What if the little Jewish lad. That-summer day had failed to go Down to tre lake, because he had So small a store of loaves to show?

"The press is great," he might have said; "For food the thronging people call: I only have five loaves of bread, And what are trey among them all?"

And back the mother's words might come, Her coaving hand upon his hair: "Yet go, for they might comfort some

Among the hungry children there." Lo, to the lake-ide forth he went,

Bearing the seast supply he had: Through all he crowds, beheld the lad, And aw the loaves and blessed them. Then Beneara his hand the marvel grew; He brake a si plessed, and brake again;

The leaves were neither small nor few; For, as we know, it came to pass That hungry thousands there were fed, While siming on the fresh green grass, From the tone pasketful of bread.

If from his home the lad that day His five small loaves had failed to take. Would thrist have wrought—can any say— That miracle beside the lake?

A STEWARD INTER-VIEWED.

"Good morning, Bro. S. In passing I thought I would call know it you had had any success in the way of collecting quarter-

" Thank you for your interest You seldom pass without calling. you? As to the quarterage matter, I regret to say I have done nothing. It is unpleasant to me to have this to say. Some of the people comp'ain of hard times-can do noth. ing this fall-while there is a provoking indifference in others, as to whether the preacher is paid or not.

" Sorry to hear that. If all the people were like you, I should have no trouble. You never grumble at your apportionment, and always manage to pay. Last year the demand upon you was pretty heavy, but you met it, and did it quarterly. This year it is still heavier, and you do not complain.

"No, I do not complain, believing, as I do, it would be very foolish in me to do so."

"And pray what is your be-

"Well, sir, I believe I lose nothing by it. Were I to refuse to pay my assessment, I should fear some disaster to my farming interests, or something else. To be candid, I must say that I am afraid not to pay my preacher."

" And where did you get that idea from? I mean that the meeting of Courch financial obligations is a paying business.

"Turn to the third chapter of Malachi, and you'll find that the idea is borrowed from the Scriptures. The Jews withheld the tithes. They consumed upon going to see him. He has never themselves what belonged to God. And what did they gain by it. Let the history of their calamities answer. So you see there is some reason for my being afraid not to pay my quarterage."

"Well, really, it does look so. But let us pass on to something else. I hear of some of the brethren complaining that burdens are imposed by the assessing board that they are not able to bear. Do you think that is so?"

"I think the other way. believe 1 have as much reason to say that as any member of our Church. I feel assured of the fact that those brethren who settle with the preacher at a discount of full if they would."

"And what is the opinion as to the action the Church ought to take in such cases?"

"That is a hard question to answer. In some cases the line of duty seems to me to be plain; in other cases there is danger of making a very serious mistake. We ought to judge leniently where there has been defective training, or no training at all. I knew some good men who honestly be ieved the preachers were allowed too much money by the Board of Stewards. These men, in the pices. course of time, were elected stew ards themselves. On meeting to estimate the preacher's expenses, they amounted to so much more

tribution.' " But is there no other way to show the people their duty? We can't make stewards of every-

body." "Yes, there is some other way. Let the preachers lay aside their paid. Why, my dear sir, we once A GENUINE LOVE STORY. had a Bro. E. on this district who seldom ever mentioned money either from the pulpit, or the chair. And you will please pardon me when I say I think you mention the matter too seldom.

"Thanks for your gentle reminder. I shall have an eye to your opinion of me, and try to amend. Is it not, however, a hard task to arouse the sense of obligation in some people, where money is involved?

"Some do not see things in the light of Bible teaching, and don't mean to. Why a brother said to me just the other day, that he did not care what the Bible said. as quoted by me; he had his opinion, and would have it. Do you think such men are worthy of a place among us."

" But your authority, brother. The opinion is held that there is no law for expelling a member for neglect of temporal welfare of his pastor."

for Church action in a case of wil- the roses out of her checks and ful and deliberate violation of a the lithe spring out of her form. solemn promise. Our members, She sat apart from the crowd, and inquire after the family, and on being received into the Church, careworn and preoccupied. Her promise to support her institu- small hands, roughened with tions. Although this promise is coarse toil, were ungloved, for the more pleasure than celebrating often knowingly violated, yet I minister's salary was painfully one. The birthday of one of the have never heard of action being small. A little apart the ten housekeeping young ladies was in in my family. You are very kind. taken in such cases. Have years' husband stood and looked June. The night before, a box

" Only once."

my curiosity."

