

## Good Intentions.

Fred Russell was exceedingly busy. He had only lived in the city three years, and was already known as a "rising young man." The only trouble seemed to be, he told himself, that he had no time for anything except his daily business.

He could not even write to his mother. For the last year, indeed, he had sent her only an occasional, hurried note.

One night, having finished his work unusually early, he sat by the fire thinking about her, and it was "borne in upon him," as she herself would have said, to write her a long letter.

Just now there did seem to be an unoccupied hour for it, and he went to work with zeal. He described his mode of life at great length, inquired with careful interest about all the home affairs, and even tried to tell her at the end that he really loved her dearly, though he had seemed to neglect her of late.

"There," said he, when he had finished; "I don't believe I've been so soft on anybody since I was a boy; and here I register a vow that I'll write every week—as good letters too as I know how to concoct!"

When he came home from work the next night, he found a telegram awaiting him:

"Mother is sick. Come at once."

He hurried down to the quiet country village, and by the time he reached the desolate home, the message should have been changed to read "Mother is dead."

Just as those words were uttered by his sobbing sister, he chanced to glance at the table, where lay his letter—unopened.

She would never read it. The dear eyes were not now to be brightened, nor the faithful heart cheered by seeing, in those loving words, the record of his good intentions. It was too late.

## It Cannot be Done.

"Gather up my influence and bury it with me!" were the dying words of a young man to the weeping friends at his bedside. What a wish was this! What a deep anguish of heart there must have been as the young man reflected upon his past life—a life which had not been what it should have been. With what deep regrets must his very soul have been filled as he thought of those young men whom he had influenced for evil!—influences which he felt must be eradicated, and which led him, faintly but pleadingly, to breathe out such a dying request, "Gather up my influence and bury it with me." Young men, the influence of your lives for good or evil cannot be gathered up by your friends after death, no matter how earnestly you plead. Then, remember, your influence is going out from you; you alone are now responsible; you have now the power to govern and shape it. Then live noble, true, heroic, God-like lives.

## Don't Sneer.

We pray you not to get into the habit of sneering. You may indulge this tendency until it utterly destroys the spirit of Christian gentleness and kindness in your hearts. Your neighbours are full of faults, to be sure; your fellow-Christians fail to come up to the standard of their professions, it is true. But are these good reasons why you

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should become sour, censorious and malignant? What about yourself? Are you perfect? Suppose that God should judge you as rigorously as you judge other people? In that event where would you stand? Be forbearing; be magnanimous; be Christ-like. Remember that it is not easy to reach the highest levels of conduct, and do not expect of others what you fail to do in your own life.

## What a Little Girl did.

A good many years ago a little girl of twelve years of age was passing an old brick prison in the city of Chicago, on her way to school, when she saw a hand beckoning from behind a cell window and heard a weary voice asking her to please bring him something to read.

For many weeks after she went to the prison every Sunday, carrying the prisoner a book to read from her father's library. At last one day she was called to his deathbed.

"Little girl," said he, "you have saved my soul; promise me that you

will do all your life for the poor people in prison what you have done for me."

The little girl promised, and she has kept her promise. Linda Gilbert has been all her life the steadfast friend of the prisoner. She has established good libraries in many prisons, and visited and helped hundreds of prisoners; and of the great number of whom she has helped, 600 are now, to her knowledge, leading honest lives. Prisoners from all parts of the country know and love her name, and surely the God of prisoners must look upon her work with interest.

And all this because a little girl heard and heeded the call to help a suffering soul.—*The Sunbeam.*

## In Paradise.

Children do not, of course, care much for rest. They love to frolic and frisk about, like young lambs in spring. They enjoy their lives to the utmost; and so they are apt to regard death as something too gloomy to think about. But it is not really a gloomy thought if we remember that the body is only the garment of the soul, and that the real self is not there. The dear little one that is called away from us is not dead: only his body is dead. The real baby, that we kissed and petted, is in Paradise. The grave holds nothing but the frail weak frame, with its weary cry, its pain, its nervous irritability. This indeed is laid to rest, and blossoms into flowers on earth; while the loving soul and busy spirit are beyond. A little child once heard of the death of a dear friend, who had been always especially kind to the children, and said, "How glad I am to think that when we leave this world we shall have our dear P—waiting ready to meet us!" How much more glad shall we be when we meet that best and wisest and strongest of all friends, the risen and ascended Jesus!

## -- JAMES PAPE --

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