

supposed that Mark was particularly instructed in the doctrines of Christianity by Peter, who calls him "his son." He was the companion of Barnabas and Paul on their journey through Greece, and left them at Pamphylia to return to Jerusalem, to the great dissatisfaction of Paul. But he labored faithfully with Barnabas at Cyprus, was associated with Paul in his captivity at Rome, and afterward accompanied Peter to Babylon. It is not known where, when, or in what manner he met death, but there is a tradition, though resting on a very uncertain foundation, that he was sent by Peter on a mission to Egypt, that he founded the Church of Alexandria, and there suffered a martyr's death. It is said the word law does not once occur in his Gospel. There is a great dearth of parables in Mark compared with the other Gospels, but it is replete with miracles, and among them is one (also in Matthew and Luke) in the latter part of the tenth chapter, concerning the restoration of sight to blind Bartimeus, to which I wish to call attention. While he "sat by the highwayside begging," he heard that Jesus was passing, and he cried out, "Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy upon me." Many charged him to be silent, "but he cried the more a great deal." Jesus, hearing him, commanded that he be brought to him. Then his friends said, "Be of good comfort, rise, he calleth thee." And he, casting away his garment, rose and came to Jesus, received his sight immediately, and "followed him in the way." How many of us in our blindness, are calling on Christ to have mercy on us and give us our sight, and when he calls are we willing to cast away our garment, otherwise our preconceived opinions, our traditions, our will which hamper our progress spiritually, as a garment does our outward walk at times, and coming to Him, stripped of all hindering things, by faith in him, receive our sight, are made whole and willing to follow Him "in the way," whithersoever He leadeth us.

"Happy is it for us if we know these things and do them. E. H. COALE.
Holder, Ill., 3rd mo. 29, 1894.

INFLUENCE—ITS POWER.

Influence is the power we exert over others by our thoughts, words, actions and, indeed, our whole lives. What a wonderful responsibility is ours. Thus, not alone can we live for self, but for all the world. So carefully, then, must we guard our thoughts, choose our words and mind our actions, that our very living may be for good.

Perhaps many of us do not fully realize the importance of this responsibility, or do not believe that we have an influence over our associates. This being the case, we then may not be able to accomplish the purpose for which we are designed to fill

But, however meek or lowly, great or small, we each have a mission to perform and do exert an influence for good or evil. Which is it? That, alone, each must decide for himself.

"Our many deeds, the thoughts that we have thought,
They go out from us, thronging every hour,
And in them all is folded up a power
That on earth doth move them to and fro;
And mighty are the marvels they have wrought,
In hearts we know not, and, may never know."

We oftentimes unconsciously adopt the idea that what we do or say affects no one but ourselves. It may at first thought appear like flattery, but, nevertheless, each of us has an important part in moulding the character of our friends. It may be a kind word spoken, a little deed of kindness done, no matter how trifling it may then appear, we are shedding rays of light which will be a benefit and a blessing.

It is a noticable fact that one person in a community may exert great influence over the entire social circle, simply by his actions in every day life.

Sometimes the remark is made, "Oh, if I had as much influence as that man, or woman, I could accomplish wonders." But to such a lamenting