

the room and left it open, and I was dreadfully tempted to go and turn the wheel."

"Did you resist?" Ronald asked, anxiously.

"I don't know—yes—I guess so," Sibyl replied, rather doubtfully. "I was just going to do it, when Helen came in and stopped me."

Dr. Waldemar had listened to the children's talk with a half-smile, and yet with a sad conviction that Sibyl's boasted resistance was but a fair type of that of many another tempted one.

"Guy," called Margaret, "come here, won't you?" and as he joined them, she said, "Helen and I have been talking about books. Dofft you think you could mark us out a course of reading? It would be so pleasant for me to have her read with me."

"You must remember I am not so well acquainted with Miss Humphrey's mind as with yours," Dr. Waldemar answered, gently. "And not knowing what books she has read, it would be presumption in me to advise what she should read."

"No," Helen said, earnestly, "I don't think so. I have read so little, hardly anything, in fact; if I only had time it would be delightful to read with Margaret."

"With what would you like to begin?" Dr. Waldemar asked, kindly.

"I don't know. I believe I would like to read something about everything; I know so little," she answered, with a sigh.

"Does that thought make you feel discouraged?" Dr. Waldemar said, with a pleasant smile. "It ought not; there is always some unknown land for the wisest to explore some unsolved problem to explain. If you would like to begin at the beginning of the alphabet, here are three A's you may find interesting—'Arnold's Rome,' 'Agassiz's Geological Sketches;' they will take you into early history and the formation of the earth. And then here is a book, at once full of leonine strength and homed sweetness—'Aurora Leigh.' Would you like to take these home, Miss Humphrey? It would give us great pleasure to have you."

Helen's eyes thanked him even more warmly than her words as she said:

"You are very kind," and eagerly reached out her hand for the books. But the next instant she drew back, the beautiful light in her eyes faded, and she looked very sober. "I am afraid I cannot," she said, sadly. "I don't think I ought, Dr. Waldemar."

"Are you quite sure?" he questioned, gently. "Sometimes our oughts and ought not originate in hindrances of our own making, and you must pardon me if I say that, unless there are very grave reasons why you cannot, it seems to me you ought most decidedly to read other books if not these. Our minds are talents, Miss Helen, for whose cultivation the Giver will justly hold us responsible."

"I know," Helen answered, humbly. "I would be glad to read and study if I could, but the days are so short that I have very little time. I am afraid I cannot trust myself, Dr. Waldemar," she said, modestly, "if I take these books. I shall feel hungry until they are read, and I shall be tempted to neglect other things—duties that must be done. I am sure," she repeated, firmly, "that I ought not to take them."

Dr. Waldemar looked at her with thoughtful eyes.

"Pardon me, if I seem to catechise you," he said; "but, Miss Humphrey, if the days are short the evenings are long: what do you do with them?"

"A great many things," she answered, with a smile, though something very like a tear shone in her eyes. "You don't know what it is to be a housekeeper, Dr. Waldemar. And then my brothers are home in the evening, and if I want to keep them there I must not consider my pleasure before theirs."

"You are right, my dear," Mrs. Waldemar said, as she placed her arm affectionately around the young girl.

"Do thy duty, that is best,
Leave unto thy God the rest."

Opportunities for reading and study will come in his own good time, and until then, Helen, you may feel sure that it is safe to wait. Guy," she said to her son, "I am sorry to break up our pleasant evening, but I know the little ones are tired, and Helen, I think, must feel the need of rest. Will you order the sleigh?"

"Oh, I'm so sorry to go home," Sibyl said, as Mrs. Waldemar was putting on her wraps. "I wish I could stay here."

Mrs. Waldemar drew the little, motherless child closer. "Do you, dear? I should like to keep you if I could." Sibyl looked up at the lady's face with sweet, childlike confidence.

"I love you," she said, trustfully; "may I come here again?"

"Yes, dear, very soon; whenever Helen will bring you." And so, with loving good-byes, and promises of its speedy repetition, their pleasant visit closed.

(To be continued.)

THE EDITOR AND THE COBBLER.

One day an editor hard at work, trying to devise a plan to make his delinquent subscribers pay their dues, was called upon by a shoemaker who dropped in to give the editor some hints on running a newspaper. The editor, pleased at the opportunity, gave the man his best cane-seat chair, honoured him with a cigar, and listened attentively to what he had to say. Quoth the shoemaker, as he lit the weed—"Your paper needs a hundred improved features; you do not grasp the topics of the day by the right handle; you don't set the locals in the right type; your telegraph news is too thin, even the paper itself is poorly manufactured, not thick enough, and of too chalky white; you don't run enough matter, and what you do run isn't of the right sort; your idea on Disestablishment is wrong, and in regard to 'We Colin' you stand bad. I tell you these things because I want to see you succeed. I tell you as a friend. I don't take your paper myself, but I see it once in a while;

and as a paper is a public affair, I suppose I have as good a right to criticise it as anybody. If a man wants to give me advice, I let him; I'm glad to have him, in fact."

