

**THE GOLD THREAD:
A STORY FOR THE
YOUNG, PP. 1-68**

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The Gold Thread: A Story for the Young, pp. 1-68 by Norman Macleod

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NORMAN MACLEOD

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YOUNG, PP. 1-68**



"AT LAST THEY CAME TO AN IRON DOOR." — p. 21.

THE GOLD THREAD

A STORY FOR THE YOUNG



BY

NORMAN MACLEOD, D.D.



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TO MY CHILDREN.

I DEDICATE this story to you, because it was for you I first wrote it, and to you I first read it among the green hills of Moffat. It was afterwards printed in *Good Words*; and now you see it again appears as a little book for other children, who, I hope, will like it as much as you do.

I wish to help and encourage you, and all who read this story, to learn the great lesson which it is intended to teach; that lesson is, that we should always trust God and do what is right, and thus hold fast our gold thread in spite of every temptation and danger, being certain that in this way only will God lead us in safety and peace to his home.

Now, God gives each of you this gold thread to hold fast in your own house or in school,

in the nursery or in the play-ground, on every day and in every place. His voice in your heart, and in his Word, will also tell you always what is right, if you only listen to it. You, too, will be constantly tempted in some way or other to give up your gold thread, and to be selfish, disobedient, lazy, or untruthful. Many things, in short, will tempt you to do your own will rather than God's will.

You already know, and I hope you will always love and remember, those true stories in the Bible about the good men of the olden time, whose lives are there written. Now, what showed that they were good? It was this, that *they trusted God, and did what was right*. If they ever let this their gold thread go, they lost their way and became unhappy; but when they hold it fast, it led them in a way of peace and safety. To see how true this is, you have only to recall such stories as those of Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Job, Caleb and Joshua, Samuel, David and Jonathan, Elijah and Elisha, Hezekiah, Jeremiah, Daniel and his three companions, etc., with those told you in the Book of Acts, not to mention

the history of Jesus Christ, the perfect example for us all.

That you, my dear children, may be "followers of those who through faith and patience now inherit the promises," and thus be "followers of God as dear children," is the constant prayer of your mother, and of your father.

NORMAN MACLEOD.

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THE GOLD THREAD.

CHAPTER I.

THE WANDERER. — WOLF THE SWINEHERD.

ONCE upon a time a boy lost his way in a vast forest that filled many a valley, and passed over many a hill, a rolling sea of leaves for miles and miles, farther than the eye could reach.

His name was Eric, son of the good King Magnus. He was dressed in a blue velvet dress, with a gold band round his waist, and his fair locks in silken curls waved from his beautiful head. But his hands and face were scratched, and his clothes torn with the briers, as he ran here and there like one much perplexed.

Sometimes he made his way through tangled