

Cease to do evil; learn to do well.

Isaiah i. 16, 17.

### THE FOOLISH SAILOR.



A SHIP was wrecked off the coast of America some years ago. On board was a large consignment of Spanish dollars, packed in casks. The last boat was about to leave the wreck, when a young officer rushed back to see if any person had been forgotten. To his astonishment he saw a man calmly sitting on deck, with a hatchet in his hand, breaking open the casks, and heaping the money all about him!

"What can you be thinking of?" shouted the young man. "What are you doing? Don't you know the ship is sinking fast? A few minutes more and she will go down!"

"She may go down," said the man; "but I have lived a poor wretch all my life, and now I am determined that I'll die rich!"

Boys, did he die rich? He died poor, immeasurably poor for the next world. "What shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

Dear young reader, don't act as did this sailor. Remember you may be doing so, even though you are not on the ocean, or on a shipwrecked vessel.

Seek first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness. Don't let money-making be the first object.

### THE STRONGEST DRINK.

REV. C. H. SPURGEON says to the boys:--Water is the strongest drink. It drives mills; it's the drink of Lions and horses, and Sampson never drank anything else. Let young men be teetotalers, if only for economy's sake. The beer money will soon build a house. If what goes into the mash-tub went into the kneading trough, families would be better fed and better taught. If what is spent in waste were only saved against a rainy day, work-houses would never be built. The man who spends his money with the publican, and thinks landlord's bows and "How do you do my good fellow?" means true respect, is a perfect simpleton. We don't light fires for the herring's comfort, but to roast him. Men do not keep pot-houses for laborers' good; if they do they certainly miss their aim. Why, then, should people drink "for the good of the house?" If I spend money for the good of any house, let it be my own, and not the landlord's. It is a bad well into which you must put water; and the beer-house is a bad friend, because it takes your all and leaves you nothing but headaches. He who calls those his friends who let him sit and drink by the hour together is ignorant, very ignorant. Why, Red Lions, and Tigers, and Eagles and Vultures, are all creatures of prey, and why do so many put themselves within the power of their jaws and talons? Such as drink and live riotously, and wonder why their faces are so blotchy and their pocket so bare, would leave off wondering if they had two grains of wisdom. They

God is angry with the wicked every day.

Psalm vii. 11.