

"But I will drive thee away from man, and thou shalt have no friend left."

"Nay," said Chrysostom, "and that thou canst not; for I have a Friend in heaven from whom thou canst not separate me. I defy thee; there is nothing thou canst do to hurt me."

TEKEL.

A SERMON TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE.

For the Children's Record.

By Rev. A. W. Mahon, P. E. I.

There is a very strange story told about this strange-looking text. One night a long time ago when a great king and a thousand of his nobles were met together drinking wine and having, what they thought was a good time, they saw a sight which took all the fun out of them and made them tremble with alarm. They saw the fingers of a man's hand writing on the wall. This mysterious hand wrote four words, one of which was the word Tekel. No one at first could tell what these words meant. The wise men were called in but they could not read the writing. Then the Queen thought of an old Hebrew exile called Daniel, who had the Spirit of God in him, and who long ago had done wonders in explaining hard things to the king's father. When Daniel came he found no difficulty in reading the words and in explaining their meaning. He told the king that this word, Tekel, meant, "Thou art weighed in the balances and art found wanting."

You all know something about weighing things in the balances, and you understand what is meant when the things weighed are found wanting. A man, for example, brings some oats and weighs them and finds that they weigh only 30 lbs. to the bushel. He says that they have been found wanting. But then you tell me that men are not like oats. The table tells us how much oats ought to weigh, but it does not tell us how much a man ought to weigh. If the table said that 150 lbs. make one man, then we could understand the text at once and

know that this king, whose name was Belshazzar, must have weighed less than 150 lbs..

You all know that we have another method of weighing people. A man steals something from his neighbor. He is brought up to the court. The law says "Thou shalt not steal." He is weighed in the balances and is found wanting and is sent to prison. We all have balances of this kind which we employ in weighing people. We say that this boy or this girl is up to the mark,—good weight,—or not quite up to the mark,—light. The text teaches us that God has balances of this kind in which he weighs men. He weighed Belshazzar, the king, in this way and found him wanting.

The *First* thing I want you to remember is that the King's *Head* was weighed in the balances and was found wanting. He was not making a good use of his head. His head was made to learn lessons about God in whose hand, Daniel tells him, his breath is, and whose are all his ways. His head was made to learn that God was ever near to him, that He knew all about his life, that He would punish him if he did what was wrong. Instead of thinking about these things, Belshazzar kept his head thinking about wine and feasts, and self-indulgence, how to have a good time, till the hand-writing on the wall told him that it was too late to think about what he ought to have been thinking about, told him that his doom was sealed.

How strange it is that a man will make a wrong use of his head. There was a woman once who possessed a very costly silver basin which she persisted in using as a slop dish. Her friends said that she was crazy and she acted very much like it. This is just like what we do when we put our heads to a wrong use, when we fill them with worthless things—slops—when God wants us to fill them with good things. Let us try to make a right use of our heads, to learn what God wants us to learn, to learn the lessons which He has given us in His Word, to learn about