not chosen out of an earthly, but out of the heavenly University, and hath taken those three heavenly degrees—Union with Christ—The Anointing of the Spirit, and Experience of the Temptations of Satan; far better than all the University learning and degrees that can be had.' May

Bunyan's desire be realized, and his verses prove to all our readers

"As delighting

To thee in reading, as to me in writing." 

Geo. Over.

HATCHEY, AUGUST 12, 1810.

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THE BOOK OF RUTH.

A VERY USEFUL WOODCUT.—RUTH CLEANING.—RUTH CREEPING TO BALE, WHO IS ASLEEP.

CHAP. I.

In ancient times, e'er Israel knew the way
Of kindly power, when judges bore the sway:
A certain man of Bethlehem Judah died,
By reason of a famine that overspread
The land, into the land of Moab, there
He and his wife, and sons, sojourners were.
His name Elimelech, his eldest son
Was called Mahlon, Chilion his son,
His wife was Naomi; Ephrathites they were;
They went to Moab and continued there:
Whereof her husband Naomi was bereft,
And only she and her two sons were left;
Who took them wives of Moab in their youth.
The name of one was Orpah, Chilion's sister;
And there they dwelt; twice five years were gone;
And Naomi was wholly left alone.
Then she arose, and her step-daughters with her, To leave the land of Moab altogether:
For she had heard the Lord had visited
Her native country, with increase of bread,
Wherefore the land of Moab she forsook,
And to her native place her course she took,

Her daughters with her; whom she did desire,
That to their mother's house they would retire.
The Lord, said she, be kind to you again,
As you to me, and to the dead have been.
God grant you each may be with husbands blest,
And in the enjoyment of them both have rest.
Then she embraced them, and there withdrew,
Down from their cheeks, the tears began to fall;
They wept aloud, and said, Most surely we
Unto thy people will return with thee.
But Naomi replied, Wherefore will ye,
My daughters, thus resolve to go with me?
Are there yet any more sons in my womb?
That may your husbands be in time to come?
Return again, my daughters, go your way,
For I'm too old to marry; should I say
I've hope? Should I this night conceive a son?
Would either of you stay till he is grown?
Would you so long without an husband live?
Nay, nay, my daughters, for it doth me grieve
Excedingly, even for your sakes, that I
Do under this so great affliction lie.

* "An husband," c. 1. 12.
And here they went again. And Orpah kissed her mother, but Ruth would be not dissuaded; but clave unto her: unto whom she spoke. And said, Behold, thy sister is gone back, with her own gods, and people to abide, go thou along with her. But Ruth replied, I must not to leave thee, or return: for where thou goest, I'll go, where thou sojourn, I'll sojourn also. And what people's thing, and who thy God, the same shall both he mine. Where thou shalt die, there will I die likewise, and I'll be buried where thy holy lips. The Lord do so to me, and more, if I do leave thee, or forsake thee till I die. And when she saw the purpose of her heart, she left off to desire her to depart. So they two travelled along together to Bethlehem, and when they were come thither, Behold! the people were surprised, and cried, What, is this Naomi? But she replied, Oh! call me Mara, and not Naomi; for I have been afflicted bitterly. I went out from you full, but now I come, as it hath pleased God, quite empty home. Why then call ye me Naomi? Since I have been afflicted so exceedingly. So Naomi returned, and Ruth together, who had come from the land of Moab with her: and unto Bethlehem Jeshah did they come, just as the barley harvest was begun.

CHAP. II.

