

to the affairs of this life I suppose, and as I have my own way to make in the world, I really cannot afford time for studying and thinking always about the next."

"By not thinking of these troublesome responsibilities you expect of course to get rid of them altogether?"

"Oh no, indeed I have no such expectation; but I may as well own that I am altogether in the wrong, for you have shewn me so much of my own absurdity and childishness that I am not disposed to exhibit it any further."

This acknowledgment, made as it was in our presence, satisfied our good Pastor that we should be in no further danger from our cousin's influence, and he said no more to him at the time; but I had reason to think that he afterwards took great pains in private conversations to impress him with more serious and rational views of his duties as a responsible being, and that his admonitions were by no means thrown away. I have thought it best to give my young readers the benefit of the Rector's remarks upon this occasion, because I have often since then found my endeavours to lead my pupils to a serious and profitable study of the Scriptures, greatly hindered by the thoughtless interference of worldly people, who, having never given a thought to the needful preparation for eternal life, felt probably reproved and disturbed by seeing others younger than themselves, already awakened to the danger of carelessness and indifference. But it was not only the worldly and indifferent who took upon themselves to censure the instructions our Teacher conveyed to us in the two characters I have mentioned; there were others who accused her of having given an opportunity for the profane and irreligious to scoff at those who made a serious profession of piety, and having held up to ridicule and suspicion, a character distinguished by many practices essential to Christian consistency; and indeed, so much were some persons offended by this, that they removed their children from the school for a time, but as Mrs. Arnold went on quietly but steadily in the path she had marked out for herself, and persisted in teaching her pupils that "the tree was known by its