

self; and often is he known to go to the poor house to get money as a pauper, saying that he can obtain no work. He is the father of a vagabond family, and is supposed to have been connected with three-fourths of all the felons that were ever tried at the sessions."

"We never heard of such a bad fellow as that."

"The second of the gang is a most wretched looking creature, very thin, with a pale face and a hollow eye.—He was brought up under the same roof as the leader, and goes with him almost everywhere. Another of them frequents the gin shop, and is often heard swearing, and seen rolling about the streets in his cups. I could tell you of a dozen; but there is one daring rascal that I must not pass by. He prowls about in the night with picklock keys in his pocket, and is as ready to break open a house, or to commit a murder, as an honest man is to do a day's work. Oh, they are a terrible set, boys, and again I say take care of them!"

"Do you know any of the names of the gang?"

"Yes, indeed I do, and bad names they are. The name of the old rogue, the leader of the gang, is—Idleness."

"Oh, we know now what you mean. Please to tell us the names of the others?"

"The name of the pale-faced one is Want; and Idleness and Want, as I said before, are never long apart from one another. He who goes to the gin shop is called Intemperance; and the name of the ruffian with the crowbar is Crime. There are at least a score more of them—Anger, Malice, Hatred, Slander, Revenge, and Violence, among them; but if we could get rid of these four—Idleness, Want, Intemperance, and Crime, the whole gang would soon be broken up altogether."

"Thank you for the account that you have given us. We shall remember every word of it. We thought at first that you meant a real gang of thieves, but we understand your meaning now."

"Be sure, then, that you follow my advice. Beware of idleness, for want and intemperance are sure to follow it, and then crime will come as a matter of course. But, boys, 'the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked' (Jer. xvii, 9). May God give

you a clean heart and a right spirit, that you may, through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, be kept from all evil."

"We knew that you would tell us something worth hearing, and so you have, sir. We will do our best to follow your advice, and shall not soon forget what we have heard of the Desperate Gang."

WHAT BOYS OUGHT TO KNOW.

A PHILOSOPHER has said that the true education for boys is to teach them what they ought to know when they become men. What is it they ought to know, then?

1. To be true; to be genuine. No education will be worth anything that does not include this. A man had better not know how to read—he had better never learn the alphabet, and be true and genuine in intention and action, rather than, being learned in all sciences and in all languages, to be at the same time false at heart and also counterfeit in life. Above all things teach the boys that truth is more than riches, more than culture, more than earthly power or position.

2. To be true in thought, language and life—pure in mind and in body. An impure man, young or old, poisoning the society where he moves with smutty stories and impure example, is a moral ulcer, a plague spot, a leper, who ought to be treated as were the lepers of old, who were banished from society and compelled to cry "Unclean," as a warning to save others from the pestilence.

3. To be unselfish. To care for the feelings and comforts of others. To be just in all dealings with others. To be generous, noble and manly. This will include a genuine reverence for the aged and things sacred.

4. To be self-reliant and self-helpful even from early childhood. To be industrious always and self-supporting at the earliest proper age. Teach them that all honest work is honorable, and that an idle useless life of dependence on others is disgraceful.

When a boy has learned these things; when he has made these ideas a part of his being, however young he may be, however poor or however rich, he has learned some of the important things he ought to know when he becomes a man. With these four properly mastered, it will be easy to find the rest.