

GOOD THINGS TO LEARN.

Learn how to tell a story. A well-told story is as welcome as a sunbeam in a sick-room.

Learn to keep your own troubles to yourself. The world is too busy to care for your ills and sorrows.

Learn to stop croaking. If you cannot see any good in this world, keep the bad to yourself.

Learn to hide your aches and pains under a pleasant smile. No one cares whether you have the earache, headache or rheumatism.

Learn to attend strictly to your own business. Very important point.

Learn to greet your friends with a smile. They carry too many frowns in their own hearts to be bothered with any of yours.—*Ex.*

A GIRL'S MISTAKE.

A young man began visiting a young woman, and appeared to be well pleased with her company. One evening he called when it was quite late, which led the young lady to inquire where he had been.

"I had to work to-night."

"What! Do you work for a living?" she inquired in astonishment.

"Certainly," replied the young man; "I am a mechanic."

"I dislike the name of mechanic," and she turned up her pretty nose.

That was the last time the young man visited the young woman. He is now a wealthy man, and has one of the best women in the country for his wife. The lady who disliked "the name of mechanic" is now the wife of a miserable sot, a regular vagrant about grog-shops, and the soft, verdant and miserable girl is obliged to take in washing to support herself and children.

Do you dislike the name of mechanic—you whose brothers are nothing but well-bred loafers? We pity any girl who has so little brains, who is so green and soft, as to think less of a young man because he is a mechanic—as the Son of God himself was. Those girls who despise young men who work for a living are likely to be menials to some of them themselves when adversity has humbled their pride and experience has given common sense.—*Exchange.*

BETTER NOT BEGIN.

Some years ago a youth, not yet twenty-one, went home to dinner. After the family had become seated around the table,

with a smile and a look that seemed to announce that he had gained his independence, he said: "I had a drink of beer to-day." The words brought a shadow over the faces of his parents and went to their hearts like arrows, for they were very decided in their opinions in regard to the use of intoxicating drinks, and had endeavored to lead their son to think and act as they did in the matter.

But the man with whom the youth was learning a trade was not always a moderate drinker—he sometimes indulged to excess. In some way, by ridicule or otherwise, he had induced his young apprentice to take his first drink. Such men like to have others tattle with them, and it seems to give them special pleasure if they can lead astray the sons of known temperance people.

But that first drink was by no means the last, it was followed by many others; and finally resulted in great excesses, to the regret and sorrow of the young man himself as well as to his relatives and friends.

A case of later date. He is a lawyer of ability and with a good lucrative practice. I will not give even a hint of his name nor of the place of his residence. But he lately made himself very conspicuous to a number of his fellow-citizens. He walked up and down on a sidewalk for a long time in a dazed condition and with his clothes in a condition not to be mentioned. It is said he had been overcome by "peach brandy," a kind of liquor which seems to be very deceptive, something like the wine probably, which is declared to be a "mockery." But whosoever is deceived by such beverages is not wise.

The only safe course is total abstinence. If the first drink is taken it may be followed by a second, a third, and so on indefinitely, till a state is reached too horrible to contemplate. Wisely has Dr. Newman said: "When a man begins to do wrong he cannot answer for himself how far he may be carried on. He does not see beforehand, he cannot know where he will find himself after the sin is committed. One false step forces him to another—one evil concession requires another."

Those who have formed the drinking habit are likely to continue in it; for them there is little ground for hope, but, oh! youth and maidens, will you not take warning in time and stand firmly in the only safe position? However any of your associates may urge and tempt you to taste any intoxicating drink, may you have the courage and the grace to say decidedly—No!
Presbyterian Journal.