

starch overhead, and I see that it is not so much wealth and learning, not clothing, nor servants, nor toil, nor idleness, nor town, nor country, nor station, as tone and temper that render home happy or wretched. And I see, too, that in town or country, good sense and God's grace make life what no teachers or accomplishments, or means or society can make it—the opening stave of an everlasting psalm; the fair beginning of an endless existence; the goodly, modest, well-proportioned vestibule to a temple of God's building that shall never decay, wax old, or vanish away.—*Dr. John Hall.*

### NOVEL-KILLED.

Some years ago a young lady began to visit her pastor's study as a religious inquirer. It was during a revival, and on every hand her young friends were coming to Christ. But there she stood at the very threshold of the kingdom, listlessly looking over, as if her feet were chained. She made no advance. Her pastor and her friends were equally puzzled. Prayer was offered for her, and the plainest instruction given; but she remained unmoved, excepting to regret that that she could not become a Christian. At last, after three months labor and anxiety, her pastor said:—"I can do nothing with Sophia L.—; she is perfectly unmanageable. I doubt if she will ever yield to the claims of the gospel."

"What is the trouble? Can you not discover the obstacle in her way?" was asked.

"I find she is an inveterate novel-reader, and I have come to the conclusion that this will keep her out of the kingdom."

"Can she not be persuaded to give up her novels?"

"That is not the point entirely. She has wasted her sensibilities over unreal objects so long—so continually reversed right and wrong, looking at vice in the garb of virtue, and of virtue in that of unworthiness and injustice that she has destroyed her moral sense. She assents to truth, but seems to have no power to grasp it; she knows what is right but has no energy of will to do it. Her mind is diseased and enervated, and I fear hopelessly so."

### "DOING THESE THINGS."

"What is the use of being in the world unless you are somebody?" said a boy to

a friend.

"Sure enough, and I mean to be," answered the other. "I began this very day. I mean to be somebody."

Aston looked George in the face. "Began to-day! What do you mean to be?"

"A Christian boy, by God's help, and so grow to be a Christian man," said George. "I believe that is the greatest somebody for us to be."

George is right. There is no higher manhood; and it is in the power of every boy to reach that. Every boy cannot be rich; every boy cannot be a king; every boy cannot be a lord; but God asks you all to a Christian manhood—to be His sons; and so, with His son, Jesus Christ, to be heir of heaven.

### A STORY FROM JAPAN.

At a meeting in Japan where a number of Christian girls were gathered together the subject was, "How to glorify Christ by our lives." One of the girls said:

"It seems to me like this. One spring, my mother got some flower seeds, little, ugly, black things, and planted them; they grew and blossomed beautifully. One day a neighbor coming in and seeing these flowers said:—'O how beautiful! I must have some too; won't you please give me some seed?' Now, if this neighbor had only just seen the flower-seeds she wouldn't have called for them; 'twas only when she saw how beautiful was the blossom that she wanted the seed."

"And so with Christianity; when we speak to our friends of truths of the Bible they seem to them hard and uninteresting, and they say:—'We don't care to hear about these things; they are not as interesting as our own stories.' But when they see these same truths blossoming out in our lives into kindly words and good acts then they say:—'How beautiful these lives! What makes them different from other lives? When they hear that tis the Jesus teaching, then they say, 'We must have it too!'"

"And thus, by our lives, more than by our tongues, we can preach Christ to our unbelieving friends."

### PRAYING FOR THE MISSIONARIES.

Our young people give money to send missionaries, but there is something more that they can give, their prayers. You cannot put these prayers into a collection box and have them sent, but you can send them directly up to God.