

THEODORE CUYLER'S CHOICE.

Dr. Cuyler's name is a household word in Britain and America. Our readers have had in these pages much of his writing and will be interested in the following bit of history from the pen of his friend, Rev. Newman Hall, of London :

"Theodore Cuyler came of a family of lawyers. His father was a Justice of the Peace and Surrogate at the age of twenty-eight, when he died, leaving Theodore, at the age of four years, to the sole guardianship and training of his mother. His grandfather also was a lawyer, and the firm was widely known, with a large practice. To this it had been naturally desired by the father, grandfather, and family that the young child should succeed. He was born to be a lawyer, and already his nest was feathered. But from his birth his mother had dedicated him to the service of the Temple. Her most earnest prayer was that he might be a good minister of Jesus Christ, in however humble a sphere, rather than occupy any other position, however lucrative and honorable.

Every one knew the mother's wish; but all condemned her for it, and resolved to thwart it. The grandfather said to her, "I am about to make my will. I have the best legal library in the country, and shall leave it to Theodore if you make him a lawyer; but no books and no money if you make him a priest. All depends on you. I want your decision at once."

It was a great shock to the mother, but she replied, "I would not have him become a priest of my making, but as far as my influence can operate, I hope he will become a minister of the gospel."

He replied, "Very well! Remember, I've no books and no money for priests."

She went to live at Auburn, where the youthful Samuel was sent to school. Her first gift to him was a pocket Bible. He was able to read at four years of age. But the mother was very anxious about the pecuniary means for education, cast off as she was by the family, through what they regarded as, her obstinacy and blindness to the child's interests. But she was sustained by the promise, "Commit thy way unto the Lord and He will bring it to pass." When the cloud was darkest the grandfather died, and by his will had put Theodore in the same position as his deceased father. There was now no difficulty in the way of education.

When nine years of age Theodore attended some protracted prayer-meetings held at the school; and after one of these said:—"Mother, I've decided for Christ." At that early age he made his public confession by membership with the church. When sixteen he matriculated at Princeton College, where he remained three years, and took honors. He was only nineteen when he came on his first visit to Europe, to complete his education by foreign travel. Bearing introductions of a high order, he was received by various distinguished men, who were charmed with the vivacious youth, overflowing with cultured curiosity and Yankee wit. Dickens and Carlyle were especially interested in him, and showed him no little kindness."

USES OF ADVERSITY.

A human being who has not labored and grown weary, who has not suffered and despaired, is not half a man. His faculties are only in the gristle. They have no temper. They will not hold an edge. There are great compensations for the labors and trials of this short life. We think them hard to bear, and they are grievous. But when they grow out of the conflict between good and evil in the mind they are rich in their rewards. They give a tone and temper to the soul which can be acquired in no other way. They lay the foundation for a superstructure of life which will remain firmer than the hills, and which will rise above the level of those who have known no labor, no conflict, and no sorrow.—*Sel.*

Not a day passes over the earth but men and women of no note do great deeds, speak great words, and suffer noble sorrows. Of these obscure heroes, philosophers, and martyrs, the greater part will never be known till that hour when many that were great shall be small, and the small great.—*Charles Reade.*

Dr. Scott, of Rutherglen, Scotland, has in a generous manner handed over a capital sum of upwards of \$60,000 to the Foreign Mission Committee of the Free Church, the annual interest of which sum is to be expended on the Church's missions in India and Africa.