#### WALKING WITH GOD.

It is better to walk in the dark with God Thus to run in the light alone. Yes, better the thorniest path ever trod Where the briers are thick and our fee

unshed.

If only we follow his voice and his rod,
Than without him to march to a throne. It is better with him when the billows dash high On the breast of mad Galilee— The' the Master may sleep, he'll wake at

our cry, Or he'll come on the waves saying; "Peace

it is I."
Better this man than a calm with no help-

er thus aigh r without him to sail a smooth sea. Alexander Blackburn, in the Outlook.

#### A GAME OF "GOOD POINTS."

"Why, Margaret, how bright you are looking to-day !" cried a neighbor who had just run in to cheer up the lonely invalid.

Tou must have had a number of callers

"No, I haven't had any."

"I don't see how you stand it you po dear, and you look so happy, happier than I

do, I know."

'Oh, I've had a really pleasant day," said the lavalid. "I've just thought of such a delightful way of smusing myself. I've been naming over all the good points in the characters of the people I know, and really I had no idea there were so many in each one. It took me ever so long to go over the people I know well. I shall look at those people quies differently now. My mind has been delightfully busy all day."—The Christian Guardian.

#### THE WAGES OF SIN.

Oscar Wilde, the poet, who died some time ago, spent his last years in an English prison for having committed unmentionable impurities. He left a autobiography which is tragic in its confessions. His words ought to sink deep into the soul of every young man tempted to sin. He says:-

ed to sin. He save:—
"I must say to myself that I ruined myself and that nobody, great or small, can be rained except by his own hand. I am quite ready to say so. This pitiless indictment I bring without pity against myself. Terrible as was what the world did to me, what I did to myself was far more terrible still.

"I det myself be lured into long spells of myself with being a dandy, a man of fashion. I surrounded myself with the smaller natures and the meaner minds. I became the spendthrift of my own genius, and to waste an eternal youth gave me a curious joy. Tired of being on the heights, I deliberately went to the depths in the search for new sensation. Desire at the end was a malady or a madness, or both. I grew careless of the lives of others. I took pleasure where it pleased me and passed on

He mourns thus over his mother's death, which occurred in the second year of his im-

isonment :—
"No one knows how deeply I loved and honored her. Her death was terrible to me bu I, once a lord of language, have no out, once a lord of language, have no words in which to express my anguish and my share. The and my father had beque the done a many in y had made noble and honored, his merely in literature, attachaselogi, and accine, but in the public bistory. (In ... wire country—in its evolution as a matter land made it a low byword amoug low people. I had made it a low byword among low people. I had draged through among low people. I had dragged t through the very mire. I had given it to brutes that they might make it brutal, and to fools that they might urn it into asynonym for folly —We tern Christian Advocate

#### ALOVER OF SCOTT

I cannot help taking fire at anything said in disparagement of Walter Scott. I feel that I have got from his writings not only immess pleasure but some good. He was a fruly noble-hearted gentleman, a model of that class, and his character is impressed on all the works of his pen. A type, he seems to me, of social chivalry. In all his writings too, there is the buoyancy of perfect health, In reading them you breathe the air of the Scotch hills. I can conceive no better mental febrifuge, no better antidote to depression

# Nine Nations

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no more sovereign remedy for dull care.

Scott, like Homer, Virgil, Tasso, and Mil-

al skill in telling it. Is not the story of "Marmion" interesting? Is not great poet-ical skill shown in telling it? Is not the character of Marmion one that you never forget? Is not the judgment scene in "Holy

ton, is a narrative poet, and must be judged by the interest of his story and by his poet-

Isle" supremely tragical? Can anything b

much brighter than the picture of Edinburgh

and the Scottish camp? Has anything in English literature more of Homeric spirit

than the battle scene of Flodden? Are we not carried along through the whole poem

as it were, by a sea breeze fresh and strong

Are there not ever and anon charming little touches, such as the lines at the end of "Mar-

mion," telling us how the woodman took the place of the Baron in the Barons sumpt-

One must, no doubt, have something of

the boy left in one to read "Marmion" again

with delight. But he who reads "Marmion" wholly without delight cannot have much

However, one might almost as well try to argue a man into or out of love for a women

as into or out of taste for a poet Boys will

be boys, and will prisist in venerating Browning and loving Scott,—Goldwin Smith

Duty, be it a small matter or a great, is a duty still; the command of heaven; the eldest voice of God. And it is only they

who are faithful in a few things who will be

faithful over many things; only they who do their duty in every day and trival matters who will fulfi them on great occasions. — Kingsley.

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left in him of the boy.

in the March Atlantic

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