

duty even in the face of danger and death. "In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence."—*The Children's Record*.

TESTED.



MONIRAM JUDSON, the apostle of Burmah, graduated from Brown University an avowed infidel; his most intimate friend, a brilliant student, was also a sceptic. The two friends often talked over the question—momentous to one on the eve of graduation—"What shall we do to make for ourselves a career?" Both were fond of the drama and delighted in the presentation of plays, each wrote with ease and skill, and so, after many discussions, they almost determined to become dramatists.

Judson graduated in 1807 with the highest honors. A few weeks later he went to New York to study the "business" of the stage, so that he might become familiar with its requirements in case he should become a play-writer. His dramatic project did not, however, detain him long in the city, and prompted by a love of adventure, he started on horseback to make a tour of two or three of the New England States. One evening he put up at a country tavern, and was assigned a room adjoining one occupied by a young man sick unto death. The dying man's groans were distinctly heard by Judson, whose scepticism was not strong enough to keep him from musing on the question, "Is that young man prepared to die?"

During the night the groans ceased, and early next morning Judson arose, sought the landlord, and asked:—

"How is the young man?"

"He is dead."

"Who was he?"

"He had recently graduated from Brown, and his name was ———."

Judson was stunned, for the name was that of his sceptical friend. Abandoning his journey, he returned to his father's house a dazed, stricken man. The shock unsettled scepticism. He determined to make a thorough examination of the claims of Christianity upon his faith and conduct. He entered Andover Theological Seminary, not as a student for the ministry, not even as a Christian, but simply as a truth-seeker. What he sought for he found in Him who is the truth. He found more—the life and the way. He submitted to the truth, received the life and walked in the way with a martyr's spirit, and nigh often to the martyr's crown, until he heard the call, "Come up higher!" Then he departed from his earthly apostolate. He wrote no drama, but his life was a sublime spectacle. No crowds laughed at his wit or were thrilled at his delineation of human passion, but hundreds of men blessed him as their father in God.—*Youth's Companion*.

THE BIRD WITH A BROKEN WING.

I WALKED in the woodland meadows,
Where sweet thrushes sing;
And I found on a bed of roses,
A bird with a broken wing.
I healed the wound; and each morning
It sang its old sweet strain,
But the bird with a broken pinion
Never soared as high again.

I found a youth life-broken
By sin's seductive art;
And touched with Christ-like pity,
I took him to my heart.
He lived with a noble purpose,
And struggled not in vain,
But the soul with a broken pinion
Never soars as high again.

But the bird with a broken pinion
Kept another from the snare,
And the life that sin had stricken
Raised another from despair.
Each loss had its compensation;
There were healings for each pain;
But a bird with a broken pinion
Never soars as high again.

THE FIRST OFFER.

NOT long since, as a clergyman was visiting one of his parishioners, who was a man of business, the following conversation occurred:

"It is true," said the merchant, "I am not satisfied with my present condition; I am not of a settled mind in 'religion,' as you express it. Still I am not utterly hopeless; I may yet enter the vineyard, even at the eleventh hour." "Ah, your allusion is to the Saviour's parable of the loitering labourers, who wrought one hour at the end of the day. But you overlooked the fact that these men accepted the first offer." "Is that so?" "Certainly; they said to the Lord of the Vineyard, 'No man hath hired us.' They welcomed the first offer immediately." "True, I had not thought of that before. But the thief on the cross even while dying was saved." "Yes, but it is likely that even he had never rejected the offer of salvation, as preached by Christ and His Apostles. Like Barabbas, he had been a robber by profession. In the resorts to which he had been accustomed the Gospel had never been preached. Is there not some reason to believe that he, too, accepted the first offer?" "Why, you seem desirous to quench my last spark of hope?" "Why should I not? Such hope is an illusion! You have really no promise of acceptance at some future time. Now is the accepted time! Begin now!" "How shall I begin?" "Just as the poor leper did when he met Jesus by the way, and committed his body to the great Physician in order to be healed. So commit your soul to Him as a present Saviour. Then serve Him from love.—*Selected*.