

THE
TWO LAMBS,
AN
ALLEGORICAL HISTORY,
BY THE AUTHOR OF
MARGARET WHYTE, &c. &c.



NEW-YORK:
M. DAY & CO. 374 PEARL-STREET,
AND
BAKER, CRANE & CO. 158 PEARL-STREET.
James Egbert, Printer.

Lange's Memoirs of
A. J. ...

TO CHILDREN.

THIS little book which gives an account of Two Lambs, is intended to instruct you in some very important knowledge. The lambs are very much like children, which they are intended to represent.—The Good Shepherd is the Lord Jesus, the same which is mentioned John x. 11, and in other parts of the Bible.—The roaring lion is the *chief* wicked spirit, called Satan: he is also called by other names in the Holy Scriptures, 1 Peter, v. 8.—The Goats are wicked people, who take much pains to make children as bad as they are themselves. If you wish to know what becomes of the goats, look in the twenty-fifth chapter of Matthew, verses 32, 33.

If there is any part of the book which you do not understand, ask your Sunday School Teacher, or your father, or mother, or some other kind pious friend.



FRONTISPIECE.



SEE PAGE 4.

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THE TWO LAMBS.

It happened many years ago, in certain mountains in Asia, that two young lambs broke out of the fold where they were born, from the care of their parent, whose name was *Innocence*, and fell into the jaws of a fierce lion, who, casting them down into the mire at his feet, tore their soft fleeces and wounded them dangerously.

He would presently have devoured them, had not a good Shepherd, who was travelling that way, taken pity upon them, and delivered them from the jaws of the lion; but in so doing, he himself received several severe wounds, from the resistance which the fierce animal made.

Then he took the young lambs in

his arms, the blood still running from his wounds, insomuch that it fell upon their fleeces, and washed away the mire with which they had been covered in their fall ; and having carried them by a way which they knew not, over one of the mountains, in the heat of the day, he brought them at last into a pleasant little sheep-fold, surrounded on all sides by high mountains.

This valley was entirely separated from the adjoining ground by a murmuring brook, which flowed irregularly around it, and by the side of the brook were green trees, bearing fruit and sweet smelling flowers, and affording a delicious shade. There was only one narrow entrance to this sheep-fold.

Now the shepherd did not seem to regard the pain he felt from his own wounds, but was only intent upon giving ease and comfort to the lambs.

The mire was not only washed from their fleeces, and abated the severe anguish these little animals had felt, but he proceeded further to wash them in

the brook, and applied certain healing leaves to their wounds, and then having revived them with suitable food, he laid them down gently on the soft grass, beneath the trees which sheltered them from the burning sun, and thus addressed himself to them :

“ My lambs, you know that I love you, even so much as to shed my blood for you, and have saved you from the paws of the lion, and brought you with much difficulty to this safe and quiet fold ; now if you will be content to dwell here, and, knowing my voice will obey it, I will provide you with every thing that is good and desirable for you ; I will take care of you, and be your good Shepherd ; the finest grass and the most refreshing springs of water are to be found in this fold, and they shall be your food.

“ O my lambs ! if you will love me who first loved you, and if you will love one another, I will take you hereafter to a fairer pasture than this. Look to the top of that mountain,

which lies exactly before you, and you will see the skirts of a fair and lovely country. The sun is shining upon the trees thereof, so as to make them look like the finest gold ; beyond those trees lies a pasture-ground, in which I delight to walk, and in which my sheep and lambs find perfect rest. To this place will I take you at some future time, if you will know my voice and hearken unto it.

“ But if you will stray from this fold ; if you choose not to have me for your Shepherd ; if you eat the grass which grows upon the mountain on either side of you, my arms of love will be no more stretched over you to protect you, and you will fall again into the power of the lion, from whom I have once saved you, and who is now going about seeking to devour you.”

Now when he had ceased speaking, the Shepherd left them for that time ; but every day he came again to visit them, and every day he gave them some fresh proofs of his love.

The names of these two lambs were *Peace* and *Inexperience*. Many happy days did they spend together in this pleasant fold; they had excellent food and delightful shade; they loved each other, but they loved chiefly the good shepherd whose presence filled their hearts with gladness; and although it happened that the mountains lying in a stormy region, rain and hail would sometimes fall upon the little fold, yet the trees being thick and shadowy, generally sheltered the lambs from the inclemencies of the weather.

