

parents in the training of their children. This proverb was the memorable one, "I love them that love Me, and they that seek Me early shall find Me." This passage was as the very voice of God to our young heart, and its loving words thrilled our inmost soul. Even now we can conceive of nothing more touching than this kindly call from God to His children. It gives them the assurance of His love, the assurance of His nearness, and the certainty of their finding Him whom they love. The distance between the great God and the creature man all disappears in our Father's love and our Father's call.

We therefore direct the attention of parents to this excellent method of family teaching. Better than all else is the simple instruction of the Divine Word. It is within the reach of all. Little children who are beginning to lisp can repeat these brief proverbs. When once committed, they can be recited over and over. In time they can be explained, and they will become the powerful factors of a true spiritual life and active godliness.—*The Workman.*

GOUGH'S SATIRE.

John B. Gough, in his late book called "Sunlight and Shadow," gives us an intimation of that to which many of our churches are drifting in their exceeding liberality of doctrine and practice. He says:

"Jesus Christ said to His disciples, 'I have chosen you out of the world.' We seem to be ignoring that; and I ask, What amusement or pursuit is there followed by the unbeliever, that is not followed or defended by some Christians? Cards, dancing, theatres, operas, wine and liquor drinking, gambling, all these are patronized and defended by some who are members of Christ's body—the Church. I have witnessed the solemn service of admitting new members into the Church, and heard those received assent to the doctrines and covenant; in which act they promised to follow the Lord Christ. And I have sometimes imagined them at the theatre, at the card-table, or in the ball-room, notwithstanding their solemn vows in this impressive service, and the idea seemed so inconsistent as to become revolting. Perhaps we are becoming more liberal and less scriptural; but I own it would be a strange thing to hear from among the pulpit notices, one read like the following:

"There will be a prayer-meeting next Wednesday evening, at half-past seven, to last an hour, after which there will be a social dance in the church parlours.

"The Whist Club will meet at Brother White's. Wines, spirits, and cigars will be furnished. Only whist, euchre, and seven-up will be permitted; for we must draw a line somewhere.

"On Saturday afternoon, the Dramatic Society of the Sunday school will rehearse, previous to giving a public exhibition. The play will be the 'School for Scandal,' revised by the Superintendent.

"We propose omitting our usual Thursday lecture, as the opera company from New York will give a grand performance, and the members of our choir are engaged for the chorus at the theatre on that evening.

"Our usual monthly lottery for the Sabbath school library will be drawn at eight o'clock on Tuesday evening. All are invited to attend.

"A fair will be held on the 15th inst. in our church parlours, to raise funds for a new billiard-table in the gymnasium of the church. There will be several attractions, raffling for some very elegant articles, also the grab-bag, particularly for the children. We hope to see a large attendance. We will now resume our service by singing,

"Far from my thoughts, vain world, begone."

WHY I GO TO CHURCH ON RAINY SABBATHS.

I attend church on rainy Sabbaths because—

1. God has blessed the Lord's day and hallowed it, making no exceptions for rainy Sabbaths.
2. I expect my minister to be there. I should be surprised if he were to stay at home for the weather.
3. If his hands fall through weakness, I shall have great reason to blame myself, unless I sustain him by my prayers and my presence.
4. By staying away I may lose the prayers which bring God's blessing, and the sermon that would have done me great good.
5. My presence is more needful on Sabbaths, when there are few, than on those days when the church is crowded.

6. Whatever station I hold in the church, my example must influence others. If I stay away, why may not they?

7. On any important business rainy weather does not keep me at home, and church attendance is, in God's sight, very important.

8. Among the crowds of pleasure-seekers, I see that no weather keeps the delicate female from the ball, the party, or the concert.

9. Among other blessings, such weather will shew me on what foundation my faith is built. It will prove how much I love Christ. True love rarely fails to meet an appointment.

10. Those who stay from church because it is too warm, or too cold, or too rainy, frequently absent themselves on fair Sabbaths.

11. Though excuses satisfy myself, they still must undergo God's scrutiny; and they must be well grounded to bear that (St. Luke xiv. 18).

12. There is a special promise, that where two or three meet together in God's name, He will be in the midst of them.

13. An avoidable absence from the church is an infallible evidence of spiritual decay. Disciples first follow Christ at a distance, and then, like Peter, do not know Him.

14. My faith is to be shewn by my self-denying Christian life, and not by the rise or fall of the thermometer.

15. Such yielding to surmountable difficulties prepares for yielding to those merely imaginary, until thousands never enter a church, and yet think they have good reason for such neglect.

16. By a suitable arrangement on Saturday, I shall be able to attend church without exhaustion; otherwise, my late work on Saturday night must tend to unfit me for the Sabbath enjoyment of Christian privileges.

17. I know not how many more Sabbaths God may give me; and it would be a poor preparation for my first Sabbath in heaven to have slighted my last Sabbath on earth.—*Frances Ridley Hauser.*

WHAT SHE SAW IN CHURCH.

He staid at home and she went to church. After dinner he asked her:

"What was the text, wife?"

