

Foes in the Household

The indifference of many fathers and mothers in the matter of the books read by their children would be incomprehensible if life were not full of similar contradictions and follies. Men work day and night with almost breathless eagerness to make their children physically comfortable; women take up uncomplainingly a cross of self-denial, which often ends in a veritable martyrdom, for the sake of securing something which seems to them to be the happiness of their children; and yet many of these same self-sacrificing fathers and mothers never so much as look at the titles of the books over which the boys and girls are poring as they sit about the evening lamp. It is obvious, of course, that this strange commingling of things so far apart as self-effacement and indifference comes about through ignorance, through failure to understand that peril may be intellectual and spiritual as well as physical; that the mind may be poisoned, the heart corrupted, the life perverted, with any external temptation; that in the midst of comfortable homes, housed from evil companionship, a child's nature may be strained or distorted almost beyond recovery.

The air we breathe and the water we drink may be, and often are, more perilous to us than the possibilities of accident by land or sea. The poisons that lurk in these universal elements are much more destructive of life every year than derailed and burning trains, sinking ships, falling buildings, or the fierce tongues of conflagration. And the peculiarity of the peril lies largely in the fact that its presence is rarely suspected until after the seeds of disease and death have borne indubitable fruit. A better knowledge of sanitary laws is subjecting both air and water to constant and rigid tests; and, having learned how deadly these apparently innocent things may become, we are no longer content to live in a fool's paradise of ignorance. Books, to the children of this day of countless cheap presses, are as common as air and water, and as full of possible peril. It is high time that busy fathers and overworked mothers awoke to the fact that while they are guarding the front door the devil of impurity and untruth may be finding ready access through the back door. It is idle to pour out one's life as a sacrifice to secure the comfort of a child whose mental and spiritual health are being permanently destroyed; better a thousand times let the child suffer some loss of luxury, and take time to look after its mind and heart. Many a father makes himself a slave to business for the sake of a child with whose thoughts and feelings he has as little acquaintance as if the two had never been brought in contact.

No book ought ever to come into a child's hands that has not first been read by the father or mother, or the character of which is not thoroughly understood as a matter of trustworthy report. The more intelligent the parent is, the more rigid will be this inspection; he will not be content with the assurance that a book is free from impurity; he will insist that a book be also sound, true and healthy in tone. Impure books abound; but, fortunately, they wear vice on their very faces, and it is easy to shut the door on them. Peril of a more subtle if of a less deadly kind comes from another quarter, and is often overlooked. Hosts of children are reading books today which ought to be taken out of their hands because, although good in intention, they are morbid, unhealthy, and untrue in teaching and illustration. There is a great mass of so-called "religious reading" which a wise parent will carefully keep out of the house because of its sentimental, unreal, and essentially untrue presentation of the most serious themes. The puerile materialism of many books which ge-

into Sunday-school libraries is a thing to guard against as one would protect a child from disease. Sound, healthy, noble, natural ideas of religious things are of the utmost moment, and the difficulty of finding them in books for children is one of the most serious perplexities of parenthood. To give a child a true and noble thought of God and its own life, a thought which will deepen with knowledge and widen with experience, without forcing, later on, the painful and dangerous process of doubt and reconstruction, is a duty which no intelligent father and mother will surrender to another. Above all things, keep books which teach religion on a low plane, or present it as a morbid experience, or vulgarize it by familiarity, or falsify it by untrue illustration, off your table and out of your house. An immoral book is not necessarily a shocking book; but it is always an untrue book. There are more immoral books in the hands of children than parents suspect, for the reason that many people confound the substance of immorality with its representations. There are numberless episodes in the Old and New Testaments, and numberless great works of literature, which portray immorality and which are yet profoundly moral, because they exhibit the working out of sin into its inevitable losses and penalties. There are, on the other hand, multitudes of books which do not touch flagrant sin of any sort, but which are both immoral and demoralizing, because they are untrue pictures of life; because they furnish low instead of high motives of action; because they separate actions from their consequences; because they substitute a weak sentimentalism for the health and vigor of deep principles; because they make an easy and magical thing of something which all experience declares to be a very difficult thing, to be attained only by patient and faithful struggle. A story which deals honestly with repulsive sins, and shows how they issue in inevitable misery and degradation, is not a book for children, but at bottom it may be a much more moral work than one in which the hard and fast lines of real life fade out in an atmosphere of sentimentalism. Stories for children of a distinctively religious tendency need especially to be scrutinized with the utmost care, and no book should ever go into a child's hands which substitutes familiarity for reverence, a magical piety for downright faithful living and working, and an abnormal experience for sound, healthy, natural growth.—*Christian Union*.

Married.

McGRATH-TILLITS.—At the residence of Mrs. Edward Tillits, by Rev. M. P. King, May 10th, Mr. Charles McGrath to Miss Dora Tillits, all of Little River, Sunbury Co.

