

bers the use of tobacco, which is not only disgusting and harmful to the individual, but also presents an example which, when followed by the young, operates to their serious physical, moral, and spiritual injury.

"We submit for the earnest consideration of those connected with our Church who are engaged in the sale of tobacco, whether the time has not come when it should be discarded from their stock of merchandise."

In view of the growth and evil effects of this practice, the time has come for the Church to take up the matter in good earnest. A great deal of good may be done by instructing the children in our Sunday-schools on this subject, and faithfully warning them against the practice. We earnestly exhort the young to resist all temptation to form this habit; and the old, who have formed the habit, should give it up, in order not to approve by example what they condemn in words. —*Guardian.*

SNARES.

**WEAVER** sits at an airy loom,  
And a wary weaver he!  
He sets his frame in the garden gloom,  
And his distaff who may see!  
He throws his shuttle with craft and care,  
A thousand threads for a strand,  
And toils are his, and a silken snare,  
The finest web in the land!  
He lurks unseen, while the winged and fleet  
Are caught by his art and guile;  
Alas, and alas, in that garden sweet,  
For the victims of his wife!

A weaver sits at a darker loom,  
And a cruel weaver he!  
He sets his frame in a dark world's gloom,  
And his distaff who may see!  
He throws his shuttle with craft and care,  
And dark is his web of sin,  
Its warp and its woof a silken snare,  
Entangling the souls within.  
His hands are strong, for a thousand coils  
Are wrought in a single strand,  
And clasp the victims in many toils  
For the clutch of his cruel hand.  
Alas, alas, for the souls that slit,  
Unwary into the gloom!  
Alas, and alas, for the hidden net  
And web of the weaver's loom!

—*Clara Thwaites.*

THE QUEEN'S INFLUENCE.

WHEN Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues were defeated in the House of Commons a few weeks ago, and decided to retire from office, the first thing the Prime Minister did was to tender to the Queen the resignations of all the members of the Cabinet. The Queen, who was at Balmoral, in Scotland, telegraphed her acceptance of the resignations, and summoned the leader of Opposition, the Marquis of Salisbury, to confer with him.

When the Marquis arrived, the Queen "commanded" him to form a new Ministry, which he thereupon proceeded to do. But the Queen might have sent for and issued the same command to any other statesman of either party. She was not compelled to send for Lord Salisbury, but in doing so used her own discretion, while at the same time she followed the usual course in such cases.

Many people, who are well informed in most matters, labour under one of two entirely different mistakes as to the position of the Queen, or the sovereign, in the English political system.

Some persons are under the impression that she exercises a great deal of royal power, and in many ways actually directs the government of her realm. Others regard her as a mere puppet, a

useless ornament, with no power whatever, and wholly subject to the will of her Ministers.

Neither of these views is correct. The truth lies midway between them. Many of the powers and functions which the Queen apparently and nominally exercises, she really does not exercise at all. For instance, according to the laws of England, the sovereign has the power to declare war or conclude peace, to make treaties, to create peers, to expend the revenue, to summon and dissolve Parliament, and to veto bills.

But each and all these powers are really exercised by the Ministry of the day. The Queen only does these things on paper. Her name is used and her signature given to all these acts. But she is obliged to act in regard to them as the Ministers advise her. Should she undertake to do any of these things against the will of the Ministers, she would probably provoke a revolution.

On the other hand, the Queen is far from being a nonentity in the English system. She has, indeed, no real, arbitrary power to direct the policy of her State; but, as Mr. Gladstone has pointed out in his "Gleanings of Past Years," she has a very great "influence." She reigns, but does not govern. While she cannot really command, she can do much, by reason of her exalted place and her social supremacy, to influence the course of political events.

The Queen is always informed of every step her Ministers intend taking in public affairs. She discusses these steps, and gives her views upon them, and her views are always listened to with deference. Ministers will strive, if possible, to accede to her wishes. Though without power, the Queen thus has an important influence.

This influence, too, is largely measured by the personal qualities and character of the sovereign. Her prudence, experience, zeal for the welfare of the people, and familiarity with public affairs, if such qualities she has, will greatly increase her influence. On the other hand, a weak, foolish, dissipated, capricious, or inexperienced sovereign would have much less weight in public affairs.

Queen Victoria has reigned so long, has shown such sensible and patriotic qualities, and is known to be so earnestly devoted to the well-being of her empire, that her opinions and wishes are an important factor in British policy. Should her successor fall in these traits, he would be far less influential than Victoria now is in the English realm.

COLLEGE AND CLERKS.

MANAGERS of daily papers are averse to engaging as a reporter a young man who has just graduated from college. "It takes several months to knock the nonsense out of the head of a graduate," says the manager, when applied to, "and we can't lose so much time." Then, perhaps, he will tell the story of a new reporter, a graduate, who was sent to report a coroner's inquest. The youth described the corpse, the coroner and the jurymen, but not a word did he write about the verdict.