"O, something, somewhere in Generations; I've forgotten the chapter and verse. Mrs. High sat right before me with a Mother Hubbard bonnet on. How could I hear anything when I could not even see the minister? I wouldn't have worn such a looking thing to church if I'd had to go bareheaded."

"How did you like the new minister?"

"O, he's splendid! and Kate Darlin was there in a Spanish lace cape that never cost a cent less than fifty dollars; and they can't pay their butcher bills, and I'd wear cotton lace or go without any first."

"Did he say anything about the new mission fund?"

"No; and the Jones girls were all rigged out in their yellow silks made over, you would have died laughing to have seen them. Such taste as those girls have; and the minister gave out that the Dorcas Society will meet at Sister Jones' residence—that old poky place."

"It seems that you didn't hear much of the sermon?"

"Well, I'm sure it's better to go to church, if you don't hear the sermon, than to stay at home and read the papers; and O, Harry! the new minister has a lovely voice, it nearly put me to sleep. And did I tell you that the Rich's are home from Europe, and Mrs. Rich has a real camel's-hair shawl on, and it didn't look like anything on her?"

A long silence, during which Harry thought of several things, and his wife was busy contemplating the sky or view, when she suddenly exclaimed:

"There! I knew I'd forget to tell you something. Would you believe it Harry, the fringe on Mrs. Jones' parasol is an inch deeper than mine, and twice as heavy! O, dear! what a world of trouble this is!"—*Detroit Post and Tribune.*

"NOT NOW."

A story is told among the Russian peasants of an old woman who at work in her house when the wise men from the East passed by on their way to find the infant Christ, guided as they were by the star going before them in the sky. "Come with us," they said, "we are going to find the heavenly Child; come with

us." "I will come," she replied, "but not just now. But I will follow very soon, and overtake you, and find Him." But when her work was done, the wise men had gone, and the star in the heavens had disappeared, and she never saw the infant Child.

It is but a story, but one that is full of instruction and warning; for a similar story could be told of thousands of human hearts, and confirmed by the character and destiny of thousands of human beings. The call to come to Christ sounds in our ears, but we are too busy with our daily work to heed it now. We have no time just yet for the Bible, or the closet, or the serious thought, or for the hearkening to the voice of conscience and the whispers of the Holy Spirit. We are like the Duke of Alva, who, when asked to look at a remarkable appearance in the skies, replied, "I am too busy with things on earth to take time for looking to the heavens." We are pressed with our business, or building our homes, or looking after the needs of our children, or laying up wealth for the future, and the time for seeking Christ is delayed; and by the delay we have missed Him forever.

HOME SINS.

Of all the spots on the Christian character, the most obvious is temper. Each individual Christian is, we trust, endeavouring to perform carefully and faithfully his or her work in the world around for the Lord; each and all, we hope, desire to be like Moses, faithful stewards of the home charge, but they fail sooner in the latter than in the former; there are more difficulties in shining for Jesus at home than in the world outside our home.

One great hindrance to a home shining is a home sin. We may call some sins distinctly home sins, because they are never exhibited, perhaps never even guessed at, outside our own circle. And again, I repeat, the most terrible of all home sins is temper. Too often we find Christians all graciousness and sweetness in society, appearing (as Rowland Hill puts it) to be engrafted upon crab-trees in their own houses.

The most visible aspects of this sin—violent outbursts, sullen fits, and angry remonstrances—are so odious in themselves that a Christian possessed of such an evil spirit is generally on his guard, and watches and mourns because of it. But there are various lesser degrees equally dishonouring to the Lord Jesus, which are often permitted and yet constantly sully the fair page of Christian testimony. The want of gentleness in tone and look, the implied sneer, the discourteous retort, the undue regard to our own dignity when offended, the maintenance of our own opinions simply because they are our own, and in spite of the irritation we know they will cause, the painful allusion or ill-timed jest, are all fruits of the crab-tree.

LOST TIME.

Lost wealth may be restored by industrious and frugal endeavour, wrecked health may sometimes be regained by temperance and self-denial, forgotten knowledge may be brought back by earnest study; friends that have been alienated may be won again by assiduous attention, forfeited reputation may be measurably restored by penitence, humility and fidelity; but time once lost is lost forever. The moments that are gone come back no more; the priceless hours that have escaped us in our listlessness, our idleness and our folly, no toils can win them, no wealth can purchase them, no effort can bring them back. No prayers, nor tears, nor repentant sighs can give us that which, when we had it, we idly cast away.

To-day, God gives us time, and with it opportunity. The precious gift is in our hands; the past cannot be recalled; the future cannot be foreseen. To-morrow, of which we so often boast ourselves, may never come to us. We do not live to-morrow. We cannot find it in any title deeds. The man who owns whole blocks of real estate, and great ships on the sea, does not own a single minute of to-morrow! It is a mysterious possibility not yet born. It lies under the seal of midnight, behind the veil of glittering constellations.

Now in the living present is the hour of probation, the opportunity for improvement, the day of salvation. Let us redeem the time, because the days are evil.

THE cheering news comes from Mexico that the Protestant Christians of that country now number 10,000.