

In getting things she wants. Was it not kind of him?"

Mr. Maxwell's face changed at once. He looked as if he could hardly credit his wife's statement. "My dear, I cannot see how Hartwell could afford to get his wife that expensive piece of wearing apparel. He is very hard up just now. I am better fixed than he is, and much as I would delight to have given my dear wife just such a gift, I could not do it without going into debt heavily. That is against my principles. I must say that I do not think it was any kindness to his wife to indulge her in such a way. I do not wish you to say anything of what I am about to tell you. Mr. Hartwell came to my office and borrowed fifty dollars of me two months ago. He did not wish me to say anything about the matter, and I did not, even to you. He said he would pay it in ten days at the most, but he has never spoken of the debt since. I found to-day that since that time he borrowed different sums of money from mutual friends of ours, and has repaid none of them. Would you like to wear anything representing so much money, if your husband had borrowed the means to get it with?"

"Oh, no, no, Walter, dear. I was all wrong. I did think that perhaps Mr. Hartwell loved his wife better than you do me, but I don't now."

"It is because I love you so well and I do not want to hurt my standing in a financial way that I do not get things we cannot afford. I do not owe a cent in the world. 'Live within the rim of your shilling' is an old adage I learned from my grandfather."

"I would not wear that garment for anything, under the circumstances," exclaimed Mrs. Maxwell. "Everybody Mr. Hartwell borrowed money of will think he has a lien on that garment. I am glad, Walter, you were too wise and considerate of my reputation and your own to place me in such trying circumstances."

"I know, little wife, that you wanted just such a one, and I would have been so happy to have indulged your wishes, if it had not been for the prudentials."

"Of course Mrs. Hartwell does not know her husband borrowed all that money, Walter, for she would not take any comfort in showing her new wrap if she did."

"I presume she does not know of the tight place in business affairs her husband is in. I think Hartwell is one of those men who do not tell their business matters to their wives."

"And I know every month just how we stand in the financial world, Walter; I always have, ever since we were married. I thank you, my dear, dear husband, for such confidence."

"I believe every woman should know her husband's true circumstances—the majority of wives are true to their husband's interests, and will try to help instead of hinder him in making a character for integrity and uprightness, if he only trusts her."

"I'm so glad you did not get me what I so foolishly hinted I wanted, Walter. You did me a greater kindness by giving me the gifts that came "within the rim of our shilling,""

Mrs. Hartwell astonished her friends and neighbors by appearing at church in her new elegant sealskin—all unconscious was she of the way her husband had managed to indulge his pretty wife to such a degree of extravagance. But one wife whispered to another wife, "Mr. Hartwell has never paid my husband the money he borrowed long before Christmas, and we needed it so much, the children could not have new coats this winter in consequence." And so one after ano-

ther spoke as they saw the unconscious Mrs. Hartwell, apparently so happy in the garment she wore, which cost so much more than those of her neighbors. But before the spring came Mr. Hartwell's name appeared under that appalling word, "Insolvent." His friends never got the money due them, and his wife bemoaned the fact that her husband had so little business capacity. Before another winter came the garment she had so greatly desired was sold, and some necessary garments, and comforts really needed, were brought.

Mr. and Mrs. Maxwell were truly sorry for their neighbors' misfortunes, and were lonely without them after they gave up the house where they, too, had spent the early years of their married life, and had gone elsewhere to make a new start.—Christian at Work.

Dare to be Singular.

The sombre thing about the world is, not that men are miserable, or that men are mortal, but that the mass of men choose to be foolish and bad, and they do so because it is easiest. The sluggard's motive of saving trouble shapes the lives of most of us. It is easy travelling in the ruts. A cabman will always try to get his wheel on the tram rails. It goes smoothly. We are ever disposed to swallow what everybody round about us declares to be food, even though we, in our inmost hearts, know that it is poison. Tell a man that 10,000 people go to see something, and he is sure to make the 100,001st as soon as he can. Tell him that nobody goes that road, and he will not go it. Jesus Christ comes to us, and says, therein echoing the words and consciences of all true teachers and guides, "Be suspicious of what most people believe, and avoid what most people do." The road is traversed by crowds. Well, that is a presumption against it. Dead fish go down the stream, living ones swim the other way. Where you are called to go, go; never mind though you have to go alone. Be sure of this, that no man will be a thorough disciple of Christ's who does not dare to be singular, or is cowed into conformity with the majority. You young men in Manchester offices and warehouses, you men of business in your daily life, we students and scholars, all of us who live in dread of what people will say, let us all take this lesson, and remember that if we are going to be Christ's sort of Christians we must be contented to be in the minority.—Dr. McLaren.