"That's exactly it," said the editor, kindly; "I always had a dim idea of my short-comings, but never had them so clearly and convincingly set forth as by you. It is impossible to express my gratitude for the trouble you have taken, not only to find out these facts, but point them out also. Some people, knowing all these things, perhaps nearly as well as you, are mean enough to keep them to themselves. Your suggestions come in a most appropriate time. I have wanted some one to lean on, as it were, for some weeks. Keep your eye on the paper, and when you see a weak spot, come up." The shoemaker left, happy to know that his suggestions had been received with such a Christian spirit.

Next day, just as he was finishing a boot, the editor came in, and picking up the mate, remarked: "I want to tell you how that boot strikes me. In the first place, the leather is poor; the stitches in the sole are wide apart, and in the uppers too near the edge. These uppers will go to pieces in two weeks. It's all wrong, my friend, putting poor leather in the heels, and smoothing it over with grease and lat-p-black. Everybody complains of your boots; they don't last, the legs are too short, the toes too narrow, and the instep too high. How you can have the 'gall' to charge 22s. for such boots beats me. Now, I tell you this because I like to see you succeed. Of course I don't know any more about shoemaking than you do about a newspaper, but still I take an interest in you because you was so well disposed towards me. In fact I—." Here the exasperated cobbler grabbed a lapstone, and the editor gained the street, followed by old knives, pincers, hammers, and awls, sent after him by the wrathful cobbler.

SPEAK TO INDIVIDUALS SINGLY.

In an address recently given by H. L. Hastings of Boston, he says: "It will be well for us to learn to speak to individuals singly. 'A congregation of one' may be large enough to call forth all our powers in proclaiming the great news of salvation. Often we may save sinners one by one. If you had a bushel of bottles, and wanted to fill them with water, you would not think the quickest way would be to get a fire engine and hose and play over the heap—especially if the corks were all in—but you would be likely to take a single bottle by the neck, extract the cork, and then by means of a funnel turn in a little water at a time until it was filled; and then take another and repeat the process. You would get more bottles filled that way than with a hose and fire-engine playing upon them. So you may be able to accomplish more by working single-handed than in crowds. You may preach the word by the wayside or by the fire-side, for people need the same Gospel indoors as out."

We need to have the peace of God in our own hearts before we can do much good to other people's heart; and unless we can rule our own spirits, we shall not accomplish much in moulding the spirits of others. We notice a blacksmith uses a cold hammer to bend a hot iron; and after working with his tools a little while he plunges them into cold water. So, if you are to influence others, you must keep cool yourself; if you get your hammer hot you will not be able to bend the iron. It is useless to undertake to fight the devil with fire; but if you have the joy of God in your hearts you can smile at Satan's rage. You know the story of the old French General, who when he had besought the king to spare the Christians from persecution, and had been refused, said: "Sire, God's Church is an anvil that has worn out a great many hammers." Now, if you are filled with the Holy Spirit, you can stand a great deal of hammering, and the world will mock and sneer at you in vain; if you keep near the Lord you will ever triumph in His grace.

SHADOWS.

Many things can be learned from a shadow. Let us make an example or two. First, suppose we are in a part of the country with which we are not much acquainted, and we want to know the direction in which we are travelling; we can tell by the direction in which the shadows are thrown. We have simply to note the time by our watch, and bear in mind that the sun rises in the east, and sets nearly south by midday, after which he goes west. We must, at the same time, bear in mind that the shadow is thrown in exactly the opposite direction, so that when the sun is southeast, as it always is before midday, the shadows are thrown northwest. We need not compare the direction in which we are travelling with the line cast by our shadow. Again, suppose we are out walking, near midday, in the summer, and we have no means of knowing the exact time, nor the direction in which we are walking. Take a stick—a walking-stick will do very well, indeed—plant it upright; its shadow will be thrown by the sun, providing it is shining at the time, and, as it is near midday, its shadow will be short, and we can tell whether it is before or after noon, for, if before midday, the shadow will become shorter and shorter; if just after, it will increase in length. So that in this experiment we get both an indication of the time of day and the means of telling the four points of the compass. In this lies the whole secret of the sundial.

PROFESSOR FRISBIE, of Washington Observatory, estimates the length of the comet's tail at 50,000,000 miles.

AT a baptismal ceremony near Canton, Georgia, a rotten bridge carried two hundred persons into the water, many of them having arms or legs broken.

