NORTHERN MESSENGER.

the spiders were forced to emigrate likewise. For some time we had been pestered by hornets that had built their nest in some unknown place near the house. One bright day when the hornets were uncommonly active, the outside doors, without screens, had been left open, and several hornets got into the house. The canaries were protected by netting,

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and we killed the intruders as they went to the windows as fast as we could get a chance. Thinking about the spiders I went into the bedroom ; and there was trouble enough.

Jehoshaphat was running with great rapidity about the wall, to attract the attention of the enemy to himself, I believe. The mother spider, with her legs close to-gether, and one of the young spiders held



between, was creeping along the edge of the rug close to the wall, when a hornet came out from behind the washstand.

I gave the intruder a violent brush, and then a battle ensued, during which neither the hornet nor myself took time to watch the spiders. A darting, mad hornet is no inferior antagonist, but I succeeded in driving it out into the study, and finally managed to kill it without getting stung.

When I went back to see how the spiders were getting on I could find nothing of them, nor ever saw either of them afterward. Their webs were left for a time, but they began to gather, dust, as empty houses will, and were demolished by broom and dusting-brush. As no dead young spiders were found, we trusted that Jehoshaphat and his wife and their children go off in safety.

We have not so much as a silken thread by which to remember Jehoshaphat and his family, but we have a handsome hornet's nest, which was discovered after it was deserted, under an old hoe without a handle which some one had hung to a loose clapboard on the back side of the woodshed .- J. Alvord Dingee, in Youth's Companion.

AN INCIDENT AND ITS LESSON.

During the Civil War many Northern men, instead of going into the army themselves, gave large sums of money to others to go in their places.

A distinguished Northern general had left an important post, in one of the border States, in the care of a subordinate officer, Colonel M—. Many negroes lived Colonel M—. Many negroes lived around this post who had been slaves, un-able to read or write, and, of course, ignorant of the value of money. These could easily be obtained, for a small sum. to enter the army as substitutes for rich men. A short time after the commander had gone a man was ushered into Colonel M--'s presence.

'Colonel,' he said, in a confidential manner, 'I see a chance for you and me to make something handsome. Some Northern nabobs are advertising for substitutes. Now, we can buy up these darkies for little a big, round sum, you may be sure, and we can pocket the difference. I shouldn't wonder, now,' continued the man, ' that'

around in his chair, and fixing his eyes in-indignantly on his tempter, 'would you make such a proposal to General H-?

A frightened expression swept over the man's face, as an emphatic 'no' burst violently from his lips. 'Well, then,' said the Colonel, rising

and preparing to bow his unwelcome guest

grand proportions of the officer for whom he was acting.

Christians, young and old, is not that a good rule for all to follow? How many temptations might be met and conquered just as quickly and completely as this was by asking the question. What would the Master do under-such circumstances ? and instantly, without any parleying, acting in accordance with the decision. If. Christians are the representatives of their Lord upon earth, it is not merely a safe rule out the only rule, for their guidance ; and if followed, it will settle, satisfactorily and forever, all those vexed questions of social and business life that so often prove snares to the feet. Then, too, with what grandeur and nobility that view of duty clothes the poorest and weakest of the followers of Jesus. 'Not I, but Christ in me,' they can truly say. What mighty strivings it creates in them to measure up to that lofty ideal of character and conduct which he holds up before all who would truly represent him upon earth.

The only conception that some people have of Christ and Christianity is that which they receive from Christians around them. What will the world think of Christ if I pursue such a course of conduct ? is a question that, if answered aright, would change many a stumbling-block into a bright light, shining with a clear and steady radiance, a sure guide to many groping, half-blinded souls.— Presbyterian Observer.

PROPORTIONATE GIVING.

In the late number of The Golden Rule Dr. Clark, president of the United Society of Christian Endeavor, in a very practical letter declares himself to be in favor of giving one-tenth of his income to missions. He writes, among other interesting items, 'At Cleveland, next July, twenty-five beautiful diplomas will be given to the societies that report the largest number of pledged proportionate systematic givers to missions.

I like a prize of that sort. It will be noticed that the award is not for the largest amount of money, because that would ex-clude all but the richest societies, but it is given to encourage the systematic giver, which may include the humblest offering from even the smallest child.

The simple addition of figures will often givo astonishing results. Dr. Clark makes a quiet little estimate in figures which is interesting. Supposing that there are day; it is as if they picked up the moments 300,000 Endeavorers who have, on an average, a regular income of \$500 per year, they will earn during the coming year 0.150,000,000 Cone-tenth of \$150,000,000 how to begin, let me tell you a secret : is \$15,000,000;-three times as much, it is Take hold of the very one that comes to said, as the missionaries of the country re-

ceived last year. But this sum can be earned and can be given,' concludes the writer. 'It is only a question of your doing your duty and of my doing mine. Shall we do it? I mean to do mine in this respect during the coming year, and I will add this clause to my individual personal pledge to the Lord Jesus Christ :

'I will give one-tenth of my income for the coming year to the service of Christ."

