

“Where fell it?”

*A Message
to Young People.*

“ WHERE FELL IT ? ”

HAVE you ever seen a piece of iron swim ?
“ No, that could not be,” you reply.
“ I have never seen such a thing,” says another.
“ Neither has anybody else,” says a third. But wait ; is not that going too far ? If one had lived on the earth since man was made until now, and had been everywhere in the world, we might listen to what he had to say. But because you and I have not seen iron swim, it does not follow that *nobody* has. If we only believed what our eyes had seen, we could not trust what our parents have told us, and that would be wrong.

Many hundreds of years ago, before the Lord Jesus lived on this earth as a Man, a company of young men and boys, called “ the sons of the prophets ” lived together in one house at a place near the River Jordan. There they so grew in numbers that the house was soon too small for them. They came then to a prophet, called “ The Man of God,” and said, “ Let us go, we pray thee, unto Jordan, and take thence every man a beam, and let us make a place there, where we may dwell.” He said, “ Go

ye." But one said, "Be content, I pray thee, and go with thy servants." He said, "I will go."

Two good things we see in the ways of these young men. First, they would not act without asking the "man of God." Secondly, they wished him to be with them. Thus they were happier than if they had gone without his advice and without his presence. And, dear young friend, never be ashamed to seek the advice and guidance of your parents and teachers. In so doing you will be wise and happy now ; and in the coming days, you will be very glad to have had such training. Your own character will be stronger, and others will look up to you.

The work of cutting down trees for the new house began. How pleasant to see this cheery company working in the open air, each one doing his part and all working together, and happy in having with them their best friend on earth ! Their young voices, mingling with the ring of their axes, sounded through the wood, and then would be heard the crash of a tree as one and another was felled.

Suddenly, there is another sound—a heavy splash, followed by a cry. An axe-head has fallen into the water, and gone from sight. The young man using it is “very upset,” as we say, because it had been lent to him. There are three things, I think, which make him cry out, “Alas ! Master.”

(a) What he lost was not his own.

(b) How could he face the friend who lent him the axe.

(c) He could not now help in the work.

Would it not be a happy thing if all people were as tender about borrowed things ? But I want to remind you that *you* are not your own. God made you and has a right over you, but like the axe-head you are fallen and lost. Are you troubled about this ? Do you think you can work for God now, and face Him in “that coming day,” unless you have been “found.” and brought back to God. “How can *that* be ? ” you ask.

Let us read on. The “man of God ” said, “Where fell it ? ” And he shewed him the place. And he cut down a stick, and he cast it in thither ; and the iron did swim. “A miracle,” you exclaim. Of course ; it was GOD’S work.

But this is a picture of a far greater work. The branch that was cut off from a living tree, was then no longer living. It reminds us of the Lord Jesus, Who was "cut off out of the land of the living" (Isa. 53. 8), when He was crucified. "Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself" (Dan. 9. 26). The casting into the water tells of Him Who went under all the waves of God's anger, in the stead of poor sinners; and, as it was cast into *the very place* where the axe-head fell, so the Lord Jesus came into the world, where man fell, and took their guilty place. Was not that loving and merciful on His part?

Ah! What a relief to that dear young man to hear those words, "Take it up to thee." Yes, but nothing to the relief of mind a sinner knows, when God says, "Thy sins be forgiven thee."

If the axe-head could have spoken, it would have said, "I was lost, but have been found. I was buried in the dark waters, and useless. But now I am in the hand of one who can use me. How glad I am."

"He sent from above, He took me, He drew me out of great waters" (Ps. 18. 16).

Thus can testify every saved person, young or old, all because "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." (1 Tim. 1. 15).

Dear boy or girl, are *you* saved, and in the hand of God, to be used by Him for the building of *His* house?

E.K.

Read 2 Kings 6. 1-7.