

## ASSOCIATIONS.

BY MINNIE E. KENNY.

Memory is indissolubly connected with the law of association. Our thoughts do not succeed each other at random, desultory and unconnected as they some times seem. They are closely related and if we lay hold of one link we can gain possession of the whole chain of thought.

Not only mental things can call up the past by this wonderful law of association, but external objects also possess this power in a high degree. A past experience that has been well nigh forgotten can instantly be revived if we come into contact with any thing associated with that experience.

It is this power of association that makes home a sacred place. The young spirit has exhaled the fragrance of its own joy there, and like the faint sweetness that clings to some old, long since exhausted phial of oriental perfume, it can never pass away. The very air was hallowed with memories of tender words that moulded it into music, and the very sunshine is made brighter by the glory of childhood's sunny days.

But it was not merely for the sake of vivifying our feelings of pain and pleasure that we are endowed with this strange power of association. God has ordained that it shall oftentimes become a means of awakening conscience that would otherwise have slumbered.

George McDonald, in his story of "Robert Falconer," relates a well-authenticated incident of a notorious convict in an English colony having been led to reform his ways through going one day in to a church where the matting in the aisle was the same pattern as that in the little church where he had worshipped with his mother when a boy.

A strange thing to effect such a change, perhaps, you think. Yes, but let us trace the backward course of his thoughts as the sight of the matting recalled his earliest associations.

He was again an innocent, pure-hearted boy, sitting beside his mother in the little village church. Through the open window he caught glimpses of the blue sky with white clouds scudding across it, and the waving arms of the green trees; he caught again the faint, subtle odor of the sprig of lavender his mother always carried; he heard the sweet, familiar hymns, and during the sermon, which perhaps was a little beyond the full comprehension of his childish mind, he

studied the intricacies of the pattern in the matting that covered the aisle. Then he recalled that mother's loving prayers with and for him; her earnest pleadings returned to him as if she even now stood beside him, and whispered them in his ear with the lips that death had long since set his seal upon. All this had the familiar pattern of the matting brought back to him, and can we wonder that he longed to return to the innocence of his boyhood and put away from him the sin-stained life he was now leading.

Day by day we are forming new associations—associations that will link our present to our future by a chain that cannot be severed. What are these associations to be? Are they to bring sorrow or joy in the days that are to come?—*Early Days.*

## WORK AMONG ITALIAN SOLDIERS.

Speaking of the work conducted by Signor Cappellini, among Italian soldiers, the *London Christian* says: "We have received a further statement prepared by a lately appointed committee, the English representatives are admiral Fishbourne and Mr. J. E. Matheison, of Mildmay. It is earnestly desired to provide a suitable building for the purpose of Signor Cappellini's Military church. In supporting an appeal on this behalf the Committee say: During thirteen years of unremitting and zealous labor by the evangelist, more than 1,000 soldiers have left the Church of Rome, and have been admitted as members of the Evangelical Military church. Yet this fact, important as it is, only represents a part of the work which has been accomplished, and of its far-reaching influence. When Signor Cappellini preaches to a hundred soldiers he is making known the gospel to the representatives of a hundred different towns and villages, who, when their three years' term of service has expired, return to their homes in all part of Italy, taking the Holy Scriptures with them. Centres of evangelization have thus actually been originated in several localities on the mainland, as well as in Sicily and Sardinia."

A pious Calvinist replied to an Arminian, who objected to the doctrine of the perseverance of the saints, and who said, "If I believe that doctrine, and was sure that I was a converted man, I would take my full of sin." "How much sin," replied the other, "do you think it would take to fill a true Christian to his own satisfaction."