

taking your chair," she said shyly. "You may sit in it because it is mine."

Both girls were perfectly sincere in wishing me to sit in their chair, but one reply was rude; the other so charmed me that I have remembered it for years.

A little country girl was helping prepare lunch with a friend in the city; they were making milk toast with an insufficient amount of milk, the girl thought, but knowing her friend must practise strict economy, she said, "Shall I moisten the toast first with hot water? You have so much toast." Would any of you have said: "You have so little milk?" Either way was truthful, but the former held the essence of Christian courtesy.

We hear about and meet, so many disagreeable Christians; and some people believe that it is their Christianity that makes them rude: Did Paul teach rudeness? Did Jesus Christ? When we are self-absorbed, and inattentive to the comfort of others, when we go about thinking more highly of ourselves than we ought to think, and despising others for their little acts of self-forgetful kindness, let us not console ourselves with the thought that we are sincere.

"Politeness is to do and say,  
The kindest thing in the kindest way."

and everything that is unkind is un-Christian.—*A Country Woman in Advocate and Guardian.*

#### THE STAY-AWAYS.

PLENTY of them everywhere, little and big, old and young. Here are some of their reasons:

1. "Don't like the preacher." Well, my friend, if you were a preacher somebody wouldn't like you. Strange to say, some don't like Christ. Read 2 Thess. iii. 1, and 1 Tim. v. 17.

2. "So and so is a hypocrite; I won't go where he goes." Then you should by all means prove that you are not. 'Judge not that ye be not judged.'

3. "Wife don't go; husband won't go; don't like to leave wife or husband home alone."

No husband or wife has the right to be a bad example to the other. Marriage is "in the Lord." God never meant marriage to justify a bad example.

4. "I've been snubbed." Then why not quit all business? If being snubbed

is a valid reason for quitting the Lord's business, it is an equally valid reason for quitting your own. Why don't you close your shops and stores, and leave your offices, and throw down your tools? The world is full of snubbers and the snubbed. Christ endured the contradiction of sinners; so must you and I. Kindle anew hot fires of love to God and men.

5. "The church isn't sociable; they are all icebergs."

Be sociable yourself, then. Their sin is no excuse for yours. Don't run like a coward to another church, because the battle is hard in your own.

6. "Don't like rented pews; don't like free pews."

Perhaps the real difficulty is that don't like to support any system. You are always welcome at the house of God, free pews or rented pews. And you will be there if your heart cries out for God.—*Selected.*

#### WHY THE LITTLE BOY WAS BORN DEAF AND DUMB

ONCE a minister paid a visit to a deaf and dumb asylum in London for the purpose of examining the children in the knowledge they possessed of divine truth.

A little boy on this occasion was asked in writing, "Who made the world?"

The boy took up the chalk and wrote underneath the question, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

The minister then inquired in a similar manner, "Why did Jesus Christ come into the world?"

A smile of delight and gratitude rested on the countenance of the little fellow as he wrote, "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."

A third question was then proposed, eminently adapted to call his most powerful feelings into exercise, "Why were you born deaf and dumb, while I can hear and speak?"

"Never," said an eye-witness, "shall I forget the look of resignation and chastened sorrow which sat on his countenance as he took up the chalk and wrote, 'Even so, Father, for so it seemeth good in Thy sight.'"

These are truly beautiful answers, especially the last. Many of us, I fear,

think much more of our tiny troubles, than did that dear boy of his one great trouble, of not being able to join in conversation with those around and hear what is said.

Oh! let us remember that nothing happens by chance to those who can call God their Father, and if trouble fall to our lot, say, like the deaf and dumb boy, "for so it seemeth good in Thy sight"—*Young Churchman.*

#### THE GREAT MASTER.

"I AM my own master!" cried a young man, proudly, when a friend tried to persuade him from an enterprise which he had on hand: "I am my own master!"

"Did you ever consider what a responsible post that is?" asked the friend.

"Responsibility—is it?"

"A master must lay out the work he wants done, and see that it is done right. He should try to secure the best ends by the best means. He must keep on the look-out against obstacles and accidents, and watch that everything goes straight, else he will fail."

"Well!"

"To be master of yourself you have your conscience to keep clear, your heart to cultivate, your temper to govern, your will to direct, and your judgment to instruct. You are master over a hard lot, and if you do not master them they will master you."

"That is so," said the young man.

"Now, I could undertake no such thing," said his friend; "I should fail sure if I did. Saul wanted to be his own master and failed. Herod did. Judas did. No man is fit for it. One is my Master, even Christ. I work under God's directions. When He is Master all goes right."—*Bacon.*

#### THE LAMP AND THE LIGHT-HOUSE.

A SCOTCH fisherman while out one night in his smack was overtaken by a terrible storm. He could not tell where he was or how to find his way to the landing place. At length his son caught sight of a small light glimmering through the wild darkness. He set sail toward the light and soon found himself right before his own cottage, which stood on a cliff above the sea.

When he got home he found that his little boy had set the lamp in an upper