

their trust in the Father will be vindicated. The glorification at the second coming of Christ is the final act of a loving God to those who are His. It is the Lord's vindication of His own. It is provided by God's eternal love. 'Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom' (Lk 12³²). In that day the Kingdom will be theirs.

It was exactly thus that the early disciples interpreted these discourses. The first generation of Christians looked forward to the end, not with

dread such as the preaching of John the Baptist inspired, but with hope and enthusiasm. They regarded it as their coming day, and their belief is reflected in the Apocalypse of John, which is the natural development of the eschatology of Jesus. There the end of all is full of Christ—the Lamb—and with Him reign and rule the saints for ever and ever. Thus we conclude that the soteriological idea of Christ dominates His eschatology. The end will come not because God is a God of wrath, but because He 'loveth to the end.'

In the Study.

MR. ALLENSON has published all at once three volumes of children's sermons. They are (1) *The Six Gates*, by the Rev. John Thomson, M.A., of Carmyllie (2s. 6d.); (2) *A Packet of Sunlight*, by the Rev. Morton Gledhill, of Ansdell, Lytham (1s. 6d. net); and (3) *Sunday Gleams*, by the Rev. A. G. Weller, of Toowoomba, Queensland (1s. 6d.). There is no way of reviewing children's sermons but by quotation. Here is one of Mr. Gledhill's on

Pins.

'And all the pins of the court shall be of brass.'—
Ex 27¹⁹.

Whoever would think of reading about pins in the Bible? Perhaps you children thought that such things were never used in Old Testament times. If you thought so, you will soon find your mistake, if you read and study this old Book. Of course the 'pins' mentioned here are not the kind you buy in rows upon paper. Those pins are so small and of such little value that perhaps some of you think they are not worth talking about. Many people will not trouble looking for a pin when it is lost, because it is worth so little and another can so easily be obtained.

Did you ever think and wonder what becomes of all the pins which are being made continuously? Pins are seldom worn out. I began to wonder, when, some years ago, I read how many pins are daily manufactured. I said to myself, Where do they all go, and whatever becomes of them? In the industry of pin-making Birmingham takes, or did take, the lead, and at the time I was

reading turned out 37,000,000 per day. Other parts of this country, 17,000,000; and in different parts of Europe, other 30,000,000: and as pins are seldom broken, it means that there are about 84,000,000 pins lost daily amongst European people.

Some people are very superstitious in regard to pins, and no doubt that superstition has given birth to the rhyme:

See a pin and pick it up,
All the day you'll have good luck.
See a pin and let it lie,
All the day you'll need to cry.

I don't think you boys and girls are much troubled with superstition, yet it may be worth while to pick up pins.

Among pins there are good and bad, as in almost everything; but if a pin is to be a good one, it must have a *good head*. 'A wise man is like a pin: his head prevents him going too far.' To have a good head is as needful for boys and girls as for pins. At a certain catechism class the question was asked, 'What is the chief end of man?' and a mischievous boy answered, 'The end with the head on.' Yes, it is important to have a good headpiece; but you say, 'We cannot have any other than the ones we have already, whether they be good or bad.' That is perfectly true; but you are scholars, and much of the furnishing of the mind has to be attended to, and if you are diligent and persevering, wonders can be wrought. See to it, then, that your head gets well furnished, and don't go furnishing on the hire

system, but be prepared to pay cash down, in diligent study, for what you get.

Some years ago there used to be an omnibus which passed the house of an old philosopher named Thomas Carlyle. The driver of 'the bus' knew this old man was very clever, and was proud of having him as a passenger at times. On one occasion, when the bus stopped for the old man to get in, there was a gentleman sitting next to the driver, and not knowing Thomas Carlyle remarked, 'Driver, that old man has got a queer-shaped hat.' 'Yes,' said the driver, 'but what about the head that's in it?' The important thing is not the hat, but the head that is in it.

The next important thing about a pin is that it should have a *good point*. It makes it very difficult work, to pin something when the pin has a poor point, and especially if the material to be pinned be somewhat damp. Now you young folks will find out that you need to be sharp if you are going to make headway in life. To have a good head-piece often means to be sharp, but you need also to be quick in the execution of your work. Many years ago, my old uncle told me about a little boy attending a certain school in Yorkshire, who was very fond of playing marbles. On one occasion he went on playing with a companion he met until he was late for school. As he hurried along, thinking of the cane which he knew was in store for him, he looked at his dirty hands. He knew he would have to hold out the right hand, and at once began a form of toilet with which all boys are familiar. It was, however, a sorry wash his hand had received when the school was reached, and holding out his hand, the master looked with amazement and said, 'If you can find me a dirtier hand in this school you shall go unpunished.' The boy at once lifted his other hand and so escaped the punishment. That boy was like a pin with a good point.

There is one other thing about a pin that I must mention, and that is—it must be *straight*. Crooked pins are practically useless, and are thrown away as such. By asking you boys and girls to be straight, I mean straightforward, upright, and true. To be

straight you must have a good heart filled with a great love. Jesus Christ wants to make us all straight, and only then can we be truly useful. The real value of a pin lies in its usefulness, and what is not useful usually becomes troublesome.

I read some time ago of a pin and needle, neighbours in a work-basket, who, being both idle folk, began to quarrel, as idle folks are apt to do.

'I should like to know,' said the pin, 'what you are good for, and how you expect to get through the world without a head?'

'What is the use of a head,' said the needle sharply, 'if you have got no eye?'

'What is the use of an eye,' said the pin, 'if there is always something in it?'

'I am more active and can go through more work than you can,' said the needle.

'Yes, but you will not live long, because you have always a stitch in your side,' said the pin.

'You are a poor crooked creature,' said the needle.

'And you are so proud that you cannot bend without breaking your back.'

'I'll pull your little head off if you insult me again,' said the needle.

'I'll put your eye out if you touch me,' said the pin; 'remember, your little life hangs on a single thread.'

While they were thus quarrelling, a little girl entered, and, undertaking to sew, soon broke off the needle at the eye. She then tied the thread round the neck of the pin, and, attempting to sew with it, pulled off its head, and threw it into the dirt by the side of the broken needle.

'Well, here we are,' said the needle.

'We have nothing to fight about now,' said the pin. 'It seems that misfortune has brought us to our senses.'

'A pity we had not come to them sooner,' said the needle. 'How much we resemble human beings who quarrel about their blessings till they lose them, and never find out they are brothers till they lie down in the dust together as we do.'

When you are using pins, try to remember the lessons from the pin.