One day when the Shepherd visited them as usual, *Peace* ran forward to meet him, and gambolled about his feet, as was his custom; but *Inexperience* walked slowly after him, and shewed little pleasure at the sight of his best friend; yet there was nothing stern or severe in the countenance of the Shepherd, which could make him fear to approach him.

“What is the matter with thee, brother?” said *Peace*, as soon as he



saw the Shepherd had left them ; “ if thou art sick or in want of any thing, why dost thou not acquaint our good master with thy distress, for he giveth us all things richly to enjoy.”

“ He cannot give me what I want,” replied *Inexperience*, “ because he has expressly forbidden it to me. I want to leave this fold and visit those pleasant hills which lie upon our right hand, and upon our left ; how fair are they to look upon ! Do I not see

flowers of various kinds, growing in great profusion even upon the summit of the hills, and birds of many colors, who sit and sing upon the branches of the trees? I can see also thick grass growing among the fresh flowers, and sheep and goats feeding upon the delicious herbage, and lambs gambolling by their side. O! my brother, I cannot be happy while I am confined within this fold, and forbid to share in the pleasures those sheep enjoy."

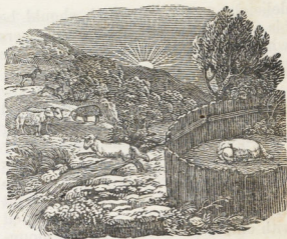
Peace endeavored to persuade his brother that he had done very wrong in gazing upon these forbidden objects, and that he ought to banish the thoughts of them from his mind; but finding that *Inexperience* did not pay any attention to his advice, he resolved to relate all the discourse that had passed between him and his brother to the good Shepherd, at the next of his visits, which were generally made at the time the dew of heaven falls upon the flowers and the grass.

He had no sooner fulfilled this his

intention, and made his master acquainted with the wishes of his brother, than the good Shepherd, calling *Inexperience* to him with a look of inexpressible pity, spoke to him in the following manner :

“What renders thee dissatisfied, O my lamb ! with the situation in which, at so much cost to myself, I have placed thee ? Have I withheld any thing from thee that will make for thy peace ? If I have forbidden thee to feed upon those mountains, it is because I know thou wilt meet with nothing there but bitter and unwholesome herbage, and wilt be exposed to many fierce and cruel enemies. O my lambs ! be content to abide in my fold, and to hear my voice ; be you stayed upon me, and I will keep you in perfect peace ; but if you wander to those mountains, you must exchange my easy yoke for vexation, and sorrow, and anxiety, and my tender care for the fury of the devouring lion.”

Before the shepherd took his leave of the lambs, he earnestly cautioned them to keep their eyes from straying towards those dangerous mountains; but *Inexperience* would not listen to the warning voice of the Shepherd; neither was he to be moved by the persuasions of his brother. All day long he would stand upon the confines of the valley looking upon the flowers which grew upon the mountain sides, and listening to the birds which sung in the trees, till the sheep and the goats of the mountains, whose delight it was to draw away the flock of the good Shepherd from the fold of their master, rejoiced to perceive that *Inexperience* was become weary of his gentle government, and began to assemble themselves as near to him as they could, and invite him to escape from the fold. "Many of us," said they to him, "have been confined in that valley, as you are now; but we could not bear the intolerable restraints which were laid upon us; there-



fore we fled from them, and now enjoy perfect liberty here.”

Inexperience easily believed what these sheep said to him, because he was desirous to do so, and on one fatal morning, yielding to their persuasions, he leaped over the water which enclosed the sheep-fold, before his brother *Peace* had awakened from his innocent slumber.

His new companions received him with joy, and promised to lead him to

delicious pastures, which should be his food all day, and to beds of flowers where he should sleep sweetly all the night long.

Inexperience made haste to follow them; but it was already noon and the sun was shining with a burning heat upon the mountains, before they had reached any of those pastures which had seemed at a distance so pleasant; and as he was now faint with heat and hunger, and wearied with climbing the sides of the mountains, he promised himself great delight in regaling upon the excellent herbage.

“Now,” said one of the goats, “enjoy thyself, and satisfy thy desires with this exquisite food, and drink of that water which runs at thy feet.”

