

2. That we must take heed how we hear.

3. That we should prepare our heart to receive the word by casting out everything that is contrary to it.

4. That we should not let the world creep into our heart and destroy the good Christ placed there.

5. That we should seek in turn to become sowers of the seed, to teach others the truth.—*Westminster Question Book.*

PRAYING IN HALF A ROOM.

In a large and respectable school, two boys—from different towns, and strangers to each other—were compelled by circumstances to occupy it together. It was the beginning of the term, and the two students spent the first day in arranging their room and getting acquainted. When night came, the younger of the two boys asked the other if he did not think it would be a good idea to close the day with a short reading from the Bible and a prayer. The request was modestly made, without cant of any kind. The other boy, however, bluntly refused to listen to the proposal.

"Then you will have no objection if I pray by myself, I suppose?" said the younger. "It has been my custom, and I wish to keep it up."

"I don't want any praying in this room, and I won't have it!" retorted his companion.

The younger boy rose slowly, walking to the middle of the room, and standing upon a seam in the carpet which divided the room nearly equally, said quietly:

"Half of this room is mine. You may choose which you will have. I will take the other, and I will pray in that half or have another room. But pray I will, whether you consent or refuse."

The older boy was instantly conquered. To this day he admires the sturdy independence which claimed as a right what had boorishly denied as a privilege.

WHAT TOBACCO AND STRONG DRINK DID.

It is thirty-eight years ago since I became a clerk in a large store in Philadelphia, and among the young men of the day was one that was pointed out to me as the one I was to imitate if I intended to succeed. He had a large income from his position in the store; he commanded a salary of \$900 a year for singing in a famous Episcopal church, and besides, he was wonderfully popular in all kinds of company, because he could sing, and because he was a gentleman. His business required a great deal of nerve force, and singing in the evenings and on the Sabbath, and being in society constantly, his nerve force was diminished. He soon began to smoke excessively. When asked why he did it, he said he had a "gone feeling" all the time when he didn't smoke. About eleven o'clock in the morning he began to go out and drink a single glass of brandy; he drank it alone, simply for stimulus. To wind up his sad career, that young man died at thirty-six, a drunkard, and for four years before he died, he spent his evenings singing in lager beer saloons, to be paid by drinks and by gifts. He broke his mother's heart, who adhered to him, as a mother will, when everybody else despised him. He never meant to be a drunkard, but he made himself one by trying to be everything else and also a successful salesman.—Rev. Dr. J. M. Bulkley.

THE SECRET OF SUCCESS.

A Christian merchant, who from being a very poor boy has risen to wealth and renown, was once asked by an intimate friend to what, under God, he attributed his success in life. "To prompt and steady obedience to my parents," was his reply. "In the midst of many bad examples from youth of my own age I was always enabled to yield a ready submission to the will of my father and mother, and I firmly believe that a blessing has, in consequence, rested upon me and all my efforts."