

THE CHILDREN'S PORTION.

PRACTICAL THOUGHTS FOR THE CHILDREN.

BY ALPHEUS.

THE TWO WAYS.

In the February number I spoke of the broad way with its pleasures; the wicked company found in it, its downward course, and the narrow way, its upward tendency, its delightful company and increasing joys ending in the purest pleasures.

Let us now have a little talk about the influences that are at work in drawing us into the different ways.

Long ago, when Adam and Eve lived in Eden, they enjoyed to the full the unalloyed pleasures of walking in the right way; but one day the serpent, one of the most beautiful and intelligent of God's creatures, came and entered into conversation with Eve. It was Satan who spoke through the serpent, and he said: "Strange that God should limit your enjoyments," but Eve replied: "All the fruit of the garden is ours but that of this one tree, and God says we will die if we eat of it." "No," said Satan, "If you only eat God Himself knows that your eyes will be opened to new enjoyments and new pleasures." So she saw that it was "pleasant to the eyes," "good for food," and that it would increase her wisdom. She took the fruit, and by the act was the first to travel in the forbidden road. This act of disobedience caused the closing of the other way, and all her children ever since have had a preference for the way opened up by the wiles of Satan. You see, children, that it was one act of disobedience that has opened up this broad way with all its sorrows and leaves us with the inheritance a preference for it.

The three temptations by which Satan lured them into the broad way through the eye, appetite, and a thirst for knowledge, he has been practising successfully on humanity ever since. Perhaps in no way are we more tempted into the wrong way than by the eye. A little girl sees a neighbor with a better dress than her own and she envies her. Another sees one going in forbidden paths and the pattern is followed. A little boy sees lovely apples in an orchard and he covets them. When a little older, he sees obscene pictures and his passions are influenced. He sees a gilded saloon and he must know the hidden mysteries of it though it should cost him his precious soul. In every one of these temptations through the eye, Satan is saying "It is all right, God never intended to limit you. 'Ye shall not surely die.'"

The other temptation, that Satan brought to Eve, he is plying us with every day. Appetite! How many thefts are committed through it! How often do we give way to forbidden desires and pleasures that he whispers are good for us, and that our better nature tells us are wrong. Then acquired habits that are foreign to our nature are used by him to