

but Ella thought her father would be so delighted to see her so employed, that he would let her have all the money she needed. I need not have feared for Mr. B—'s purse, for the poor woman only obtained *one* of Ella's shillings, and the boys and girls *one* loaf each. It was a 'noble impulse,' but *only* an impulse."

"I have heard you mention Carrie J—," I suggested, for I loved to hear the old lady talk.

"Ah, poor Carrie!" she replied; "she was as warm-hearted a girl as I ever knew, always wishful to do good, but never successful in her efforts, simply because she followed her impulses. 'Carrie, darling, I said to her one day, 'you *begin* so many things, and do not carry them on.' 'Well, Auntie,' she replied, (she always called me Auntie,) 'that is because I am finding out that *my occupations are only of relative importance.*' I waited, for I did not understand the speech. Carrie fidgetted and blushed, and at last asked, 'Don't you see, Auntie?' I confessed I did not, and the dear girl tried to explain how that when she became a teacher in the Sunday-school, she found the lessons she gave the children were comparatively useless, because of evil home-influences; so she gave up her class for the *more important* duty of visiting the mothers. This brought her into contact with so much ignorance and misery, that she was *impelled* to try to establish a clothing-club and a sewing-meeting for *mothers*; but this she found did not succeed, because the *fathers* spent so much at the public-house, and she must try and do something with the men. She knew many ladies had great influence with rough men, and she spoke of Miss Marsh, Mrs. Daniell and Miss Macpherson; but poor little Carrie is at present *doing nothing*. What her next impulse may be I cannot tell. I trust God will graciously direct and teach her."

There was a long pause now, and I thought my friend had ceased, but she again spoke:—

"I was just thinking of Edward N—, he was a fine specimen of an English schoolboy, but he has disappointed the expectations of all his friends. I had one day been talking to him about his future, when he exclaimed,—

"'Ah! I mean to be a *model man*!'

"'Indeed!' I said, 'then why not be a model boy?'

"'You forget, ma'am,' he said, 'that boys' characters are not formed yet; I know Wordsworth says, "The child is father to the man," but it is not always so, because a boy is *gaining* knowledge of character, and can form his own from the best model.'

"'And *who* may be your model, Edward?' I asked.

"'Not *one man only*,' he replied; 'but I am reading a good deal of history and biography, and then I make notes of the traits in character that I admire, and mean to cultivate them, so that I may possess Wellington's punctuality, Stephenson's perseverance, Sir Philip Sidney's generosity, Washington's truthfulness, and so on.'

"I could but smile at the boy's ardor and enthusiasm, and noting the smile, he shook his head, saying,—

"'You think I am aiming too high?'

"'No, indeed!' I said, 'but not high enough.' So I found 1 Peter ii., and read how the Apostle says of Christ that He 'suffered for us, leaving us an example, that we should *follow His steps*;' and I showed him our Saviour's own words in John xiii. 15, and tried to say a little about humility, and the hindrances he would find in his own evil heart. I asked him if he would not come to Jesus as a sinner, and ask for his pardoning mercy, and then for grace to lead a new life. The boy listened with tears; but alas! hitherto he has not trodden in the Saviour's steps, and the noble impulses of his boyhood have not been carried out as he intended, for although I thoroughly believe in his truthfulness, I know him to be lamentably deficient in punctuality and perseverance. He has just now entered upon a new situation, and tells me he shall turn over a new leaf."

Our conversation here ceased, but not my observation of Edward N—. Apparently, like Allie, he "could not be troubled," and when reminded of his *purposes*, and how they have been broken, if not in Allie's words, yet in similar, he remarked, "See what the practice involves!" He has now been many years in a foreign land, and has possibly learned his own utter insufficiency and helplessness, and I sometimes hope that ere now he has been led to the knowledge