

But Jane did not see that; and from that time she regularly absented herself from church on the Sunday evenings. On account of the state of her health, Mrs. Clayton was not able to go to church in the evening, so that she was not aware of her absence; nor did Mary think it her duty to inform her mistress.

The fact was there was "a young man" in the way, and he never went either to church or chapel. So instead of going to church Jane went wandering with him in the country.

Mary remonstrated very kindly, but it was of no use. Jane was bent on having her own way.

Of course Jane had a great deal to say about her "young man," to all of which Mary listened very kindly. One day, however, in reply to some plain question, Jane confessed that she knew scarcely anything about him but what he himself had told her; that he had, perhaps, not been quite as steady as he might have been, but that he had resolved to be sober and good if only she would help him; and that she had not told her father and mother.

"Your father and mother ought to know about it," said Mary; "and just tell me if the reason you don't tell them is that you doubt whether they would approve of it? At any rate, they might make inquiries about him such as you cannot."

To this Jane made no reply.

"Then," continued Mary, "I am afraid you are beginning badly. John Aston persuades you to neglect church, though he can hardly help knowing that in doing so you are breaking your word to Mrs. Clayton. And is it true that last Sunday evening you were sitting with him in the Chained Bull at Adel; and that before you left he had taken more than was good for him?"

"Who told you that?" asked Jane, angrily.

"Never mind who told me, Jane," said Mary, "is it true?"

And Jane could not deny it. A shower had come on as they were walking, and they went in for shelter; and they could not sit there without taking something, and John was a little bit merry and noisy when they got out. But it should not occur again; and John had made her a faithful promise, not, indeed, to give up the drink entirely, but to be very temperate.

Mary besought Jane very earnestly to keep her promise to her mistress about going to church on the Sunday evenings; but all she could get from her was, "I'll see."

Which meant that she would take her own way. And she did so to her cost.

At length Mrs. Clayton heard that Jane was absenting herself from church, and there were some other things about which she had reason to complain. Jane was very independent, and gave notice to leave, saying, pertly, that there were places where she would not be so bound.

She found another place, and another after that, and then John Aston and she got married.

They married with a house not half furnished, and they began in debt; for neither of them had saved anything, and it was very little help their friends could give them. Children came, and poor Jane had

a hard life of it; harder for this, that John found the public-house a great deal more attractive than his own fireside, and spent there no small amount of his wages.

Mary showed Jane much kindness after her foolish marriage. In the course of a year or two she herself got married, and one day Jane went, by her kind invitation, to see her.

She had married a working-man in the same shop as John Aston; but he was a steady man and a true Christian. One day, as Jane looked round her friend's nicely-furnished dwelling, and saw how happy she was, she said very sadly, "Ah, Mary, if I had only taken your advice, I might just now have been as happy as you."

Mary tried to cheer her, but it was hard work.

EVERY LITTLE HELPS.

So we thought the other day at a mothers' meeting in one of the poorest districts of London.

Here were gathered together four or five hundred poor pale-faced women, who had come out of those close courts and alleys of the great city, about which country people hear so much but seldom see for themselves. A few boys from an Orphanage had come with their bells to cheer up these poor folks while their needles were at work patching and darning their tattered clothes. And it would have done your heart good to see their faces brighten up at the sound of a familiar strain, and how they looked at each other with a smile when "Home, sweet Home," was played. Although we are afraid that in most cases it has been many a long year since they knew what it was to have a happy home.

But at the end of the room was a long table strewn with fruits, chiefly apples, pears, and cheap grapes, and these gifts the poor women had brought in little quantities for their poor brothers and sisters in the hospital close by. Some had just managed to buy one pear or a couple of small apples, and it was so touching to hear one poor woman with a little pale quiet-looking child on her arm tell the ladies that "the little one had carried the bunch of grapes all the way, and never asked for one." God bless the dear little creature! He who sees everybody's gift will not forget the tiny hand which carried those few grapes bought by her poor mother for the sick ones.

Yes, as we said at the beginning, every little helps. The self-sacrifice of these pinched and weary women in each giving their little and as much as they could, made that nice and abundant show of fruit for others. This is just what the Lord Jesus Christ teaches us to do. He asks from us not more than we are able to give, and He expects no less. And when everything is known it will be seen how much the poor have helped the poor. The rich men cast their gold into the treasury, and the disciples wondered very much that Christ did not commend them; but He rather chose to notice the poor widow who cast in her two mites, which make a farthing.