

free, sir," said he, "and I thought I would say something to you as to my course. What do you think I had better do?"

"Yes, yes. I know you are," said the old millionaire, "and my advice is to go and learn the cooper's trade."

This application of ice nearly froze Ben out; but recovering his equilibrium he said if Mr. Girard was in earnest he would do so.

"I am in earnest."

And Ben forthwith sought the best cooper in Spring Gardens, became an apprentice, and in due time could make as good a barrel as the best. He announced to old Stephen that he had graduated, and was ready to set up in business. The old man seemed gratified, and immediately ordered three of the best barrels he could turn out. Ben did his prettiest, and wheeled them up to the old man's counting-room. Old Girard pronounced them first-rate, and demanded the price.

"One dollar each," said Ben, "is as low as I can live by."

"Cheap enough! Make out your bill."

The bill was made out, and old Stephen settled it with a check for \$20,000 which he accompanied with this little moral to the story:

"There, take that and invest it in the best possible manner; and if you are unfortunate and lose it, you will have a good trade to fall back upon, which will afford you a good living."

HINTS TO PARENTS.

FEW parents realize how much their children may be taught at home by devoting a few minutes to the instruction of them every day. Let a parent make a companion of his child, converse with him familiarly, put to him questions, answer enquiries, communicate facts, the result of his reading or observation awaken his curiosity, explain difficulties the meaning of things, and all this in an easy, playful manner, without seeming to impose a task, and he will be astonished at the progress which will be made. The experiment is so simple that none need hesitate about its performance.

THE WORTH OF A GOOD COMPANION.

A COMPANION that is cheerful, and free from scurrilous discourse and free from swearing, is worth gold. I love such mirth as does not make friends ashamed to look upon one another the next morning; nor men that cannot well bear it to repent the money they spent when then be warmed without such times and companions, that to make yourselves merry for a little, than a great deal of money, for it is the company and not the change that makes the feast.

FOUR GOOD HABITS.

THERE were four good habits a wise and good man earnestly recommended in his counsels, and also by his own example and which he considered essentially necessary for the management of temporal concerns; these are, punctuality, accuracy, steadiness, and despatch. Without the first of these time is wasted; without the second mistakes the most hurtful to our own credit and interest and that of others may be committed; without the third nothing can be well done, and without the fourth opportunities of great advantage are lost which it is impossible to recall.

WHAT MADE MICHAEL DAVITT A HATER OF ENGLAND.—One of the leading counsel of England asked Mr. Davitt, after his condemnation, why he, who had lived so long out of Ireland, should be so eager to redress her grievances. He replied "When I was three years old the roof was taken off my mother's house. We were then placed in an open cart and taken through the snow to a port, where we took ship for America. I have never forgotten this, and have vowed to devote my life to putting an end to a system which subjects others to a like fate." Curiously enough, one of the first speeches Mr. Davitt delivered on the Land League was from a platform erected on the exact spot where his mother's house used to stand.