing; how one night, when the great world was just worn out with its misery and toil, all at once, down from heaven into our world, God sent a little child—the little child Jesus. That baby was the world's Saviour, and through Him life has come to the earth. God gave that little child to the world while the world was fast asleep.

That is how God gives things to those He loves while they are asleep.

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The parts of Scripture selected for the session 1892-93 are St. John's Gospel and Isaiah i.-xxxix. And the Commentaries recommended for St. John's Gospel are—(1) Reith's (T. & T. Clark, 2 vols., 2s. each), or (2) Plummer's (Cambridge Press, 4s. 6d.), or (3) Westcott's (Murray, 12s. 6d.). And for those who wish to study the gospel in the original, Plummer's Greek edition is very satisfactory (Cambridge Press, 6s.). For Isaiah, Orelli (10s. 6d.) and Delitzsch (the fourth edition, 2 vols., 21s.) are the best. The Publishers (Messrs. T. & T. Clark,

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