OBJECT-LESSONS FOR CHILDREN: OR, HOOKS AND EYES, TRUTH LINKED TO SIGHT, PP. 8-242

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Object-Lessons for Children: Or, Hooks and Eyes, Truth Linked to Sight, pp. 8-242 by C. H. Tyndall

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C. H. TYNDALL

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OBJECT-LESSONS FOR CHILDREN

OR

HOOKS AND EYES, TRUTH LINKED TO SIGHT

BY THE

REV. C. H. TYNDALL, M. A., PH. D.

AUTHOR OF "OBJECT-SERMONS IN OUTLINE," AND "THE QUICKENING, FILLING, AND ENDUING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT"



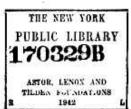
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Copyright, 1896, by FLEMING H. REVELL COMPANY. because it is the work of His hand, reveals in itself the thought and power of God."

Since every manifestation of nature is but the expression of God's thought, there is nothing common or unclean. He is within every burning bush, and all ground is holy ground.

It is no fault of theirs if the objects of nature do not speak to us of God; for He has declared that the invisible things of Him are interpreted by the things that are made.

Upon every hand there are phenomena which awaken religious emotions. The sublime in nature leads to awe and reverence. The beautiful sunset, a thunder-storm, the roar of a waterfall, mysteries, and death arouse and quicken religious feelings. The sensations experienced by hearing a distant church bell on a quiet Sabbath morning are akin to those aroused by a sight of the Fuji-san in Japan, the Ganges in India, or Mecca in Arabia.

All the religions of the ancient world had nature as a basis. This could not have been the case had not nature spoken to man a divine message. When man's knowledge of God began to grow dim his conceptions of the unity of God and the unity of nature would likewise become weakened, and he would begin to see a divinity in each separate part of nature, and polytheism and nature-worship would result.

That her teachings should be so misunderstood is the result of a superficial observation of her works. He who looks deeply into her secrets should be the last one to lose sight of the unity and uniformity of nature, and hence the unity and intelligence of her Author.

President Hitchcock says, "He who knows the most about science ought most powerfully to feel this religious influence. He ought to go forth from it among his fellowmen with radiant glory in his face, like Moses from the holy mount." Since the objects of nature express the thoughts of God, they are symbols and types of spiritual truth, and the visible world is but the image of the heavenly world.

Likewise in His higher revelation, the Bible, God speaks to us in a language of symbols; for all language is symbolic. Signs and their combination into language represent thought. They never, however, perfectly express it. For this reason thought which is revealed through spoken language, accompanied by other symbols, such as the expression of the face, gestures, and tone of voice, is more easily understood, and hence more enjoyed, than the same thought revealed simply by the arbitrary symbols of language.

The Bible is God's old testament, and nature is His older testament, and it is as impossible that there should be lack of harmony between them as that there should be discord in the mind of God Himself. All lines of truth in both originate from Him, and when followed to their termination are seen to end in Him.

One book illustrates the other. Were it possible to obliterate from the Bible every allusion to nature, and every truth clarified by natural phenomena, there would be little left to us, and what remained would be so unintelligible that a further revelation would be necessary to interpret it. The remnant would be hard, bare truth, a mere skeleton of the original, with the flesh and blood and glow of life gone.

But nature and the Bible were joined together by the divine hand, and what God has joined together let not man put asunder. Indeed, it is impossible for man to divorce them; they are one and inseparable.

Hence the use of the objects of nature to teach intellectual and spiritual truths is employing the same methods which the Creator uses and designs we should use.

The object-lessons contained in this work have all been

used once or twice in talks to the children of my church in New York, and some of them several times in addressing boys and girls at Junior Endeavor meetings, conventions, and anniversaries. They have nearly all appeared, in a somewhat different form, in the "Sunday-school Illustrator," under the head of "Object-lessons for Primary Teachers."

It was from letters received from friends, many of whom I have not met, who have read them in the "Illustrator" and found them helpful, and from the suggestion of others who have used them, that I conceived the idea of arranging them for publication.

Let those who use them remember that the letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life. The symbol or object is dead if not used as a vehicle of divine truth. But, blessed by the Holy Spirit, all these symbols may become doves bearing heavenly messages to the soul.

Every object, therefore, which nature has put into our hand let us use for the glory of God, and thus join her in that sub-lime and universal chorus listened to upon Patmos's lonely peak by the Revelator: "And every created thing which is in the heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and on the sea, and all things that are in them, heard I saying, Unto Him that sitteth on the throne, and unto the Lamb, be the blessing, and the honor, and the glory, and the dominion, for ever and ever." For "His glory is the fullness of the whole earth."

C. H. TYNDALL.

BERLIN, GERMANY, FEBRUARY, 1896.

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