" I shall take pleasure in doing The case I heard related by the Rev. N. Talley, in a Quarterly Conference session held at Binnaker's, in Barnwell County, long years ago. A well-to-do brother did (in the judgment of his brethren) only a part, and a very small part, of his duty in paying the pastor for his services. He was brought to trial. The charge was idolatry. It was a clear case of covetousness, which, according to Paul, is idolatry; and the charge was sustained and the brother expelled. Not long after his ex- her sacrifice and patient toil for ward to wish us good morning, pulsion he asked to be restored to membership, acknowledging bis sin and promising to make amendment. He was re-admitted, that gave it more than its youth- with a wreath of flowers on her case saved bim. Had no notice been taken of his niggardliness, it is likely he would have died an idolator. Some people, asleep in the Church, can only be waked up by being thrown overboard. If that does not open their eyes, better for them to sleep outside than inside. But really, Bro. S., this I anticipated. Have you heard of

interview has lasted longer than the illness of Bro. W. H.? I am done much for me, but I must not and church, is an old lady, whose neglect him. Good bye. May the good Lord open the hearts of the people whom you visit in the period of fashion. I wonder,

FLY ON THE CATHE DRAL PILLAR.

parsonage."—Southern Advocate.

There is a striking passage in which a great philosopher, the famous Bishop Berkeley, describes the thought which occurred to him of the inscrutable schemes of Providence, as he saw in St. Paul's Cathedial a fly moving on 25 and 50 per cent. could settle in one of the pillars. He says: "It requires some comprehension in the eye of an intelligent spectator to take in at one view the various parts of the building, in order to observe their symmetry and design. But to the fly, whose prospect was confined to a little part of one of the stones of a single pillar, the joint beauty of the whole, or the distinct use of its parts, was inconspicuous. To that limited view the small irregularities on the surface of the hewn stone seemed to be so many deformed rocks and preci- each day brings me nearer the

That fly on the pillar, of which the philosopher spoke, is the likeness of each human being as | my heavenly Father has placed creeps along the vast pillars which | me ?" than they ever dreamed of that support the universe. The soreach one, at once, doubled his con. row which appears to us nothing but a yawning chasm or hideous precipice may turn out to be through the valley of Baca, but in which we have to grope our strain after what was beyond my false modesty, and tell the people way in danger and fear may be reach, and resolved no longer to cur preachers would be better arch! - Dean Stanley.

A young clergyman and his bride were invited guests at a large party given by a wealthy parishioner. In all the freshness and elegance of her bridal wardrobe the young wife shone among the throng distinguished by her comeliness and vivacity and rich attire; and when during the evening her young husband drew We think with vain regret of some fond her aside and whispered to her that she was the most beautiful woman in all the company and that his heart was bursting with nerself the happiest wife in the world. Ten years later the same hus-

band and wife were guests at the

similar gay company. The wife of ten years wore the same dress she had worn on the previous oca easion; of course it had been altered and made over, and was old-fashioned and almost shabby. Toil and care and motherhood and "Then there is no authority pinched circumstances had taken at his wife, and as he observed her "Please state the case, and the tude, a great sense of all her noticed that his eyes were filled with tears. She rose and went mutely asking for an explanation of his emotion, and when he tenprecious she was to him now, and there was not so happy a couple as this husband and wife, their hearts and faces aglow from the flaming up of pure sentiment that her birthday. transfigured and ennobled and glorified all the toils and privation they had endured.—Exchange.

THE SECRET OF HAPPI NESS.

One of my neighbours in town

dress is of a style belonging to no interests of the occupants of the sometimes, it for forty years the cost of it has exceeded as many dollars. Her step is light as a girl's, her manner bright and cheery, and over her otherwise homely face spreads the glow of a heart at peace with God. Her youth was spent in a struggle for daily bread, and scarcely was this pressure removed before she was called upon to mourn the loss of first one and then another loved member of her family, until she has outlived every relative. Her home is plain, almost bare of the luxuries considered as indispensible to comfort, yet there is not one from whom I so much enjoy a visit as this solitary woman, ever so warm in greeting, so cheerfully companionable.

"There is so much heart-ease about you," I once said to her, that it refreshes me to meet you. Why, you are the youngest and happiest person I have seen to

"Oh, yes" she replied, smiling, "I have stopped growing old, for possession of endless youth, in my better home. And how can I be sad in this beautiful world where

"Still you have had your full

share of trials and sorrows." "Yes, I have surely passed

TOO LATE.

What silences we keep year after year, dear; We live beside each other day by day, And speak of myriad things, but seldom say The full, sweet word that lies just in our Beneath the commonplace of common speech.

Then out of sight and out of reach they go-Then out of sight and out of reach they go— These close familiar friends, who loved us books whole hours run to spirit- his life; for he had escaped with And, sitting in the shadow they have left, Alone, with loneliness, and sore bereft.

That once we might have said and they

For weak and poor the love that we expride and love for her, she thought | Now seems beside the vast, sweet unex- ard And slight the deeds we did, to those un And small the service spent, to treasure won

And undeserved the praise, for word and same house where was gathered a That should have overflowed the simple

> This is the cruel cross of life, to be Full visioned only when the ministry Of death has been fulfilled and in the place Of some dear presence is but empty space What recollected services can then Give consolation for the might have been?