College graduates who seek clerkships find that merchants also are reluctant to engage them. Nine merchants out of ten believe that a classical education unfits a young man for

business. They cling to their belief in defiance of the fact that some of the most eminent merchants passed through college into the counting room.

A young man, a Bostonian, graduated from Harvard a few years ago, with honour. He looked over the professions and himself, and decided that his vocation was business. He applied to several merchants, through his father, for employment as a clerk. One reply met the application—"We don't want a college graduate for a clerk, we prefer a boy who comes from the English High School."

At last, the father asked a merchant on whom he had a claim for consideration, to receive the young man as a salesman. The merchant did not absolutely refuse, but hesitated.

"I would like to oblige you," he answered, "but, to speak frankly, I don't believe in college graduates. They are too uppish, and they don't know anything but a little Greek and Latin, and less arithmetic. They can't sell goods, and they don't like to bone down to hard work."

"Try him for six months," said the father, "and then, if he don't suit, discharge him. But I want you to give him a fair chance to show the stuff that's in him."

The young man was taken on trial. He was observing, eager and obliging, ready to do even the most insignificant duty that pertained to his business. The goods of his house he made his constant study, eagerly assisting in every department that he might acquire the knowledge he sought. The result was that with a mind trained and receptive he learned in twelve months' time what would have cost an untrained clerk two years of apprenticeship.

At the end of that time he was put upon the road as a salesman. A good salesman's strong point is his knowledge of human nature. The young man had studied human nature where there were several hundred specimens of all sorts. Thus equipped, and with the address and manners of a gentleman, he went out among buyers.

He made failures, of course, but they taught him more than his successes. Experience gave him confidence, and soon the employer complimented him. The four-months' salesman sold large bills to paying customers, at satisfactory prices. One day the merchant said to the youth's father:

"I am satisfied; he is a better salesman than some men we have had in our employ for several years. I believe now in college men—at least, I should say, perhaps, in college men who have good common-sense, and are not afraid of hard work." —*Youth's Companion.*

MAGGIE'S SIXPENCE.

A MISSIONARY told us the other day a very affecting little incident. He had been preaching a mission sermon in Scotland, and telling of the condition of the poor women of India, and he observed that many of the audience seemed quite affected by his account. A few days afterwards, the pastor of the church where he had preached met on the street one of his parishioners, a poor old woman, half blind, who earned a precarious livelihood by going on errands, or any other little work of that kind that came in her way. She went up to him, and with a bright smile put a sixpence into his hand,

telling him that was to go for the mission work in India. Her minister, knowing how very poor she was, said, "No, no, Maggie; this is too much for you to give, you cannot afford this." She told him that she had just been on an errand for a very kind gentleman, and instead of the few coppers she generally received, he had given her three pennies and a silver sixpence, and said she—"The silver and the gold is the Lord's, and the copper will do for poor Maggie." How many lessons do God's poor teach us! "Poor in this world, rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom!" —*At Home and Abroad.*

HER TREASURES.

**SHE** had put her little children to bed,  
And was sitting before the fire,  
Watching the sparks from the back logs fly,  
Then fall on the hearth and expire.

She was sitting alone, for her husband was late,  
Detained at the little store  
Which he kept in the mining-camp. But—  
Hark!  
Is not that his step on the floor!

She turned with a smile, then her face grew pale;  
For she saw in the lamplight's glare  
Two men, with fierce and menacing looks,  
Who were standing behind her chair.

She did not scream, but she paused to think:  
Then she prayed to heaven for aid.  
When one of the men, in a rough voice, said:  
"Well, you don't seem much afraid!"

"You're a sensible woman. Just show us the place  
Where you keep your silver and gold,  
And no harm shall befall you, but if refuse  
No power our wrath shall withhold."

"Come show us your treasures," the other said,  
Then a sudden smile lighted her face.  
"I will," she replied, as she took up the lamp,  
"Follow me; I will show you the place."

She led the way to the children's room,  
And there pointed to the bed  
Where, nestling on either pillow, lay  
A beautiful curly head.

"These are my treasures; I have no more,"  
She said, "neither silver nor gold."  
As she spake, down the foremost robber's cheek  
A glittering tear-drop rolled.

"I cannot stand this, let us go," he said,  
"Little woman, you put us to shame.  
Your treasures are safe." And they stole away  
As quietly as they came.

NEATNESS.

A GIRL'S every-day toilet is a part of her character. The maiden who is slovenly in the morning is not to be trusted, however fine she may look in the evening. No matter how humble your home may be, there are eight things it should contain—a mirror, washstand, water, soap, towel, hair, nail and tooth brushes. These are just as essential as your breakfast, before which you should make good use of them. Look tidy in the morning, and after the dinner work is over improve your toilet. Make it a rule of your daily life to "dress up for the afternoon." A girl with sensibilities cannot help feeling embarrassed and awkward in a ragged, dirty dress, with her hair unkempt, if a stranger or neighbour should come in. You should make it a point to look as well as you can, even if you know nobody but yourself will see you —*Philadelphia Call.*