

THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN

ing or "temporizing," he takes the issue squarely and determines to do right though "the heavens, earth and all things else fail." Many with convictions firmly enough rooted for ordinary occasions, fail at the crucial moment. With some it is one long evasion. Born undecided, so they die. "Have courage, my boy, to say No!" Dully not with evil in the hope of being able to recover after you have fallen. Without the power of instant decision, you are ruined. When Caesar came to the Rubicon, he paused a moment. Then quickly ordering his columns to plunge in, he changed at a stroke the map of Rome and the world.

If to eat the food offered him had not been expressly forbidden by the Law, Daniel probably would have declined it at any rate. Gratifying appetite would have been weak, and Daniel above all things wanted to be strong. Self-denial is at the basis of great character now as always. To be in high place called for force. A man facing a table laden with good things, remarked: "Not much self-denial here!" "No," replied his friend, "but a fine field for its exercise."

Like Joseph, his illustrious prototype, Daniel would yield to neither appetite nor passion. He meant to be master of himself, for "better is he that ruleth his own spirit than he that taketh a city." Many succumb from too much drink—Daniel was temperate in eating as well. Some commit practical suicide by eating too much and at unreasonable hours. Mourning friends call their demise a blow from the hand of Providence, but it was simple over-eating. It is a crime to die of the gut. Daniel was too wise not to be abstemious in his diet.

"I would not waste my spring of youth,
In idle dalliance; I would plant rich seeds
To blossom in my manhood and bear fruit.

When I am old."

WHAT IT MEANS.

By Amos R. Wells.

What it means to bring a soul to Christ few realize, or many would be about it. For that soul it means peace exultant and growing. It means power, assured and increasing. It means honor and prosperity, on the whole, even in this troubled world. It means this for the coming year, and those months multiplied by the long years of life, and that life multiplied by the unimagined stretches of eternity, and glorified by the unguessed joys of Paradise. It means this for one soul, and for all the others whom that one may reach and for the myriads these may reach, through nations and generations. This is only a hint of what it means to bring a soul to Christ.

To do this work is the main business of every Sabbath school. I fear that some times the most applauded scholarship of these recent days forgets this, and seems, at least, to consider the mummy of dead facts more important than the living spirit that has risen from those ceremonies. Let us teach our scholars in the proportions that will seem fitting to us a thousand years from now. In the clear light of eternity we shall perceive how the least accretion of divine character enormously outweighs all encyclopedias in the world, and that the details of scholarship are of value only as they build character and confirm it.—Ex.

The death occurred in Paris on Saturday of Madame Loyson, aged 77, well known by reason of her religious work in company with her husband, Pere Hyacinthe Loyson, the eminent French preacher. She was formerly the wife of an American gentleman named Merriman, and married Pere Loyson in London in 1875.

THE GIRL AND THE BIBLE.

By Anna Judson.

"That our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace" (Psa. 144, 12). This is the wish of every parent. Many hours are spent in study and many dollars for teachers to acquire the accomplishments thought needful, while often one of the greatest and foundation of much that is best in literature is neglected. I mean a study of the Bible.

In these days when women are often the corner stone of a nation's structure there is need of great firmness of character and such polish and refinement as only the study of God's Word can give. It rests with the parents to see that this knowledge is obtained. There is no more satisfying study than the Bible. It is very easily studied at home. Many of the pleasant hours spent by mothers in reading with their daughters, or in directing their reading, can be spent in a study of the Word of God.

The women of the Bible will be found as interesting and much more beneficial than a study of Shakespeare's women or the characters of George Eliot's writings. Beginning with poor Eve, our sinful foremother, and her tragic life, the Bible holds the interest to the end. The time, the circumstances, the surroundings should be looked into. The location and its present importance should be studied. Why, we hardly think of Eve as a woman like ourselves! We do not know where her home was! Yet she saw this world in its beauty before sin changed even nature, and she was the origin of all our sin and trouble!

