

I ask who were with you from our own place? Were not Spence and Robson of the party?"

"Yes," replied Shepherd, wincing, however, under the question; "they were."

"Well, now, do you think you are doing no harm to them? They came up from the country only a year or two ago, with a great deal about them that was promising. Their parents, I believe, are good Christian people, and they both attended a Sunday-school till they left home. I am afraid they have not been much lately either at school or public worship. At all events, they were at neither yesterday, for they were with you."

"But I did not ask them to go with me," pleaded Shepherd: "they asked me where I was going, and proposed to accompany me."

"They knew you were going. there was your example so far. You did not refuse them when

"But you surely don't suppose, Wilson, that I am going to do such things as he did? No, no; not so bad as that."

"I hope not, indeed," rejoined his friend; "but I must frankly tell you that there are more unlikely things. When a man once gives way to Sabbath desecration, and to the neglect of public worship, and indulges a fondness for intoxicating drink, there is no knowing what may be the end. But there is another consideration. I know you hope some day or other to have a home of your own. It has, perhaps, scarcely occurred to you that if those habits you are now forming should be confirmed, there is small prospect of its being a happy or prosperous one."

"Well, Wilson, I must confess I never looked at these things before in the light in which you have put them. I fear that I have been doing harm where

I had no idea of it, although I hope after all I shall never do such things as you have been talking about."

"But now," resumed Wilson, after a brief pause, "I am willing to take you on your own ground. Supposing you could be quite sure that you were doing no harm to a single creature besides yourself, would that be a sufficient excuse for your acting as you have done? God has forbidden it. You are ruining your own soul. Your conscience must have told you that you were doing wrong; and God's Word tells you that without repentance and change the consequences will be everlasting death. It is a grievous thing to injure others, even though the injury all terminated in the present life; but after all, the greatest and most solemn consideration for yourself is that you are jeopardising your own soul."

"What you say," replied Shepherd, thoughtfully, "is very true, I can't deny it. To say the truth, I have many a time thought seriously about these things, but it is so difficult to break off from one's associates."

"I daresay you will find it so," said his friend; "but don't let that stand in the way. It will be a poor plea, if your soul be lost, that you did not seek salvation for fear of being laughed at. God calls you still. He bids you repent, and believe with all your heart in Jesus; and He promises to forgive your sins, and at the same time to give you all strength to break the bonds of every evil habit, and to do all His will."

So the conversation ended. Wilson was not without good hope that his friend would not only become a true follower of the Saviour, but that he would also, by earnest endeavours to lead others to Jesus, do at least something to repair the evil which he once wrought.



The Sunday excursion train.

they proposed to go with you, and perhaps you scarcely could. When with you, they would be induced to do very much as you did. I am afraid you have something to answer for in regard to them. If they go wrong, not a little of the blame will lie at your door."

"I should be sorry, I am sure," replied Shepherd, "to do them any harm, for their own sake, as well as for the sake of their parents, but I think you go too far in making me responsible for them if they should get wrong."

"I think not, William. But, by the way, speaking of parents, you remember poor Edwards, who was dismissed a few months ago for his unsteadiness and dishonesty. He came from my own native village. I called on his father and mother when I visited home lately. I wish you could only have seen them. They were almost broken hearted. Indeed, I fear it will be the occasion of his mother's death."