

His followers did what He had not time to do. There was Dorcas, of whom it is written that, at her death, "All the widows stood by Peter, weeping and showing the coats and garments which she had made while she was with them." And even when Christ had not yet come, a devout woman made a little chamber to shelter a homeless prophet in his wanderings.—B. H. NICHOLS.

SELF-DENIAL.

WRITTEN FOR THE "MISSIONARY GLEANER."

Deny means to say "no" to, to refuse to grant, or to withhold. When we deny self therefore we say "no" to a desire of self, withhold from, or refuse to grant to self something. Self-denial also implies sacrifice or cost; so that the something that we deny ourselves must be that which we desire, little or much, according to the degree of self-denial. It would not be self-denial to withhold from ourselves something that we did not want.

It is a fact that we are born with the desire to please ourselves uppermost, and it is also a fact that this self-denial is practised. What is the object those who practise it have in view, do they attain that object, and is there any necessity laid on us for the practising of it, are the three questions I propose to talk a little about.

All real kinds of self-denial do good, but some do more than others, even with the same amount of effort. The monk in his cell in the olden time certainly denied himself the pleasure of mixing with his fellow-men, and he certainly attained his object, to make himself a better man, although it did not do much good to the world. Our Roman Catholic and even our Episcopalian friends during Lent deny their bodies pleasure and gratification, and their characters are so much the better for it, but it does not do any one else good directly, only as it makes their own characters stronger and richer, thus helping to make the world that much purer and better; but the young woman who gives the money that, if she had pleased herself, would have bought a new pair of gloves, to the mission cause, attains a two-fold object, the one she had in view of helping her less fortunate sisters, and one she had not in view of making stronger and better her own character.

Why is it that we may not gratify the desire of pleasing ourselves, or why is it that not pleasing ourselves makes us better men

and women; because our hearts are naturally "deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked;" and unless God by His Holy Spirit helps us to overcome the evil desires of our evil hearts, by always gratifying those desires we shall become more and more selfish and sinful, and of no possible help to our fellow-men.

Sir Walter Scott once said, "There never did, and never will, exist anything permanently noble and excellent in a character which is a stranger to the exercise of resolute self-denial," and it is equally true that all real self-denial elevates, uplifts, and makes purer, stronger and better characters than any other force at work in the world; so that if there were no other reason impelling us to this self-denial this one would be quite sufficient, for where is the mind whose ambition is not to make as grand a man of himself as he possibly can; but Jesus Christ has said to us, "If any man will come after Me, let him *deny himself*," and is not the command of our Master, who denied Himself a home in Heaven with His Father to come down to this world to endure privation, and suffering, and death, for our sakes, the most important thing for our consideration. Christ is our example, and if we are trying to follow Him, and to be like Him, we *will* deny ourselves, because He lived a life of pure, simple self-denial. David also said, "Neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the Lord my God of that which doth cost me nothing." Remember also the self-sacrifice of the college-educated young woman with brilliant talents cultivated to the utmost, who gives up friends, and home, and native land, everything that we hold most dear, to spend the best years of her life among foreigners, to teach them of Christ and His loving-kindness, and sympathy for their sufferings and sorrow; and "shall we whose souls are lighted with wisdom from on High, shall we, to men benighted, the lamp of life deny?" for the want of a little self-sacrifice, which would help at least one heart to learn about Jesus and His love, and hasten the time when His kingdom shall come, and "His dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth." And, oh, all our self-denial will seem so small, and we shall wish we had done so much more of it when we have finished His work here on earth, and by Him are called up higher.

TO BE CONTINUED.

Don't forget the Gleaner's Concert on Tuesday Evening, March 22nd. The children will be assisted by the Sunday-school Orchestra.