A Sheep Appears as a Witness.

An evangelist observes:—"I heard lately of an interesting case of sheep-stealing in the East. The accused and accuser were brought before the judge. In the course of the examination the judge asked, 'Are there no witnesses?'"

"None, my Lord," said he from whom the sheep had been stolen.

"Is the sheep still alive?" then inquired the judge.

Being told that it was, he commanded that it should be brought in. When this was done, the supposed thief was asked to retire outside the door and call to the animal, for if it were his it would know his voice, and follow him. He did so, and called the sheep several times, but to no purpose. The sheep did not recognize his voice, and would not obey the call. "It is certainly not your sheep," said the judge, and commanded the complainant to go outside and call it. There was no room for doubting that this man was the owner, for at the first sound of his

voice, the sheep pricked up its ears and sought its master, and entered the court with him.—Christ Himself has said, "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them and they follow Me; but a stranger will they not follow, for they know not the voice of a stranger." (John x, 4, 5.)—Christian Herald.

Patches Not Sufficient.

Ministers and Sunday-school teachers make a sad mistake when they direct their main efforts against particular sins, instead of striking at the source of all sins—a godless, unconverted heart. Make the tree good, and the fruit will be good. Many a drunkard, disgusted by his own loathsome vice, has made a solemn resolution to break off his evil habit, but has not gone the whole length of seeking a new heart and the mighty help of God. He has attempted to patch a new habit on an old heart; and even his total abstinence pledge soon tore out, and the rent was made worse. So with all kindred sins of falsehood, lechery, Sabbath-breaking, covetousness and the like. A man may be shamed out of certain public desecrations of God's Day, and yet hide away a Sabbathless heart in his own house. An eloquent appeal may wring a contribution of money out of a stingy soul; but he will lock his purse the tighter the next time and confirm his covetousness. What such a man needs is the melting power of a new affection; if he does not give from a right motive his money may do good, but he is no better for having it coaxed or extorted from him. Barnabas gave his land to the Christian Church at Jerusalem because he had already given his heart to Christ. During my fifty years' ministry I have never seen a sinner patched up so neatly that he looked and acted like a genuine Christian.

Christ's method of dealing with human character is the only thorough method. He says: "Behold, I make all things new." If any man be in Christ, and Christ in him, he is a new creature. The rotten garment has been discarded, and the complete righteousness of Jesus has been put on, so that the shame of a spiritual nakedness has been covered. How sharply Jesus clove to the root of the matter with Nicodemus! He does not tell the inquiring Pharisee to go home and reform certain bad practices; but he said, "Ye must be born anew." Conversion meant a new character. The young ruler was able to show some very bright patches of virtue, and expected to be praised for them; but when the Saviour offered him the entirely new garment that cost self-denial, but would bring eternal life, the poor fellow went away with his old, patched robe, crestfallen and sorrowful. God has ordained the great principle that no pardon of sin and no new nature can be obtained except through an acceptance of Christ, and regeneration by the Holy Spirit. The supreme gift of the Lord Jesus is a new character. The Apostles never wasted their breath on a gospel of patchwork. Their twofold text was "turn to the Lord," which meant repentance, and "cleave to the Lord," which meant a life of faith and obedience.—Rev. Dr. Cuyler.

From 'only' one word many quarrels begin,
And 'only this once' leads to many a sin,
'Only a penny' wastes many a pound,
'Only once more' and the diver was drowned,
'Only one drop' may drunkards have made,
'Only a play' many gamblers have said,
'Only a cold' opens many a grave,
'Only resist' many evils will save.
—English paper.