'Will you join me in this endeavor ?' This prominent and decided aunounce ment of his purpose in proportionate giving by a Christian leader so well known and so cordially trusted can but have a great influence over the minds of many who are yet hesitating as to what their duty may be in the line of Christian giving. Dr. Clark makes this announcement in his customary simple and practical manner, with no desire evidently to make a show is no trace of the sensational or sentimental character in the Christianity of this C. E. leader. His deliberations and final judgments in matters of Christian duty are based on the principles of common sense and righteous living, and they can but commend themselves to all who will carefully study the public utterances and the corresponding acts of the man.

Only a few days ago in my own parlor a

The Colonel was a small man, but I tian work. She had come to the concludoubt not that, as he uttered that last word, sion in the calmness of her own conviche assumed, to the person addressed, the tions, that some system of proportionate giving was the best plan to be adopted and that one-tenth of all she possessed was the very least offering that she could afford to make to the Lord Jesus Christ. It would be interesting to know if it were possible how many individuals throughout the churches have this year made this same resolve.-Ida Fullonton in Morning Star.

THE GENTLEMAN'S PSALM.

Very few people would agree exactly in giving a definition of a gentleman. Some have the idea that he is a man who lives on the income of his property and does no work ; others have other ideas on the sub-ject. Here is one that was once given by a Christian lady: She was the widow of an officer in the army, and was at a review with her young son when several officers, who had known her late husband, canie to talk to her, and the conversation ran on former common friends. At last she asked about a certain captain, who had risen from the ranks by distinguished ser-

'Oh, said one of the officers, 'I don't know anything about him ; he's a snob.' 'A snob !' answered the lady, fired with indignation. 'I tell you he was the truest

gentleman in the regiment.' 'Indeed ?' said her companion with a

sneer; 'then, as you seem to be so con-versant with the matter, perhaps you will kindly tell us what is a gentleman

Quietly, and without a moment's hesitation, the lady, looking straight in his face, repeated the fifteenth Psalm.' 'That is my definition of a gentleman,'

said she. Her little boy, a mere child of eight or

ten, was by. A day or two afterwards she happened to find in his pocket a piece of paper, on which was written out, in his childish hand, the whole of this Psalm, and at the beginning it was headed, 'The Gentleman's Psalm.'-Exchange.

BE PROMPT.

Don't live a single hour of your life without doing exactly what is to be done in it, and going straight through it, from begin-ning to end. Work, play, study, whatever it is, take hold at once and finish it up squarely; then to the next thing, without letting any moments drop between.

It is wonderful to see how many hours into file, and follow after like a company of well-drilled soldiers; and though work may be hard to meet when it charges in a squad, it is easily vanquished if you can bring it into line.

You may have often seen the anecdote of the man who was asked how he had ac-complished so much in life. 'My father complished so much in life. 'My father taught me,' was the reply, 'when I had anything to do, to go and do it. There is the secret—the magic word, now !—The Lutheran.

AN HISTORIC PARALLEL.

Being challenged as to his reasons for refusing wine on one occasion while in England, Dr. A. T. Pierson related the following incident : 'In Paris, during the Reign of Terror. there was a mount of gunpowder of where an immense amount of gunpowder of with other kinds of explosives. Reign of Terror. there was a magazine or nothing, and offer them to Northern of his generosity, but for the benefit of his There was a man there who took out his men for what they will give, which will be companions in Christian Endeavor. There pipe, filled it with tobacco, and lit it with a taper. His companion said, 'You should not smoke in this magazine; if you are going to smoke go out there.' He replied, going to smoke go out there. He replied, 'I am not going to have my liberty inter-fered with.' Liberty ! Has any man a right to exercise liberty when his indulgence is endangering millions of other people? It is quite a mistaken notion of liberty if you claim the right to smoke in a magazine of gunpowder. But the drink-ing habit is worse than a match lit in such young woman who has come to love ing habit is worse than a match lit in such 'giving' because she practises it quietly a magazine. There is not only peril in said that she was going to give one-tenth drink, but there is absolute and consuma magazine. There is not only peril in from his presence, 'don't make it to me.' of her income the coming year for Chris- mate destruction in it, and I do not know

how I could take any other position, knowing the effects of the drink traffic, than to set myself against it tooth and nail, with pen and tongue, with principle and practice, and I ask God to help you all to look at it in the same light.'

PROVIDENCE.

Somewhere, underneath the sky, While the summer winds pass by, Fed by sunshine, soil, and rain, Springs and grows the ripening grain, That with wheaten bread shall feed Thee and thine, in time of need, While thou toilest, heavy-hearted. As if hope and thou were parted.

Some stout hand the furrows made, And the seed within them laid : And some watchful eye took care. Lest, from out the earth or air, Weed or winged or creeping creature To the toil should bring defeature. God and man the wheat have tended, And from drought and deluge 'fended.

By some river, never still, Stands the dusty, hurrying mill, That shall grind thy grain to flour. Waiting now the day and hour. Somewhere ship and train are keeping

Room for it. While Thou art sleeping They may bring their freight anigh thee, But thy own will not pass by thee.

Is it well to sigh and fret When God's workmen all are set Each at his own task for thee? And His messengers will be All so fleet and free, transmitting Treasure for thy benefiting? Naught can hinder or evade Him,-

Sun, earth, seas, He has to aid Him.

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