

**"Only One Little Sin!"**

"It was only one little sin," thought Bessie Dawson, as she recollected the untruth that had glided from her lips during school that morning; "it is not like a lot of bad things; and all the day after I was a better girl than I have been for a long time."

Ah, Bessie! A sin once committed is never to be blotted out by "being better;" and that "one little sin" mars your whole life, and unfits you for Heaven, if from the moment you committed it until the moment of death, no other sin had stained the fair page of your life. Let me tell you a story.

In the days of hand-looms for weaving silk, there lived a clever silk weaver. He had woven a piece many feet long, and had to put some more materials in for the wool. He took up a reel in his hand and looked at it, when a friend, who was standing by and talking with him, said to him, "I would not put that in if I were you. There is something amiss with it."

"I don't know," said the weaver; "I fancy it is one that was dropped into some stuff that my wife kept for cleaning her ribbons; but it is dry now, and looks all right, only a little bit dull."

"Well I wouldn't put it in if I were you," said his friend; "it is not worth much, and you may just spoil the piece with it."

However, the weaver was not to be persuaded. He put it in, and the shuttle rattled it in and out with the other silken threads of the web across the shining, golden silk of the web, and the beautiful piece was finished. When done, the weaver looked at it, and even with his best spectacles on, he could not distinguish the questionable thread from the rest of the work; so he

put it aside, and at the end of the week carried his handiwork into the great city to his master, to be approved of and sold.

The last few days had been wet, and the day on which he took the silk for sale was damp and close, so that the evil in that one thread had its power drawn forth. When the master examined the piece, he hesitated, rubbed his glasses, looked at the silk and then at the weaver.

"You have made some mistake," he said, "you have used one bad thread here. Look! It shows all through; and not only that, but is spoiling the rest. What a pity you did not see it! I am truly

sorry for your mistake, but I cannot accept your work."

The weaver went home with a heavy heart; he had not the comfort of knowing it was a mistake or an oversight: he knew, when he did it, that he ran a risk. He was told what one bad thread could do, yet he wove it in with the rest and spoiled all?

Dear reader, you, too, are a weaver, and God has bidden you weave the web of daily life. Your pattern is perfect, and shines out plainly; you must copy Christ. But take God's warning, and never permit a *little sin*, a tarnished truth, an evil temper, to be woven into your web.

Without Jesus, you may think your life fair and beautiful; all your examination reveals no spot or wrinkle; but you must remember the day is coming when you must lay that life under the all-searching eye of a Holy God. And do you think He will accept it? "Only one little sin" might be in it, and might mar the whole.

Take then the finished, perfect work of Christ for you; cast away your own confidence, believe with all your heart in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose blood alone can wash away every stain; and this little word of warning from a friend who loves and speaks to you now, will not have come in vain.

—Selected.

**THE GOSPEL ALPHABET. No. 22.**

Every man walketh in a Vain show. Psalm xxxix. 6.  
Our eyes as yet failed for our Vain help. Lam. iv. 17.  
How long shall Vain thoughts lodge within thee. Jer. iv. 14.

PSALM LXII.

VAIN IS THE HELP OF MAN

VAIN

Vain man's ambition, noise, and show;  
Vain are the cares which rack his mind;  
He heaps up treasures, mixed with woe,  
And dies, and leaves them all behind.

Oh be a nobler portion mine!  
My God, I bow before Thy throne;  
Earth's fleeting treasures I resign,  
And fix my hopes on Thee alone.

Ye should turn from these Vanities. Acts xiv. 15.  
Avoid profane and Vain babblings. 1 Tim. vi. 20.  
Let no man deceive you with Vain words. Eph. v. 6.