The lamb began eagerly to browse upon what seemed so good; but how was he disappointed, to find that the grass tasted bitter in his mouth, and that even when he had eaten plentiful of it, his hunger was by no means

satisfied ; for the soil of those mountains being barren, there was nothing to give nourishment to the grass. He now betook himself to the stream, the clearness of which was very inviting ; but though he drank eagerly of it, yet his thirst was not at all quenched ; but on the contrary, it seemed increased. He drank still more, and he still became more thirsty, and soon afterwards began to feel a feverish heat in all his veins ; for near the source of this spring, there grew many noxious herbs, which continually shedding poisonous leaves and flowers into the water, gave to it a quality which always excited thirst and fever in those who tasted it. So great was its effects upon *Inexperience*, that he was filled with a degree of restlessness that he never felt before, and he besought the sheep and the goats to show him something new.

“ Follow me,” said one of the goats, “ and I will take thee to the wood which thou mayst see upon the next

hill ; even here thou mayst discern the beautiful birds which are singing among the trees."

Inexperience looked up, but he now found that he could not see any thing so plainly as he had been used to do ; for the air of these mountains was very different from that which he had breathed in the happy valley ; it was so heavy that it seemed to take from him that liveliness and lightness of heart, which he had been accustomed to feel, and it was so thick and misty that he could not see any thing as it really was : however, he followed the goat till he brought him to the wood, where the birds, whose feathers he had so much admired, were singing in the trees.

"The night is coming on," said the goat, "for the sun is setting behind the hills ; I will take thee to a bed of flowers, and there thou shalt lay thyself down to rest ; for thou must certainly be tired with walking so far as thou hast done to-day, and these sweet



birds shall sing thee to sleep. Tomorrow I will return to thee again, and I will lead thee to fresh pleasures."

Inexperience thanked his new friend for his kindness, and while he laid himself down on a bed of flowers, of various colors, scarlet, blue, and yellow, he said to himself, "I shall now be happy." For some time he delighted himself with the smell of the flowers, with listening to the songs of the birds, and admiring their gaudy plu-

mage ; but in a little while he perceived that the birds never varied their notes, and after hearkening to them for some time, their voices became harsh and unpleasant ; so that at last he was quite wearied, and turned his ear from them in disgust ; and when these birds spread their wings to fly, he discovered that their fine feathers were only borrowed—their natural plumage was of a dusky color.

Inexperience now laying down his head, tried to compose himself to sleep ; but the smell of flowers, lately so sweet, became so powerful by the night air, that he was unable to endure it ; and rising up, he endeavored to find some other resting place ; but the sun had long been set, the night was cloudy, and no star was seen : he was in perfect darkness, and he feared to move lest he should fall into danger. At length however, he found his way to a tree, at the foot of which he collected some dry leaves, and laid himself down upon his hard bed to sleep.

But now the wind sweeping from the hills above, began to rise and rock the trees, the shelter of which could not screen him from the cold blast. The owls shrieked in the depths of the woods, and the bats flapped their wings over his head.

It was very long before *Inexperience* could take any rest; his mind was filled with many distressing thoughts; his tender limbs were chilled with cold, and he was terrified with the strange voices of the birds of night; and when at last he fell asleep, his slumbers were continually disturbed with painful dreams. Sometimes, he thought that he saw his innocent brother sleeping quietly on his bed of soft grass sheltered from the breezes of night, by bowing trees: sometimes, he thought that the good Shepherd came to him and called him with a stern voice, and frowned upon him; and again he would wake in terrors, fancying that he was pursued by the lion, and was almost within his jaws.

The next morning when he was visited by his new companions, he complained to them of his disappointments, informed them how uneasily he had spent the night, and inquired if it would be possible for him to return to his brother.

“It is easy to perceive,” said one of the goats, “that thou hast as yet only worn thy first fleece. We did not take thee to be so chicken-hearted when we invited thee to free thyself from those burdens and restraints which none but the weak and timid will suffer to be laid upon them; but I see that thou hast not spirit to enjoy that noble liberty which lately thou didst desire so much.”

Inexperience replied that the goat mistook his character, and that he would soon find he knew how to enjoy his liberty; “but” said he, “you have certainly deceived me; for all the pleasures you have offered to me, have proved quite unsatisfying, if not bitter and disgusting.”