There was a man of his to Naomi, one that was of her husband's family, his name was Boaz, and his wealth was great. And Ruth, the Moabitess, did instruct Her Mother's leave, that she might go, and gather some ears of corn, where she should most find favour. Go, daughter, go, said she. She went and came near to the reapers, to glean after them: and lo, it was her hap to light among the reapers, which to Boaz did belong. Behold, now Boaz came from Bethlehem unto his reapers, and saluted them, and they bless'd him again: and he inquired of him that was set over them he hired, from whence the damsel was, and what name. She was the Moabitess that returned with Naomi: and she did ask, said he. That here amongst the reapers she might be, and that she might have liberty to glean among the sheaves. And she all day had been, even from the morning until now, with us, that she hath stay'd a little in the house. Then Boaz said to Ruth, observe, my daughter, that thou go not from hence, or follow after the reapers of another field, but where My maidens are, see that thou tarry there; observe what field they reap, and go thou there, have I not charged the young men to forbear to touch thee? And when thou dost thine approach and drink of what the youths have set astray. Then she fell on her face, and to the ground, She bowed herself, and said, Why have I found such favour in thine eyes, that thou, to me Who am a stranger, should so courteous be? And Boaz said, it hath been fully shown to me, what to thy mother-in-law thou hast done, since of thine husband thou hast been bereft: how then thy father and thy mother left, and thine own native land; to come unto a land which thou before didst never know: The Lord, the God of Israel, the defence Whom now thou'st chosen, be thy recompense. Then said she, let me in thy sight, my lord, find favour in that thou dost thus afford me comfort, and since thou so kind to me Dost needs, though I thereof unworthy be. And Boaz said, at meal time come thou near, eat of the bread, and dip it in thine vinegar: and by the reapers she sat down to meat, he gave her parched corn, and she did eat, and was satisfied; and left, and rose to glean: and Boaz gave command to the young men, let her come in among the sheaves, said he, to glean, and let her not reproached be. Let fall some handfuls also purposely, and let her take them without injury. So she till even glean'd, and then beat out her barley, being an ephah or thereabout. She took it up, and to the city went, and to her mother-in-law did it present, and what she had reserved to her she gave, when she had taken what she desired to have. Then unto her, her mother-in-law did say, in what field hast thou been to glean to-day? And where hast thou been working? Best be he, that thou hast taken cognizance of thee. She told with whom, and furthermore did say, The man's name's Boaz, where I wrought to-day. And Naomi replied, may he be blest, even of the Lord, whose kindness manifest unto the living and the dead hath been: the man's our kinsman, yea, the next of kin. And Ruth, the Moabitess, said, he gave me likewise a commandment not to leave, or to depart from following his young men, until they had brought all his harvest in. And Naomi said unto Ruth, my daughter, it is good that thou observe to follow after his maidens, that they meet thee not elsewhere. So she to Boaz's maidens still kept near, till barley and wheat harvest both, she saw were done, and she dwelt with her mother-in-law.

CHAP. III.

Then Naomi said, Shall I not, my daughter, seek rest for thee, that thou do well hereafter? and is not Boaz, with whose sorest thou wast, one of the nearest kinsmen that thou hast? Behold, this night he in his threshing floor is winnowing barley, wash thyself therefore, anoint thee, put thy clothes on, and get down unto the door; but make not thyself known.

**"Set alœuvre," in a posture to run out, or yield the liquor contained.**

**"An ephah," a measure containing three pecks and three pints.**

---Colloq.
And caused them to sit down. Then to the man, That was of kin, thus he his speech began, Naomi, said he, who not long since sojournd Among the Moabites, is now return'd; And doth intend to sell a piece of ground, The which Elimelech our brother ow'd. And now to give thou notice, I thought fit, That if thou pleasest, thou may'st purchase it, In presence of these men assembled here. Then if thou wilt redeem it, now declare Thy mind, but if thou wilt not, then let me, For then art next of him, and I next thee. Then said the kinsman, I will it redeem. Boaz reply'd, if good to thee it seem, To buy it of the hand of Naomi, Thou also art obliged the same to buy Of Ruth the Moabitess, wife o' th' dead; On his inheritance to raise up seed. The kinsman said, I cannot do this thing Myself, lest I an inconvenience bring Upon mine own inheritance, what's mine By right, therefore I now to thee resign. Now this in Israel did a custom stand, Concerning changing and redeeming land; To put all controversy to an end, A man pluck'd off his shoe, and gave his friend; And this in Israel was an evidence, When e'er they changed an inheritance. Then said the kinsman unto Boaz, do Thou take my right, And off he pluck'd his shoe. Then Boaz to the elders thus did say And to the people, all of you this day Appear for me as witnesses, that I Have bought all of the hand of Naomi, That was Elimelech's or did belong Either to Mahlon or to Chilion: And Ruth the Moabitess, who some time Was Mahlon's wife, I've purchas'd to be mine, Still to preserve alive the dead man's name On his inheritance, lest that the same Should in the gate where he inhabited, Or amongst his brethren be extinguished; Behold, this day, my witnesses you are; Then all the people that were present there, And elders said, We are thy witnesses: May God this woman thou hast taken bless, That she, like Rachel, and like Leah be, Which two did build up Israel's family; And thou in Ephrath exalt thy name, And through the town of Bethlehem spread thy fame; And may the seed which God shall give to thee Of this young woman, full as prosperous be, As was the house of Pharez heretofore, (Pharez, whom Tamar unto Judith bore.) So he took Ruth, and as his wife he knew her, And God was pleased, when he went in to her To grant the blessing of conception, And she accordingly bare him a son. Then said the woman, Blessed be the Lord! Bless thee him Naomi, who doth afford To thee this day a kinsman, which shall be Famous in Israel; and shall be to thee As the restorer of thy life again, And in thy drooping age shall thee sustain.