Sarah, the beautiful wife of Abraham, the founder of a great nation, has a history so full of interesting and romantic incidents that we can touch but few. Where in all literature is there a scene so dramatic or so awe inspiring as when Sarah listens to the stranger talking to her husband and hears him foretell her future and compare her descendants to the stars of the bright Oriental skies? It is no seer, or even a great prophet, but the Lord himself who talks with Abraham! Did she look with her husband toward smoking Sodom? Did she know the fate of Lot's wife? How was the baby Isaac brought up in that desert-wandering life? Oh, there are so many interesting and romantic incidents in the life of this Oriental princess, who lives to be a hundred and seven years old, that after one is fairly started it's hard to stop before the end.

Centuries ago, beside the river Nile, a little maid watched her baby brother floating in a tiny ark among the flags. A princess comes. She finds the baby. The baby cries, and she takes it for her own, and raises it in a palace. What fairy tale can equal this? Again, we see Miriam leading the chorus of women when they rejoice over the triumphs of that same baby brother, now the leader of a great nation. This strange dark-eyed far-away woman looked at the smoking mountain and at the stone tables of the law which we obey to-day. Was she not one of those who gave her golden ornaments to furnish the tabernacle, and wrought in fine needlework its linen curtains? Later, we read of her terrible punishment because she spake against Moses. She did not reach the promised land, but, like many others, was buried in the wilderness of Zin. What girl will not be led to read all about the Exodus after the introduction of this life?

Ruth, the beautiful Moabitess, a stranger, in the fair Judean land, finds her reward for faithful friendship in time of trouble. She became the ancestress of our Saviour.

Esther, beautiful, stately Esther, a captive, a queen, pleading for her life and the life of her people, while they

pray for her success. She wins and saves her people, and defeats her enemies. To-day, after centuries, the Jews celebrate an annual feast to the memory of this event. In history or romance we find nothing which will better hold the attention of a young girl.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, has been so pictured and sung it is useless to add more. A reading of the simple Bible narrative is best with a careful study of the times, people and places mentioned.

There are many more interesting women. Hannah, the mother of Samuel. Rebecca, the wife of Isaac, or even the wicked Jezebel. The memorizing of some of the interesting passages of the Bible is a most helpful exercise in many ways. It trains the memory in choice English, and fills the mind with the Word of God to meet the time of temptation. Such study should awaken a sense of the grandness of our God and our Saviour and His love for us.—Herald and Presbyterian.

A WORDLESS SERMON.

"It's all very good what you say," exclaimed a young Indian graduate, "but I say Mohammedanism for the Mohammedans, Hinduism for the Hindus and Christianity for the Christians. Each religion is good in its way. Heaven is like a room with many doors, and what does it matter which door we go in at, so long as we get there at last?"

"Friend," answered the missionary, "believe me, there is only one way, and that way is Jesus Christ, the Son of God."

The two men had been talking for a long time that afternoon and he heard of the missionary's rank as he heard this summing up of the whole argument. Would nothing convince this young Mohammedan of the truth of Christ?

"Hindus worship idols, Mohammedans tell lies, and Christians lose their tempers! If I could see that Christian were better than others, I should believe in their Christ," said the young man.

As he was uttering these words a man came up the verandah steps carrying a large bundle on his shoulder.

"Ah," exclaimed the missionary, "I must ask you to excuse me a minute. This man has been doing some work for me—mending a carpet, in fact. It's the gift of a friend. A most valuable one, too. Come in and I will show it to you."

So saying, he led the way out of the broad verandah into the sitting room, and told the man to unwrap his bundle. The man unrolled the carpet, but at a glance both men saw that the priceless treasure was utterly ruined. The symmetry of the pattern had been recklessly cut into. Great pieces had been cut off to make, as the man thought, a better shape, with the result that it was now impossible to use.

"Friend," said the missionary to the man, after a minute's silence, "do you know you have ruined my carpet?"

No word of anger passed his lips. He dismissed the man. "This young Mohammedan friend, took his leave, and he turned once more to the work that had been interrupted that afternoon.

Some time after this, a young Mohammedan came asking for baptism. Among other questions, he was asked what had been the means of leading him to believe in the truth of Christianity.

"I have heard many sermons," replied the young man, "but it was not one of them that led me to Christ. And I have had many arguments with Christian people, without being convinced; but one day I saw a man keep his temper when I, if I had been in his place, would have become very angry, and I saw that there was a power that he was possessed of that could not be found in any other religion but the religion of Jesus Christ."

"By their fruits ye shall know them," said the Lord Jesus.—H.M.A., in "Our Own Magazine."