

IS GOD EVERYWHERE?

"Jim, can you tell me a place where God is not?"

"Yes," said Jim, "I think I can."

"Well, then, do you not believe what the Bible says?"

"Surely," said Jim, "I believe the Bible. It is God's Word and absolutely true."

"How then," rejoined his brother in triumph, "can you say that you know a place where God is not? What the lesson says is very plain, and I have a great many proofs besides."

"Why, I said so just because I believe the Bible," was Jim's answer. *

"You must be wrong, Jim. For if you believe the Bible, you must believe that God is everywhere present!"

"Still, Tom, I think I am right, and that I know a place where God is not."

"Whatever do you mean, Jim?"

"Well, Tom, if you look up Psalm x. 4, you will, I think, see what I mean; and see also that there is a place where God is not."

Tom eagerly turned and read: "The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: GOD IS NOT IN ALL HIS THOUGHTS!"

Tom did not know what to say. His brother's reply took him quite out of his depth. He thought Jim's answer not altogether satisfactory; yet he could not point out wherein it was wrong. The practical result of the discussion, however, was that Tom in the future was much more slow to contradict Jim than he had been.

We hope all our young readers see through the quibble in Jim's answer. It was a clever answer, but not quite true. For to be ourselves unconscious of God's presence does not banish Him. He is really and truly everywhere present.

A GREAT PRACTICAL TRUTH.

The one great practical truth that ought to be driven over and over again into his own mind by every young man is, that he should not care a button for his likes and dislikes; but should do what ought to be done, in spite of any disagreeableness. This lesson of self-denial is far beyond any other in importance. It must be repeated a thousand times over before it is really learnt by heart, but oh, how worthy the pains! Happy is he who has learned not to seek what is pleasant, but to go on doing everything that he knows to be good, and kind, and right, in utter disregard of self. How a man might ennoble and invigorate his life, if he would work this principle into the very grain of his mind, and strenuously act upon it, invariably striving not after what would be pleasantest, but what would be best. In fact, it is the very essence of all that is good and great in human life; and not only so, but is the true road to happiness. This, doubtless, is what our Saviour means when He says that he that hath left home and brethren for His sake shall receive a hundred-fold, even in this life.—*Selected.*