

heard old Zachary's story, and thought he would try him and see if he would adhere to his beverage of cold water. At table the young man said to the old chief, "Zachary, this beer is excellent, will you taste it?"

The old man dropped his knife, and leaned forward with stern intensity of expression; his large animated eyes, sparkling with indignation, were fixed on him. "John," he exclaimed, "You do not know what you are doing. You are serving the devil. I tell you that I am an Indian, I tell you that I am; and that if I should taste your beer, I could not stop until I got to ruin, and become again the drunken, contemptible wretch your father remembers me to have been. John, while you live, never tempt a man to break a good resolution." Let us remember the wise adage, "The best method to avoid falling down a precipice is not to approach the edge."

#### FLIES AND SPIDERS.

Some children once went with their grandmother to see a spider's web; they thought it very curious, and they talked a great deal about it, though they could not see the use of such things, nor why there should be such creatures as flies or spiders at all.

Their grandmother replied, "My dear children, I cannot tell you just now all the reasons why the all-wise God created and sustains the various creatures which we see around us, though we may be sure there is some good end to be served but I will tell you a pretty story, which may at least help us to think upon the subject.

"A young prince used often to wonder for what purpose God had made flies and spiders; as he could not see, he said, what use they were to men, and if he had the power to kill them all, he would. One day, after a battle, he was obliged to hide from his enemies; and wandering about in a wood, he lay down beneath a tree, and fell asleep. A soldier passing by, who belonged to the enemy, was quietly drawing near with his sword to kill the prince, when suddenly a fly stung his lip and awoke him. Seeing his danger, he sprang to his feet, and escaped!

"That night the prince again hid himself in a cave in the same wood, and during the night a spider wove her web across the entrance. Two soldiers belonging to the army which had defeated him, and who were looking for the prince, passed the cave in the morning, and the prince heard their conversation, 'Look, cried one of them, 'he is surely concealed in this cave.' 'No,' replied the other, 'that is impossible; for if he had gone in there, he would have brushed down the spider's web at the entrance.' When they had gone away, the prince raised his hands and his eyes to

heaven, and thanked God for yesterday saving his life by means of a fly, and now again by a spider, and acknowledged that the ways and works of God are perfectly good and wise.

#### ANSWER TO PRAYER.

"Sir Fowell Buxton writes as follows; When I am out of heart, I follow David's example, and fly for refuge to prayer; and he furnishes me with a store of prayer. I am bound to acknowledge, that I have always found that my prayers have been heard and answered. In almost every instance I have received that I have asked for. Hence I feel permitted to offer up my prayers for everything that concerns me. I am inclined to imagine that there are no *little* things with God. His hand is as manifest in the feathers of a butterfly's wing, in the eye of an insect, in the folding and backing of a blossom, in the curious aqueducts by which a leaf is nourished, as in the creation of a world, and in the laws by which planets move. I understand literally the injunction 'in everything make your requests known unto God;' and I cannot but notice how amply these prayers have been met."

Again, writing to his daughter on the subject of a division in the House of Commons, in the conflict for Great Indian Emancipation, he says:

"What led to that division? If ever there was a subject which occupied our prayers, it was this. Do you remember how we desired that God would give me his Spirit in that emergency—how we quoted the promise, 'He that lacketh wisdom, let him ask it of the Lord, and it shall be given him—and how I kept open that passage in the Old Testament, in which it is said, "We have no might against this great company that cometh against us, neither know we what to do, but our eyes are upon thee—the Spirit of the Lord replying, 'Be not afraid or dismayed, by reason of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's?' If you want to see the passage open my Bible it will turn of itself to the place. I sincerely believe that prayer was the cause of that division; and I am confirmed in this, by knowing that we by no means calculated on the effect. The course we took appeared to be right, and we followed it blindly."