

ple's disadvantage. Falsehood begins often in small things, in those "white lies" which children sometimes tell. It is not confined to words, but reveals itself often in looks, omissions, and signs. Wherever a false impression is intentionally left, there is falsehood. All our dealings with our neighbors rest upon mutual trust, and if we cannot trust each other's words we cannot carry on business with them. The love of truth is one that cannot be too earnestly sought

after. Jesus came to teach us the value of truth. Satan is called the father of lies.

Thou shalt not covet, v. 17. Covetousness is the immoderate desire after earthly things. He who covets places the object, be it riches, fame, comfort, in a place of adoration which should be reserved for God. Hence it is idolatry, Col. 3 : 5. This is a sin hateful to God, Ps. 10 : 3 ; and it leads to misery, Prov. 1 : 19. It is a root from which the worst crimes spring.

POINTS AND PARAGRAPHS

It is always safe to discount the man who is "ashamed of his parents." v. 12.

Obedience to parents is a first step to success in life. v. 12.

Man's life is sacred because he was made in the image of God. v. 13.

To hate is murder in the germ. v. 13.

No possession is more priceless than a pure heart. v. 14.

Stealing is mean as well as wicked. v. 15.

It is easy to start an ill report, but hard to stop it. v. 16.

The covetous heart is a poisoned fountain, from which many evil streams flow. v. 17.

The Ten Commandments were the Law, but they became by the solemn ratification of the people, a covenant between Israel and Jehovah. Exodus 20-23, containing the Ten Commandments and about seventy enactments based upon them, were written by Moses in a book called "The Book of the Covenant" (Ex. 24 : 7). This was read to the people, and they answered with one voice (24 : 3), "All the words which the Lord hath spoken we will do."—Peloubet.

Ruskin tells us that the first lesson he learned was to be obedient. "One evening," he says, "when I was yet in my nurse's arms, I wanted to touch the tea-urn, which was boiling merrily. My mother bade me keep my fingers back ; I insisted on putting them forward. My nurse would have taken me away from the urn, but my mother said, 'Let him touch it, nurse.' So I touched it ; and that was my first lesson in the meaning of the word 'liberty.' It was the first piece

of liberty I got, and the last which for some time I asked for."

Make thou my spirit pure and clean

As are the frosty skies,

Or this first snow-drop of the year

That on my bosom lies.

"Well, have you got any religion to-day?" asked a Christian friend of a shoemaker, somewhat noted for the simple and joyous earnestness of his religion. "Just enough to make good shoes, glory to God," said he, in reply, as with an extra pull he drew his thread firmly to its place. That's the kind of religion we want ! A religion that makes each one faithful to his work ; that rules behind the counter as well as in the church ; that guides the poor cobbler as he patches the old shoe of his customer ; and that never puts the big potatoes only on top, nor all the large apples in the last layer at the top of the barrel.

We have no right to spread an injurious report merely because somebody brought it to us. It is a crime to pass bad money as well as to coin it. We are bound to consider whether the person from whom we heard the report had opportunities of knowing the truth ; was likely to form a sound judgment of the facts which came under his knowledge ; and whether we should have believed him if he had said the same thing to us about some person to whom we bore no ill will.

How unlike heathen standards are the Ten Commandments ! "It is not as a stumbling patriarch, but as a mortal hero, that Ulysses was a consummate liar. The Spartans deemed it a virtue to be