

OBEDIENCE.

W. M. F. Round, a very high New York authority on prisons, intimately acquainted with the causes which keep them full, writes:

"Day by day I see criminals, hundreds of them—thousands of them in the course of the year. I see scores of broken-hearted parents wishing rather that their sons had never been born than they had lived to bear such burdens of shame and disgrace. I hear the wailing of disappointed mothers, and see humiliated fathers crying like children because of the sins of their children. I see mothers growing gray between the successive visits in which they come to inquire about the boy in prison. And seeing these dreadful things till my heart aches and aches, I say to those mothers and fathers whose boys have not yet gone astray, to mothers and fathers whose little families are the care of their lives, teach your children OBEDIENCE. I want it written large. I wish I could make it blaze here in letters of fire. I wish I could write it in imperishable, glowing letters on the walls of every home—OBEDIENCE, OBEDIENCE, OBEDIENCE! Obedience to law—to household law; to parental authority; unquestioning, instant, exact obedience. Obedience in the family; obedience in the school! Wherever, from the beginning, from the first glimmering of intelligence in the child, there is expression of law, let there be taught respect for it and obedience to it. It is the royal road to virtue, to good citizenship; it is the only road."

PARENTAL EXAMPLE.

The ancient Romans were accustomed to place the busts of their distinguished ancestors in the vestibules of their houses, that they might be continually reminded of their noble deeds. They supposed that a recollection of their illustrious virtues would lead to the imitation of the same by all the living members of their households. There is no doubt that the influence of this practice was most happy upon the living, awakening in many breasts high and noble aspirations. In these days we have no busts of honored ancestors in the porches of our dwellings; but we have something more impressive. The characters of living parents are constantly presented for the imitation of children.

The Lord loveth a cheerful giver.

TEMPERANCE.

"WHY DON'T YOU SAY 'AMEN?'"

A few years ago, as Charles G. Finney was holding a series of meetings in the city of Edinburg, many persons called upon him for personal conversation and prayer. One day a gentleman appeared in great distress of mind. He had listened to Mr. Finney's sermon on the previous evening, and it had torn away his "refuge of lies." Mr. Finney was plain and faithful with him, pointing out to him the way of life clearly, and his only hope of salvation. The weeping man assured him that he was willing to give up all for Jesus, that he knew of nothing he would reserve—all for Jesus. "Then let us go upon our knees and tell God of that," said Mr. Finney. So both knelt, and Mr. Finney prayed: "O Lord, this man declares that he is prepared to take Thee as his God, and cast himself upon Thy care, now and forever." The man responded, "Amen!" Mr. Finney continued: "O Lord, this man vows that he is ready to give his wife, family, and all their interests up to Thee." Another hearty "Amen!" from the man. He went on: "O Lord, he says that he is also willing to give Thee his business, whatever it may be, and conduct it for Thy glory!" The man was silent—no response. Mr. Finney was surprised at his silence, and asked: "Why don't you say 'Amen' to this?" "Because the Lord will not take my business, sir: I am in the spirit trade," he replied. The traffic could not withstand such a test as that. The Lord will not take such a business under His care.—*The Pacific.*

THE THREE COURSES OPEN.

An anxious inquirer, in conversation with an evangelist, said to him:—"What must I do?" "There are three things, and one of them you must do," was the reply. "The first is, you may turn over a new leaf perfectly clean—but then what are you going to do about the past? You cannot efface it, and there it will remain to condemn you. Second, you may remain as you are, and then you are surely lost. Or, best of all, you can come to Christ, and the whole thing is finished at once. Your past sins are all blotted out and your future secured. You are safe for time and for eternity." The last named course was adopted and the anxious soul entered into rest.