

WHAT IS YOUR INFLUENCE ?

An aged man said to a lady who was looking over the family photographs upon his son's centre-table,

"Do you find one of my photographs there? If so, I want it destroyed, for when I take my departure from this world I want nothing left behind as a reminder of me."

"But there is one thing you cannot take with you," said the lady.

"And pray tell me what that may be," said the man with some eagerness.

"Your influence," was the reply.

The man winced under the answer. It appeared to be something he had not thought much about, and for the moment it stunned him. He was an infidel and the son of an infidel father, but he could not forget that in childhood he had a Christian mother who used to talk to him of Jesus, and kneel by his bedside at night to pray for him.

Yes, he had exerted an influence, and he was well aware it had not been a good influence. Three of his children had died without a hope in Christ, darkness, like a pall, closing in upon them as they neared the portals of eternity. Three children were still living, all but one the same in belief as their father.

Surely his influence was to exist long after he had passed from earth. He might destroy his photographs, but could not efface the infidel principles he had stamped upon the tablets of his children's minds, and they must carry those with them into eternity.

Perhaps these lines will be read by some one who has not considered that he is exerting an influence which must exist long after he has ceased to exist here. Surely it is a solemn thought! Parents should

consider the great obligations they are under to their children, who are blessings held in trust for the Almighty, and remember that their teachings will all have to pass in solemn review before the eyes of One from whom nothing can be hid, "neither can anything be concealed."

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS THE ANSWER TO DOUBT.

Yes, surely there is no answer so complete and absolute to all real doubt about the truth of the Christian Faith. There is no answer so complete to all foolish imaginary doubts about the truth of Christian Faith—no answer so complete as the Sign of the Cross.

Do you ask why? Listen, then, and I will tell you.

Do you happen to know any man who has won the Victoria Cross? Is he not very proud of it? Are not his friends even more proud? Of course they are. It was given him for valour, for saving life. Naturally he thinks much of it.

Did you ever hear of the Red Cross Society, which did so much to help the sick and wounded during the great war between France and Germany some twenty years ago? Of course you have heard of it, some of you, or your fathers and mothers have, and they could tell you how hundreds of sick and suffering soldiers loved the sight of the Red Cross, which meant help, and nursing, and doctoring, and life itself.

Do you feel any love or pride at the sight of the Union Jack of Old England, with its three Crosses united (God grant they remain so)? Of course you do. Every one does who loves his country, and there are plenty of us to do that still. Does