“It is true,” answered the goat, “thou met with some disappointment yesterday, but that will not be the case in future; I shall lead thee to-day to pastures where thou mayst feed abundantly upon the most excellent grass.”

Inexperience believed the goat, and although his promises were deceitful, and the lamb again complained of his disappointment, yet his companions daily found means to give him new hopes, which they never were able to satisfy. He was often led in search of new pastures, over hills and rocks far more steep and difficult to ascend than that mountain over which the Shepherd had carried him, when he had rescued him from the lion, and was conveying him to the quiet fold. Here his delicate feet were pierced with stones, and his white fleece torn with thorns, and soiled with mire; but besides all these difficulties, which were never repaid with any thing really worth possessing, the sheep and goats who had at first treated him

with so much kindness, now ceased to pay him any attention. They not only left him to take care of himself, but they even began to quarrel with him, as was their custom among each other, especially when they met with any unusually fine herbage, which each was desirous to secure to himself, and hinder his companions from enjoying.

But what distressed *Inexperience* above all, were the roarings of wild beasts, which he often heard at the dead of night, proceeding from caverns in the rocks, and thickets in the deep wood. Many nights did he pass without sleep, trembling for fear of the lion, whom he expected every moment to devour him.

Many long winter nights and summer days had passed away, since *Inexperience* had left the pleasant fold, when late one evening, being quite spent with fatigue, and parched with intolerable thirst, he laid himself down on the grass to bemoan his unhappy

state. How could I ever desire," said he in a sorrowful voice, "to quit that happy valley where I was safe under the care of the good Shepherd! With what delicious grass did he feed me, and with what excellent water from living fountains did he refresh me! and how did he lay me down to rest in cool shades, while his arm was stretched over me, to protect me, that the sun might not light upon me, nor any heat! and oh! my much beloved companion! oh! *Peace! Peace!* with thee I was wont to rest on the soft grass, and with thee to rise in the morning in haste to meet our beloved master! Oh! my Shepherd! oh my brother! why did I ever leave you! and what have these mountains given me in exchange for the pure and peaceful delights I have lost! Alas! alas! all the pleasures that are offered me here, bring me nothing but daily and bitter disappointment! And where is the liberty I promised myself? Here I am, the slave of dread and

anxiety, and of desires that are never satisfied; but when I was the obedient lamb of my Shepherd, who loved me and had shed his blood for me, I lived in perfect liberty; for he taught me to desire nothing but what was good for me, and all that was good for me he gave to me."

While he was thus lamenting himself, he was interrupted by the groans of some one in distress, and turning round, he perceived a wounded sheep making his way towards him with great difficulty, and he had scarcely reached the spot where the lamb was resting, than he laid himself down and seemed to be in the agonies of death.

"Brother," said he to *Inexperience*, in a faint voice, "why dost thou remain idle here? dost thou not know, that the lion is now upon the brow of the mountain? Rise, and begone with as much haste as thou canst, if thou fear to fall into the jaws of the lion, as I have done."

"Where shall I fly?" asked the



lamb trembling. "There is but one place," replied the sheep, "where thou canst be safe from the lion, and that is the sheep-fold, the restraints of which thou foundest so irksome; but though thou madest thy escape from it without any trouble, yet the passage leading to it from hence is so very difficult, that few of us ever take that way of escaping the lion."

"Where else then can I go?" asked the lamb with increased fear.

"Go where thou wilt," answered

the sheep, "while thou remainest in these mountains, thou canst never long be safe from the lion." Just then a flock of sheep was seen running furiously down the mountain, as if pursued, but it was so dark, that *Inexperience* could not clearly perceive whether or not his enemy was really behind them. His distress was now so great, that he called out in a voice of anguish, "What shall I do to be saved from the lion?"

"Unhappy lamb," replied the wounded sheep, half expiring, "I who once was most forward to seduce thee from a place of safety, would now show thee, if possible, how to return there. Oh! that instead of persuading thee to quit that fold, I had begged admittance there myself! But I despised thy master, and disregarded the power of the lion, and my pride has reduced me to ruin. The fold thou hast left," added he, "lies towards the sun-rising. Look up; see that bright star in the east; keep thy eyes fixed on it, and un for thy life."

