

Poor old Dan ! Nobody had ever talked to him like that for years and years—never since his mother had gone to heaven. And down those wrinkled cheeks the tears began to come, very big and very fast. “Don’t cry, Dan ; because God loves us, though we have sinned, and He sent Jesus into the world to save us.” Dan’s heart was broken. He could only say, “God be merciful to me, the worst of sinners.” As little Annie talked with him, he came to see all—how that Jesus died for him, and was able to give him a clean heart and a right spirit. Little Annie left him praising God, his heavenly Father, for such wonderful love, and went away to tell the gentleman at her home.

“Now, sir,” said she, “you must believe that Jesus loves me, because old Dan Hunter has really begun to love Him, and he has got converted.”

“None-nuse,” laughed the gentleman. “Why, Annie, whoever told you that ?”

“Well, you’ll see.” And he did, and so did everybody else in the place. They saw that old nipped, frowning face turned into joy and gladness. They saw the ill-tempered old Dan become so kind that everybody had a friend in him ; and when you passed the yard you might be sure to hear a happy old man, as he worked with hammer and saw, cheerily singing about the wondrous love of Jesus.

So Annie ministered unto the Lord.—*Christian.*

### BE A GOOD READER.

**T**HERE is one accomplishment in particular which I would earnestly recommend to you. Cultivate assiduously the ability to read well. I stop to particularize this, because it is so very much neglected, and because it is so elegant, charming and lady-like an accomplishment. Where one person is really interested in music, twenty are pleased by good reading. Where one person is capable of becoming a good musician, twenty may become good readers. Where there is one occasion for the exercise of musical talent, there are twenty for that of good reading. The culture of the voice necessary for reading well, gives a delightful charm to the same voice in conversation. Good reading is the natural exponent and vehicle of all good things. It is the most effective of all commentaries upon the works of genius. It seems to bring dead authors to life again, and makes us sit down familiarly with the great and good of all ages. Did you ever notice what

life and power the Holy Scripture has when well read ? Have you ever heard the wonderful effects produced by Elizabeth Fry on the prisoners of Newgate by simply reading to them the parable of the Prodigal Son ? Princes and peers of the realm, it is said, counted it a privilege to stand in the dismal corridors among felons and murderers merely to share with them the privilege of witnessing the marvellous pathos which genius, taste and culture could infuse into that simple story. What a fascination there is in really good reading ! What a power it gives one ! In the hospital, in the chamber of the invalid, in the nursery, in the domestic and the social circle, among chosen friends and companions, how it enables you to minister to the amusement, the comfort, the pleasure of dear ones, as no other art or accomplishment can. No instrument of man’s devising can reach the heart as does that most wonderful instrument, the human voice. It is God’s special gift and endowment to His chosen creatures. Fold it not away in a napkin. If you would double the value of all your other acquisitions—if you would add immeasurably to your own enjoyment and to your power of promoting the enjoyment of others, cultivate with incessant care this divine gift. No music below the skies is equal to that of pure silvery speech from the lips of a man or woman of high culture.

PROF. JOHN S. HART.

### POETIC GEMS FOR YOUNG AND OLD.

These hymns are among the very most widely used and best loved that the English language can claim. They should be learned by our young people, and used as Morning and Evening Hymns. The first three hymns are by the good BISHOP KEN :—

#### WAKING HYMN.

**W**AKE, my soul, and with the sun  
Thy daily stage of duty run ;  
Shake off dull sloth, and joyful rise  
To pay thy morning sacrifice.

Redeem thy mis-spent time that’s past,  
And live this day as if thy last ;  
Improve thy talent with due care ;  
For the great day thyself prepare.

Let all thy converse be sincere,  
Thy conscience as the noonday clear ;  
Think how all-seeing GOD thy ways  
And all thy secret thoughts surveys.

Wake, and lift up thyself, my heart,  
And with the Angels bear thy part,  
Who all night long unwearied sing  
High praise to the Eternal King.