

GOODNESS.

BY REV. WILBUR F. CRAFTS.

The fruit of the Spirit is goodness.—Gal. v., 22.

One of the pleasantest memories of my boyhood is an old man with white hair and sweet face, who used to speak at children's meetings and give away cards, on one of which were some words about doing good which I have remembered ever since:

"For Jesus Christ's sake,
Do all the good you can;
To all the people you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
And as long as ever you can."

Benjamin Franklin, who was so great and good that many cities have statues of him, when he was a boy, by reading a book about doing good, was made to feel that the grandest thing any one could be was "a doer of good." Trying to do good, he became also great and happy. Reading the Bible ought to make all of us begin now to be "doers of good."

But if you want to *do* good you must first *be* good. You think a word before you speak it. You think what you will do with your hand before you do it. So before you can *do* good with lips and hands you must *be* good in your heart. If you want to *do* as Jesus did, you must feel as Jesus felt, you must have "the mind of Christ," the Holy Spirit of God. "The fruit of the Spirit is goodness." A tree cannot bear good fruit unless it is first a good tree. Doing grows out of being. That great and good man, Jonathan Edwards, when a boy, wrote in his diary, "Resolved to live with all my might while I do live." He became a Christian when only seven years old, being led to Jesus by a lady who had been converted when a little girl only four years of age, and so had a long time in which to do good.

God loves even *bad* children, and if they will let Him come into their hearts he will make them good. Let me give you a prayer for goodness:

"Make me faithful, loving, dutiful,
Make Thy home within me beautiful,
Cleanse my heart from sin,
Let no stranger in."

- Sel.

ONLY ONE BRICK UPON ANOTHER.

A boy watched a large building as the workmen from day to day carried up the brick and mortar.

"My son," said his father, "you seem taken with the bricklayers. Do you think of learning the trade?"

"No, sir; I was thinking what a little thing a brick is, and what great houses are built by laying one brick upon another?"

"Very true, my son; never forget it. So it is in all great works. All your learning is one lesson added to another. If a man could walk all around the world, it would be by putting one foot before another. Your whole life will be made up of one moment upon another. Drops added to drops make the ocean.

"Learn from this not to despise little things. Be not discouraged by great labors; they become easy if divided into parts. You could not jump over a mountain, but step by step takes you to the other side. Do not fear, therefore, to attempt great things. Always remember that the large building went up only one brick upon another."—Sel.

HOW RELIGION HELPS CHILDREN

Religion helps children to study better and do more faithful work. A little girl of twelve was telling in a simple way the evidence that she was a Christian. "I did not like to study, but to play. I was idle at school, and often missed my lessons. Now I try to learn every lesson well to please God. I was mischievous at school when the teachers' were not looking at me, making fun for the children to look at. Now I wish to please God by behaving well, and keeping the school laws. I was selfish at home; didn't like to run errands, and was sulky when mother called me from play to help in work. Now it is a real joy to me to help mother in any way, and to show that I love her." Such a religion is essential to the best interest and moral growth of youth, and will make life sunny and cheerful.—*Christian at Work.*