

It pleased the Father that in Him should all fulness dwell.
Colossians i. 19.

THE DEFECTIVE NAIL.



I LOOKED at a carpenter
nailing one day
Some weatherboards on in a
workmanlike way,
And saw that the claw of the
hammer he clapped
To a nail which the moment
before he had tapped,
And, drawing it out, threw
it by with a jerk,
Took another instead, and
went on with his work.

"What's that for," I asked him. "Have nails grown so cheap That you toss them away as too worthless to keep?" "No," he answered, it bent in the driving, and so, Lest it make a bad job, to the ground it must go. We draw while we are able," he said, with a grin, "For we can't pull it out, once we hammer it in."

When the nail had been followed by one that was good, I noticed beside it a dent in the wood—The mark had been made by the base of the claw Through the strong force exerted the bent nail to draw; And there the depression, to eyesight quite plain, Though twice painted over, will doubtless remain.

No marvellous incident this, you say; still It set me to thinking, as little things will, How habits, like nails, be they wrong ones or right, Can't be drawn from their places when hammered in tight; And, though drawn ere they sink to the head, leave behind By their drawing some traces on body and mind.

—*Temperance Record.*

"DO YOU?"



CCARELESS, ungodly man was hard at work cutting down a tree. The clergyman of the parish passed by, and saw what he was doing. "Why are you cutting down this tree?" he inquired. "Because it bears no fruit," was the reply. Then the clergyman very earnestly turned to him, and put the question, "Do you?" The man could not answer. The reproof went home to his conscience. A whisper of conscience within told him that he had been as a cumberer of the ground, and I trust the impression was not lost. A few more words of warning were added, and the man went and finished the work in which he was engaged.

"Do you?" Here is a question for all. The great Husbandman walks through His vineyard, and marks every tree that is planted in it. He draws near, and examines whether there be fruit or not. He turns over the leaf. He is not content with a fair profession, but He looks forth to see if there be good fruit, worthy of the toil and trouble He has expended upon it. A₁

Ye are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.
Colossians iii. 11.