BIRTHDAYS IN GERMANY

Ar. important matter in the German household is the birthdays. Nothing seems to give came addressed to the lady of the faded dress and her weary atti- house from her home. Upon going down-stairs at 7 next sequel of it. You have excited patient, loving faithfulness came morning, we were surprised to see over his heart. Looking up, she no appearance of coffee, so, opening caught his earnest gaze and the glass doors, we went into the garden where a gay scene presented itself. A large arbor was to him, her questioning eyes hung with garlands and white curtains, and in the center was a table covered with white, on derly took her hand and placing which were spread the presents, it on his arm led her away from and a huge round cake occupied the crowd and told her how he the place of honor, surrounded by had been thinking of her as she a wreath of flowers; and in the looked ten years before when she middle a candle was burning. was a bride, and how much more Outside were two smaller tables, with coffee, cakes, etc., standing how much more beautiful for all around which was a large party her shabby dress and roughened talking and laughing. Upon see hands, and how he appreciated all ing us approach they came forhim and for their children, a great and to enjoy our looks of surprise. wave of happiness filled her The birthday child (a substantial heart; a light shone in her face maiden of 21) advanced blushing, ful beauty, and in all the company head. The young ladies of the house had been up early decorating the arbor, and making things as homelike as possible for her on

> The winter birthdays were equally interesting. That of the lady of the house was then, and the sitting-room was adorned with branches of trees from the woods. and wreaths surrounded the table laid out with presents. One table was devoted to useful articles, such as pots, pans, etc., and these were also surrounded by garlands. At 4 company began to arrive, but with no invitation, although preparations in the way of coffee and supper had been made for above 20, and it is a great disappointment if friends fail to appear. -Christian Leader.

READING AND TALKING.

We need not say that we are heartily in favor of religious conversation, of the regular relation of religious experience, and of all the social means of grace. Our tongues should be always ready to "tell the old, old story." Profession should always accompany truth, and yet the whole truth. But while all this is true, we cannot but agree with Mr. Wesley in insisting that "it cannot be that the people should grow in grace unless they give themselves to reading. A reading people will always be a knowing people, A people who talk much will know little." We have often sadly observed that among the first to pop up, like corks, in an experience meeting, are certain persons who don't know much intellectually or spiritually, who don't seem to know that they don't know much, who don't know enough to wait until somebody was busy repairing the roof of the other boys of his age, but his seatspeaks who could increase their chapel, who had to sit in a bask- mate very kindly volunteered to scanty stock of knowledge, but et fastened by a rope as he work- "tell him in class," and what was who feel that they must go to ed. Well, he was working in this the use in opening the gate intobut the joining or cement which by the grace of God I have been every testimony meeting far and manner one day, when suddenly the Latin language when another binds together the fragments of able to make it a well. But, my near, that they are in duty bound the rope which held the basket | would do it for bim? Oh, no! John our existence into a solid whole! friend," she continued, "I have to speak in every one of them, gave way, and he fell down, down Easy had no idea of taxing his That dark and crooked world been happy only since I ceased to and that if they hold their peace from the great height to the mental or physical strength they will bring upon themselves ground below! Of course, every when he could avoid it, and the condemnation. They read few one who saw the accident expect. consequence was that numerous what the Bible teaches as to the but the curve which, in the full hug to my bosom my griefs and books; indeed they say they need ed that the man would be killed gates remained closed to him all the obligation of church members daylight of a brighter world, will disappointments, but to take them read no other book than the Bible; especially as the ground there his life—gates to honor—gates to to pay church dues. I think if appear to be the necessary finish all to God, and leave them with they take no pains to inform their was covered with sharp stones riches, gates to happiness! Childs more of this was done, the stew. of some choice ornament, the Him, content to be what he wishes, minds; they give no attention to and rocks which the workmen ren ought to be early taught that ards' work would be easier; and inevitable span of some majestic and only that."—Christian Week. the apostolic command to "give were using for building. But to it is always best to help themattendance to reading." They their great astonishment, he rose selves.

pour out what little may be in up from the ground and stood up them, and they never replenish the quite uninjured! And this was exhausted streams. Of course how it happened: a poor lamb their testimony and their conver- had wandered quite up to that sation are neither pleasant, profit-side of the chapel, in search of able, nor powerful for good, the sweet grass which sprang up They conspicuously display their among the stones, and the man God. In the absence of good body of this lamb-it had saved ual waste or degenerate into petty | the mere tright, and with not so gossip. Their tongues involve much as a finger broken. But them in trouble, and their public the poor lamb was killed by his testimony touches too frequently heavy fall upon it. So out of upon these very trials, which need | pure gratitude the man had the never have come, and need never stone lamb carved and set up as be mentioned,—Christian Stand a lasting memento of his escape