* Similar to Christian's exclamation, when calling to Faithful to stop and bear him company. See Pilgrim's Progress, Part 1st.
For that thy daughter-in-law, who loves thee well
And in thy sight doth seven sons excel,
Hath borne this child. Then Naomi took the boy
To nurse; and did him in her bosom lay.

Her neighbours too, gave him a name, for why,
This son, say they, is born to Naomi:
They called him Obed, from whose loins did spring
Jesse, the sire of David, Israel’s king.

THE HISTORY OF SAMSON.

JUDGES, CHAP. XIII.

When Israel’s sins th’ Almighty did provoke,
To make them subject to Philistine yoke
For forty years; in Zarah dwelt a man,
His name Manoah, of the tribe of Dan;
His wife was barren, unto whom appeared
The angel of the Lord, and thus declared:
Though thou, said he, art barren, time shall come
Thou shalt enjoy the blessing of thy womb;
Now therefore I enjoin thee to refrain
From wine, strong drink, and things that are unclean,
For lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son,
Upon whose head there shall no razor come;
For he to God a Nazarite shall be,
And shall begin to set his people free
From the Philistine yoke. The woman came
And told her husband, she had seen a man
Of God; his dreadful look made me say, said she,
Think him an angel of the Lord to be:
But I inquired not from whence he came,
Neither did he make known to me his name:
But thus he said, Thou shalt conceive a son;
Wherefore strong drink and wine, see that thou shun,
And have a care that thou be not defiled
With things that are unclean; for why, the child
Shall from his separation from the womb,
Become a Nazarite, even to his tomb.
Manoah then did supplicate the Lord,
And said, O Lord, be pleased to afford
This favour unto me, to send again
The man of God, more fully to explain
Thy will to us, that we may rightly know,
When this child shall be born, what we must do.
And to Manoah’s prayer God gave ear,
And to his wife the angel did appear
Again, as she did in the field retire,
At such time as her husband was not nigh her.
And she made haste, and ran, and strait declared
Unto her husband, that the man appeared
Again, whom she had seen the other day.
Manoah then arose, and went his way,
And when he came, he said, Art thou the man
That spakest to my wife? He said, I am.
Manoah said, Now let thy words be true;
How shall we use the child, What must we do?
Then said the angel of the Lord, let her
Of all that I have charged her beware:
She may not taste of what comes of the vine,
Nor may she drink strong drink, or any wine,
Nor may she eat of things that are unclean,
From all that I have said let her refrain.
Manoah said unto the angel, stay

With us, till we have dress’d a kid, I pray.
But he reply’d, though thou dost me detain,
I’ll eat no bread, but if thou dost design
A sacrifice unto the Lord, then offer:
For nor till now, Manoah did discover
It was a man of God he spake unto.
Then said he to the angel, Let me know
Thy name, that when these things shall be perform’d,
The honour due to thee may be return’d.
Whereeto the man of God made this reply,
Why askest thou, since ‘tis a mystery?
So he a kid, and a meat-off’ring took,
And offer’d to the Lord upon a rock.
And there the man of God did wond’rfully,
The whilst Manoah and his wife stood by;
For as the altar did send up the flame,
The man of God ascended in the same.
Manoah and his wife stood looking on,
And on their faces to the ground fell down.
But then the angel did appear no more.
Manoah then knew who he was: therefore
He said unto his wife, most surely we
Shall die, for we the face of God did see.
But she reply’d, If God would such a thing,
He would not now accept our offering,
Or would he have to us these things made known;
Or told us, as at this time he hath done.
And now, according to the angel’s word.
The woman bare a son, to whom the Lord
Was pleas’d, his blessing graciously to give:
She called him Samson, and the child did thrive,
And lo! the spirit of the Lord began,
At times to move him in the camp of Dan.

CHAP. XIV.

Now down to Timnath Samson’s steps incline,
Where seeing the daughter of a Philistine,
He came up and did of his parents enquire,
That he in marriage might the woman have.
Then thus his father and his mother said,
‘Mongst all thy kinsmen canst thou find a maid;
Nor yet among my people, fit to make
A wife, but thou wilt this Philistine take,
Of race unacquainted? He replied,
Get her for me, for I’m well satisfied.
But neither of his parents then did know,
It was the Lord that moved him thereto,
To seek a way to accomplish his designs,
Upon the then o’er-ruling Philistines.
Then Samson and his parents both went down
To Timnath, and as they came near the town,
Among the vineyards a young lion roared;
Then on him came the spirit of the Lord,