

**THE LESSON OF
OBEDIENCE, AND
OTHER STORIES**

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The lesson of obedience, and other stories by Richard Newton

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RICHARD NEWTON

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OBEDIENCE, AND
OTHER STORIES**



THE
LESSON OF OBEDIENCE,

And other Stories.

By THE REV. RICHARD NEWTON.



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THE LESSON OF OBEDIENCE.

'And He went down with them to Nazareth, and was subject unto them.'—LUKE ii. 51.

THE city of Nazareth is a very interesting place to visit, because it is the place where Jesus lived when He was a boy. We spent a Sunday there, while travelling through the Holy Land, and enjoyed the day very much. We had service in one of our tents in the afternoon; and when the service was over, I took a walk through the town, and then up to the top of the hill behind the town, and sat down there to look over the city and country around, and to think such thoughts as would naturally come into one's mind in a place like that. The country about Nazareth is

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very beautiful. But that which interested me most, as I sat on that hill-top, was not the beauty of the country, but the remembrance of Him who had once lived there. The boy Jesus had lived in that city below me. He had walked over those fields, and played there with other boys. He had climbed the hill that I had just climbed, and possibly had often sat down to rest Himself where I was sitting. I wondered how Jesus played when He was a boy, and what the boys who were His companions thought of Him? I wondered how He talked? and what He said? how He felt? and what He thought about Himself, and about the world that He had come to save? I found it easy to ask myself these questions, but it was not so easy to answer them. I could not answer them. Nobody in the world can answer them.

There are a great many things connected with Jesus when He was a boy that we know nothing at all about. But the words of our text tell us one thing about Jesus *which is very important*, and about which *we may be very sure*; it is this—Jesus was

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an *obedient* boy. 'He went down to Nazareth with His parents, and was subject unto them.'

He was twelve years old at the time when this was said of Him. He had been obeying His parents then for twelve years. He kept on obeying them after this for eighteen years longer. Eighteen and twelve make how many? Thirty. Jesus obeyed His parents for thirty years. Some children think that when they get to be eighteen or twenty they are too old to obey, and have a right to do just what they please. But Jesus did not think so. He obeyed His parents till He was twenty-one years of age; and He did not cease then, but went on obeying them for nine years longer.

How wonderful this was! how strange it must have seemed to the angels! They had seen Jesus when He made this world, and the sun and the moon, and all those beautiful worlds around us; and when they saw Him going forth, day after day, to work at the trade of a carpenter, to do just what His father Joseph told Him, and just what His mother Mary wished, how great must have been their astonishment!