GIRLS AND DOMESTIC DUTIES.

how to make a bed; how to sweep a room; how to do the thousand order and to make it pleasant. A mistress. A family employed a | heart.' girl to do general housework. She came just at night, and the first thing assigned to her to do was to wash the supper dishes. She washed them in cold water, and without soap. A gentleman sent home a roasting piece of beef, and a quantity of cut porterhouse steaks. When he sat down to dinner he learned that the new cook had roasted the steaks! Yet many a boarding-house miss, at the time of her marriage, might make either of these mistakes. Not one woman in a thousand knows how to make bread as good as it can be made. And sour tempers, scolding, dyspepsia, with its indescribable horrors, and even death itself, not unfrequently result from bad cooking. Mothers, whatever else you may teach gate for yourself?" said Mrs. daughters, do not neglect to in- Easy. "A boy of your age and struct them in all the mysteries strength ought certainly to be able of housekeeping. So shall you to do that.' put them in the way of good hus-

Adolphe Monod has well said that consecration is not something done once for all, but is a main. tained habit of the soul. A consecrated day is the framework ready prepared, in which God has to act in us and through us.

bands and happy homes.—The

Housekeeper.

He that repents every day for the sins of every day, when he comes to die, will have the sin but of one day to repent of. Even reckonings make long friends.-J. H. Evans.

OUR YOUNG FOLKS.

THE STONE LAMB.

A German cleigyman, Pastor O'Fenke, tells a story in a very interesting book of his about things which have really happenpractice. The lips and the life ed to him, or which he has met should exactly tally. We should with in his travels. In 1865, he tell the truth, nothing but the stood before the beautiful Roman Catholic chapel of Werden ander Ruhr, in Germany, waiting for the key to be brought that the door might be unlocked for them to enter. While they waited they saw something on the ledge of the roof, which they found to be a carved stone lamb, and began to wonder what it meant up there. So they asked an old woman who sent to Mr. Wiseman, soon conwas hobbling along a little way cluded that he had no "genius" off, if she could tell them about for mathematics, and threw up it, and she replied "Yes;" and the study. then related why it had been placed in that strange place.

Many, many years ago, she said, where the lamb now stands, a man gations of the verbs, as well as

ignorance of the deep things of had fallen exactly on the soft from so fearful a death, and of what he owed to the poor lamb,"

Do you not think this a beautiful story? does it not remind you of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who was slain for A mother has no right to bring us that we might live forever? up a daughter without teaching Never forget that "he was wounds her how to keep house; and if she ed for our transgressions, he was has an intelligent regard for her bruised for our inquities." And daughter's happiness, will not do let us copy the poor man's examit. By knowing how to keep ple in being truly thankful, and house we do not mean merely showing we are so. He could not knowing how books should be do anything more for the lamb arranged on a centre-table, and which had so wonderfully saved how to tell servants what is want- his life, than make a little monns ed to be done. We mean how to ment or memento of what it had get a breakfast, a dinner, a supper; done. But there is much that we can do for the Lamb of God wha was slain for us. We can love and one different things which him for what he has done, and we are requisite to keep a house in can give him the one thing he wants from us. Do you ask what person who does not know how to it is for which even the God of d) a thing well does not know glory longs, he who has all the how to have it done well. No riches of the world, and to whom number of servants makes up heaven and earth belong ! He for the want of knowledge in a says, "My son, give me thing

OPENING THE GATE.

The following article contains a hint which many boys may profit by. There are too many youtha who sit down and wait for others to "open the gate" for them when they meet with any difficulty, instead of using their own hands and strength to remove the ob-

"I wish you would send a boy to open the gate for me," said a well grown boy of ten to his moth. er, as he paused with his satchel upon his head and surveyed its clasped fastenings.

"Why, John, can't you open the

"I could do it, I suppose," said the child, "but it's heavy, and I don't like the trouble. The servant can open it for me, just as well. Pray, what is the use o having servants if they are not to wait upon us?"

The servant was sent to open the gate. The boy passed out, and went whistling on his way to school. When he reached his seat in the academy he drew from his satchel his arithmetic, and be gan to inspect his sums.

"I cannot do these," he whispered to his seatmate; they are too hard."

"But you can try," replied his companion.

"I know that I can," said John, 'but it's too much trouble. Pray, what are teachers for, if not to help us out of difficulties? I shall carry my slate to Professor Help

Alas! poor John. He had come to another closed gate—a gate leading into a beautiful science, "the laws of which are the mode in which God acts, in sustaining all the works of his hands"-the science of mathematics. He could have opened the gate and entered in alone, and explored the riches. of the realm, but his mother had injudiciously let him rest with the idea that it is as well to have the gates opened as for us to exert our strength. The result was, her son, like the young hopeful

The same was true of Latin. He could have learned the declersions of the nouns, and the conjuTHE

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