

band of very wicked men which caused his ruin. You know when we choose bad companions we soon learn their evil practices. This young man of whom we are telling you did so, and soon became the most wicked of the whole company. Three years ago he married a young girl seventeen years of age, whom he afterward treated very badly. So cruel and savage did he become with her that she was at last afraid to live with him. After performing several very wicked acts, he was at length brought before a court of justice and sentenced to jail for some time. When his term of imprisonment was over he was allowed to go free and went to his house. So badly had he treated his wife that she did not wish to see him, and begged him to go away. He did go away, but soon came back again. And what do you think he did? Immediately he shot her. At once she died and left behind her two small children. And now he has gone to meet God, to answer for the foul and cruel deed of murdering his wife, whom he had sworn to love and cherish.

Do you not think this sad story deserves to be more than read and noticed. Should it not make a very deep impression upon our minds. The career of this young man and his fate is a warning. How much depends on our present training for our future prospects. And perhaps nothing can be named that moulds our future so much as our companions.

As iron sharpeneth iron, so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend. Good men's graces are sharpened as they converse with those that are good. Bad men as they meet with the wicked their lusts and passions are excited.

Beware my dear friends of evil associates. Be very choice in your companions. If you have not been heretofore, commence the New year by making a wise choice. Oh how many like the young man we have been telling you of have been ruined because they did not heed the advice of parents and others. Evil communications corrupt good manners. By nature we are corrupt, and if we by our own conduct deepen that corruption, how very evil we become.

D.

"I AM HOLDING ON TO GOD."

A Red Indian was dying. His name was Samuel Papanckis, of Norway House Hudson's Bay. There he lay on the floor on a rabbit robe, in one corner of his little

home. He was filled with the highest joy at the prospect of going to be with the Lord Jesus. Stooping over him the missionary said, "Samuel, you are in the valley of the shadow of death; how is it with you?" He reached up his hand, and as though grasping something firmly, said, "I am holding on to God; he is my all of peace, and joy and happiness." then his spirit passed into the presence of that Saviour whom he had loved so well.

HOW TO DO GOOD.

Sidney Smith cut the following from a newspaper and preserved it for himself: "When you rise in the morning from the resolution to make the day a happy one to some fellow-creature. It is easily done—a left off garment to the man who needs it, a kind word to the sorrowful, an encouraging expression to the starving—trifles in themselves light as air—will do it at least twenty four hours. And if you are young depend upon it, it will tell when you are old; and if you are old, rest assured it will send you gently and happily down the stream of time to eternity. If you send one person, only one, happily through each day, that is 365 in course of the year. If you live only forty years after you commence that course of medicine, you have made 14,600 beings happy, at all events, for a time.

TEMPERANCE.

A carpenter asked a gentleman to sign a petition for a license to sell drink. "Why not stick to your plane and saw?" "The public house pays better, sir." "But you will help men to become drunkards, prehaps five every year. if you get this license." "Well, I never thought of that, but it is likely." "If you sell drink for ten years, fifty men may become drunkards through you." The carpenter tore up his petition and went back to his useful and honest work.

THE MISSIONARY PENNY.

The Rev. Walter W. Bagster, a missionary of the American Board of Foreign Missions, died in Southwest Africa in 1882. His mother early taught him his obligations to Christ. He said that the following incident was among the earliest recollections of his childhood:

My mother one evening gave me two pennies, suggesting that it would be well to give one of them to the Lord. To this