

devil to exist; it is inconsistent with divine benevolence! What will you do with these facts? Look upon the men who lie in wait all along the ports of our country. If there be one creature that might be supposed to touch with pity the heart of the most obdurate, it is the sea-sick, weary, overspent emigrant, who has left his home and all his associations behind him—his country and his life as it were—and is cast upon a new shore, and comes needing whatever there may be of kindness and forbearance and gentleness; and yet there are men who set their traps for that game! As there are hunters for the beaver and fur-bearing animals, so all along our ports there are hunters after these miserable, pitiful, suffering emigrants. They skin them alive, and they eat them bodily! and they do it, knowing that they turn them out into pain, into suffering, into untold agonies.—Women are plunged almost of necessity into the very cauldron of men's lusts, and men are driven to be paupers and to become criminals; and these men, confederated, lurk and lie in wait to destroy and devour; and you look on that scene, and know it to be existing, and know that it is being enacted in wholesale and in retail, and do not believe that a benevolent God could let a devil live! Why, society is knee deep with men who have no other function in life but to destroy their fellow-men. There is a large class, in the army of men, the whole power of whose brain is directed to wasting substance, to perverting principles, to destroying good habits. They study men's weaknesses as robbers study the weak point of a house where they would commit burglary. Men there are who are trained to wickedness, who are professedly wicked, who are scoundrels scientifically. And so they live; and so society is perpetually gnawed and ratted with these very men. And men say they do not believe a benevolent God would let a devil live. They say, 'It is not consistent with his attributes.' Oh! be ashamed of yourself, if you have ever reasoned so! Never hang out your own folly against such reasoning as that. If there is a devil incorporeal, if there is a mighty spirit that does mischief, and loves mischief, it is only the same thing in the spirit world that you see in the bodily world, that you know to exist, whose mischiefs are manifold, intricate, continuous wide-spread, self-propagating, and about which there can be no contradiction. God suffers these things here; and where is the presumption that he does not, for reasons which we do not know, but which will seem infinitely wise, doubtless, when we shall know them, permit spirits of evil elsewhere?—*H. W. Beecher.*

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## The Home Department.

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### THE HAPPY DECISION.

Fast day was solemnly observed at boarding school. After a united service in the morning, several little meetings were held in different rooms in the afternoon, which were very precious. Earnest prayer carried up to the Father the petitions and burdens from Christian hearts, but that was not the end. Prayer brought down the blessings we waited for, renewed strength and trust to the disciples of Jesus, and a desire to come unto him on the part of the unconverted. It was after such a day, at the close of evening devotion around the tea table, that our Principal rose and said, "I wish to invite all those who are willing to begin to serve Jesus to-day to come to my room at eight o'clock.