

young lady, determined not to give over her catechism until she had drawn Charlie into close quarters.

Now, Charlie might have very naturally and properly answered, "My parents do not approve of my going," as a young person would if he had no other reason to offer. But Charlie did his own thinking, and worked out the conclusion in his own mind from what he had seen with his own eyes. He might have said that he had heard that the influence of such places was anything but good; that many young persons were ruined by them; that very vile persons, as well as those that were respectable, attended them; that the character of play-actors was said to be very bad; that many of the popular plays and operas were decidedly immoral; all this he might have said, but he had not been over this in his own mind. But he did say this, and some older persons heard him, and were struck with his answer:

"I have noticed this," said Charlie, "that the best persons I know—the truest Christians—those that are doing the most good, and are the most active in the religious services—never attend such places. I have also noticed that those that do go are not fond of prayer-meetings, and are not those found labouring in the Sunday-school, and ready for every good work.—This is the reason why I have preferred not to attend the theatre and opera.

It was simply and honestly spoken, and there was not a word to be said in opposition to it. There was not one, even of that gay company, but knew this to be true. And there was not one of them that did not respect the manly stand taken by Charlie, and approve his decisions in their hearts, although few of them might have the courage or piety to follow his example.

It has never been written that one person has been made more generous, more truthful, more beloved of God and man, by attending these places of amusement; but it has been recorded that hundreds have fallen into habits of dishonesty, prodigality, and intemperance by yielding to the seductive influence of the theatre. One may be equally as cheerful, as eloquent of speech, as fond of music, certainly as lovely and pious, without ever entering

these places of amusement, which good men, from the beginning of them, have looked upon as only hurtful.—*Zion's Herald.*

THE ISLES WAITING FOR GOD'S LAW.

The wonderful tidings have been received that the natives of the Lagoon islands, a group of nine islands about 800 miles from the Navigator's group, containing a population of over 3,500, have renounced paganism, swept away every vestige of idolatry, and are anxious for the gospel. Ten years ago, the natives of one island, becoming weary of paganism, followed the advice of the master of a trading vessel who visited the islands, and burned their idols, and for ten years have been waiting for a guide to teach them the way of God more perfectly. A native Samoan missionary and his wife are now there, being able to use the Samoan Scriptures and books, the language being similar. On another group, about 60 miles distant, where the people had destroyed their idols about the same time, the chief told the Samoan preacher that they were all in darkness, waiting for some one to teach them. A teacher was left among them, and in two days seventeen had acquired the alphabet, and in a fortnight between twenty and thirty could read. On another group, the people hearing what had been done, destroyed their gods, renounced idolatry, and for years have kept the Sabbath and public worship in the neat and clean chapel. It is a sad and shameful fact, that the inhabitants of two of those islands were ensnared into slavery by the desire to know about the true God. The infamous Peruvian slavers took advantage of their wishes, and coming with two vessels, invited the people to go on board that they might be taken where they would be taught about God and religion, and afterwards be brought back to their homes. So great was their eagerness to be taught about God, that they flocked on board the ships, those who could not obtain passage in the ships' boats going in their canoes, and even swimming to the vessels, and they were thus enticed away from their peaceful homes.