The sheep expired with these words in his mouth. The heart of the lamb was filled with gratitude for this last act of kindness, and he lost not one moment in following his advice, and returning with all possible speed towards the valley, though he scarcely dared to hope that he should reach it again in safety. All night long he continued running, and he heard behind him the bleating of the sheep and the distant roaring of the lion. He still kept in his eye the bright star in the east, till the star disappeared, and the morning light began to dawn in its stead. The swiftness with which he had run, had left his companions far behind him; besides, most of them had taken a very different direction from the one pointed out by the dying sheep.

By the time the sun had risen, *Inexperience* found, to his great joy, that he had arrived within view of the fold; but he was now so fatigued with those difficulties which (as the

sheep had assured him would be the case) he had met with on the road, that he was unable to go any further, and he laid himself down upon the grass, quite spent and worn out. He now began to examine the outside of the fold, hoping that he might be able to return there as easily as he had escaped from it; but though he had found no difficulty in first quitting it, yet such was the situation of the ground, that he perceived it was impossible to gain admittance into it again, except by the narrow gate, the key of which was kept by the Shepherd.

He was now thrown into a new perplexity, and he felt too, increasing fears, lest he had so greatly offended his good master, that he would never restore him to his favor. But again he recollected how he had loved him, and shed his blood for him, even when he had strayed and wandered from the fold he ought to have abided in, and had fallen into the jaws of the lion,



and he tried to comfort himself with the thoughts of his master's love.

While these things were passing in his mind, he saw the gate of the fold open, and the Shepherd himself come forth carrying *Peace* in his bosom. How did the sight of this, his best friend, and his happy brother, touch his heart! He tried to raise himself to run to meet them, but his mind was again filled with fear, and he found that he had not strength to move, so he fell back again upon the grass, al-

most in despair ; but his eyes continued to follow the good Shepherd, who began to ascend that mountain, upon the summit of which lay the pleasant pasture ground, which in his happier days, his master had often shown to him at a distance, and to which he had promised to take him if he would love him and obey his voice. The entrance to this pasture-ground was by a Golden Gate, which was so very bright, that it shone like the sun, and when the Shepherd had reached the top of the mountain, the golden gate was opened and *Peace* was admitted within, and at the opening of the gate, there came forth the sound of some of the sweetest airs that Shepherds are wont to play to their sheep.

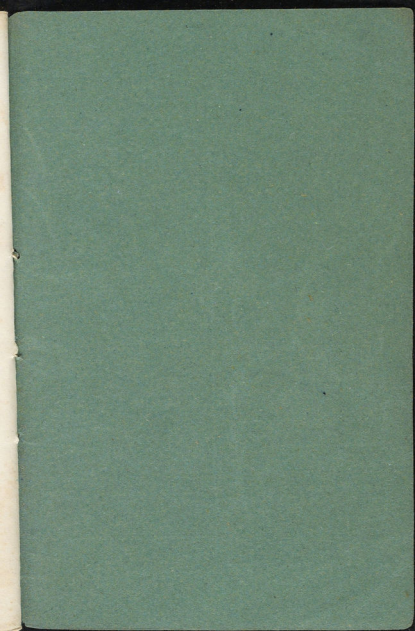
At that moment, a sound of a very different nature caused *Inexperience* to start and tremble, and turning his head round, he saw his dreadful enemy the lion, standing upon the brow of the mountain behind him ; and his tremendous roarings were echoed from

rock to rock. The lion now began with increasing speed to descend the hill, and his steps were directed towards the spot where *Inexperience* lay. Just then the Shepherd also appeared, approaching from the opposite hill, and *Inexperience* thought that he heard him say, "Fear not, little lamb, I am able to save unto the uttermost all that come unto me."

Hope filled his heart, and exerting all his strength, he raised himself from the ground. The lion was now within a few paces of him, but springing forwards, he cast himself at the feet of the Shepherd, and raised towards him his meek and penitent eyes.

Now, what afterwards became of this lamb, I have not heard, but I know so much of the mercy of that good Shepherd, that he is so willing to spare and save those lambs, who, knowing they have offended him, come to him for pardon and deliverance, that I feel the fullest persuasion he would rescue *Inexperience* from the

power of the lion, and teach him to become a faithful sheep in his flock, and that this happy lamb was always afterwards convinced, that in his fold only there is rest, and in keeping of his commandments there is quietness and assurance forever.



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