Died.

DAVIS.—Mrs. Ann Davis of Hatfield's Point, Kings count, widow of the late Zebulon S. Davis, fell asleep in Jesus, April 30th, after a brief illness, in the 95th year of her age. She and her husband both profess d religion after their marriage, and united with the first Baptist church in Springfield of which they continued active members during a long life. Their house was known as the home of ministers generally when visiting the Point. Mr. Davis preceded Mrs. Davis to the heavenly home nine years ago. They raised a family of nine children, two of whom, a son and daughter have passed on to the home of immortals. Mrs. Davis leaves to cherish the memory of a kind mother, seven children, thirty grand children, and thirty-two great grand children. Sister Davis was what might be termed "A mother in Israel," and will be much missed at the Point. A large cortege attended her interment, and her pastor Rev. W. M. Field preached an appropriate and impressive sermon on the occasion. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."

ANDREWS.—Mrs. Letitia Andrews departed this life in the 78th year of her age, at her home in Little River, Sunbury Co.

DYKEMAN.—At Jemseg, Queens Co., on the 24th December, William H. Dykeman, aged 79 years.

GRAHAM.—Mrs. Thomas Graham, departed this life in the 82d year of her age, at the home of her son John, Upper Newcastle, April 28th, 1904.

REECE.—At Cumberland Bay, on the 10th inst., Mrs. Ann Reece, aged 84 years. Our sister was baptized many years ago by Rev. Elias Kierstead, and lived a consistent member of the church all her days.

WASSON.—At Jemseg, Queens Co., on the 20th April, Julia Wasson, aged 16 years, beloved daughter of Capt. James Wasson, Esq.

TITUS.—At Jemseg, Queens Co., May 19th, Doreas Ann Titus, aged 80 years, widow of the late Deacon Benjamin Titus of blessed memory.

FREEZE.—Died at the home of Trueman Freeze, his nephew, Havelock, May 9th, Mr. Harvey Freeze, aged 83 years. Early in the winter he was taken with la grippe from which he never recovered. The long and tedious illness was borne with Christian fortitude and patience looking forward to future and final rest in heaven. He was the last of a family of five and was highly respected by all who knew him. The funeral service was conducted by Rev. E. C. Corey of Petticoe.

PERRY.—At Havelock, April 26th, Isabell widow of the late Gardner Perry, aged 73 years. Mrs. Perry had just returned from the States where she had been living with her children, came home to visit her old friends and died two days after her arrival. She was a faithful member of the Baptist church and beloved by all who knew her. Two sons and two daughters survive to cherish her memory. The funeral service was conducted by R. V. E. C. Corey of Petticoe.

KEITH.—Died at Havelock, May 1st, Owens Keith, aged 80 years. He was stricken with paralysis and after two days passed away to his eternal reward. He united with the Havelock Baptist church under the ministry of Rev. J. A. Smith over 40 years ago, and was a faithful attendant until the close of life. In his death the community have lost a worthy citizen. One son, Dr. Keith of Harcourt, and two daughters Mrs. S. Perry of Havelock, and Mrs. J. Ritchie of St. John survive to cherish the memory of a kind father. A large congregation filling the Baptist church attested the high esteem. An appropriate sermon was delivered by E. C. Corey from Eph. 1.18.

WATSON.—At Gibson, N. B. April 23rd, C. Arthur, aged 1 year and 8 months, only child of Charles and Nettie Watson. Safe in the arms of Jesus.

SIBLEY.—At Clair's Settlement, York Co., N. B., April 12, James Sibley, aged 80 years. The deceased was a quiet man and honorable. The burial service was at Grafton.

MOXOM.—At the home of her daughter, Mrs. Geo. Little, Woodstock, N. B., from cancer of the stomach Mrs. Henry Moxom, aged 73 years, passed away April 9th. She was a patient Christian woman. The burial was at Benton. Two daughters and one son reside in N. B., and two sons and one daughter are in California.

DONALDS.—At Upper Blackville, April 30, Nathan Donalds aged 74.—Our brother had been ailing for some time, passed peacefully away to be forever with Jesus. He had been a member of the church for many years, and when enjoying health strongly supported the various interests of the denomination. He was kindly ministered to at his brother's Elijah Donalds.

A man does not become an artist by merely reading about pictures, but by learning to paint them; so a man does not become truly a Christian by merely reading about the Christian life, but by daily learning to live it.

Christianity means far more than the saying of the creed, and attendance at church; it means a religion which leavens a man's whole life and character, which makes it impossible to tell a lie, or to do a mean dishonorable act, or to take advantage of another's weakness, or to be cruel or unforgiving in word or deed.

There are some who try to put a little gilded washing of religion, as it were, once a week on a life which is only base metal; the religion of a true Christian is solid all through.