ONE of the notable things in New York is the costliness and elegance of some of the private stables. Several hundreds have been built this year. Most of them have cost between \$20,000 and \$50,000, but a number have gone to the fabulous region above \$75,000. It costs from \$3,000 to \$5,000 a year to keep a carriage establishment, and this increase in private stables is an index to the increase in private incomes.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

THERE are, it is estimated, about 700,000 Protestants in France.

THE Governors of the six New England States are total abstinence men.

THE Moravians number at home 20,000, and have gathered 73,000 heathen into the fold.

THE Duke of Athole, in Scotland, plants from 600,000 to 1,000,000 trees every year.

NEW YORK has seventy-five Catholic churches, and a Catholic population of 600,000.

IT is said that that the people of the United States drink sixteen million barrels of beer every year!

THERE are 1,000 charitable institutions in London, with an aggregate income of no less than \$20,650,000.

A FUND for an American Catholic University has been started in Chicago, which now amounts to \$300,000.

THE translation of the New Testament into Hebrew has recently been completed by Dr. Delitzsch, of Leipzig.

A NATIVE Hindoo has been appointed temporarily to fill the office of Chief Justice of India by the Viceroy of India, Lord Ripon.

THERE are one hundred and fifty-three Hindoo and Mohammedan sovereigns who are tributary to the Queen as Empress of India.

THE Canada Pacific Railway Company are expending at the rate of a million dollars a week just now, and employ close on four thousand men.

AT a cost of over £40,000, Ridley Hall, near Cambridge, built for training young men in the evangelical principles of the Church of England, is now completed.

THE imperial Prince of Japan, who is still a youth, having taken several courses in the army college at Tokio, will proceed to France to complete his military studies.

THE London "Lancet" believes that the young men of that city are encouraging the sensible habit of taking milk, coffee, or sandwiches instead of brandy or whiskey.

A FRIEND of the Boston University has recently offered to be one of ten to add half a million dollars to the endowment, or to give one-tenth of the sum however raised.

THE Bible in the Basuto language has been issued by the British and Foreign Bible Society at a cost of £4,000. This is the ninth completed Bible in the native language of Africa.

THE Paris Gazette estimates that Europe will want 200,000,000 bushels of wheat this year, but India, Russia, and the Danubian provinces will compete with the United States to supply the demand.

IT is said that within two weeks from the time it was known that a desirable Presbyterian pulpit in Orange, N.J., was to be left vacant, seventy-six applications were received from or in behalf of applicants.

THERE is said to be quite a run upon tweeds and tartans in London. It would delight the eyes of an untravelled Scotchman to see the favour his country's goods are held in. In Paris, too, there is the same mania.

THE latest religious development in Glasgow is a Saturday afternoon prayer-meeting. It is proposed to hold such meetings all over the city. On the first Saturday of the experiment there was an attendance of five hundred.

THE dissentients in the Leadhills case, after waiting patiently for over two years to obtain redress from the courts of the Church of Scotland, have resolved to seek admission into the Free Church. They number in all nearly 306.

A BUST of Robert Burns, the cost of which has been defrayed by small subscriptions, will shortly be placed in Poets' corner in Westminster Abbey, near the memorials of his fellow-poets and countrymen, Campbell and Thomson.

THE "Academy" says the revisers of the Old Testament have made so much progress that their work will certainly be finished in a few more months. Indeed, there is even some probability that the Revised Old Testament may be ready for publication by the close of next year.

WHEN during a political speech by Governor Cullom, in Illinois, a lady in the audience rose and said, "Governor, how are we to keep our husbands and sons from drunkenness?" he replied: "Keep them out of the saloons, madam." Why not add, "Drive the saloons out of town?"

THE "Washingtonian" says that during a murder trial in San Francisco, lasting eight days, the jury purchased and drunk four five-gallon kegs of beer, five gallons wine, ten bottles of claret, and considerable whiskey. Their verdict of guilty was set aside by the Supreme Court on this showing.

THE "Personal Liberty League of the United States," is the title under which the liquor dealers and manufacturers are to be organized. The "liberty" which they seek is liberty to make, sell, and drink intoxicating drinks, and the "organization" which they have formed is for the purpose of raising the "wild and fanatical prohibition movement."

A RECENT writer on Bible lands says: "Of all 'the seven churches of Asia,' Smyrna alone is living still. It was with considerable interest I worshipped at the English Church and saw written over the communion-table the message, 'To the angel of the Church in Smyrna,' closing with the thrilling promise, 'Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.'"

THE Free Church of Scotland recently reported that the largest sum ever raised for missionary purposes was contributed during the past year ending March 31, 1882. Of this sum, amounting to £82,726, the children of Scotland had raised £2,203. Fifty-two years ago Dr. Alexander Duff was the only missionary representing the Free Church of Scotland, now we rejoice to hear they number 536 workers, including fifty ordained missionaries.