

## FOR THE FAMILY CIRCLE.

## "Respectable" Whiskey Selling.

A temperance discussion once sprung up in a large coach crossing the Alleghenies, and the subject was handled without gloves. One gentleman maintained a stoical silence until he could endure it no longer; then he broke out strongly, saying: "Gentlemen, I want you to understand that I am a liquor seller. I keep a public-house, but I would have you know that I have a license, and keep a decent house. I don't keep loafers and loungers about my place, and when a man has enough he can get no more at my bar. I sell to decent people and do a respectable business."

When he had delivered himself, he seemed to think he had put a quietus to the subject, and that no answer could be given. Not so thought a Quaker who was one of the company. Said he: "Friend, that is the most damning part of thy business. If thee would sell to drunkards and loafers, thee would help kill off the race, and society would be rid of them; but thee takes the young, the poor, the innocent and the unsuspecting, and makes drunkards of them. And when their character and money are gone, thee kicks them out, and turns them over to other shops to be finished off; and thee ensnares others, and sends them the same road to ruin."

Surely the Quaker had the best of the argument, for he had the facts on his side. The more respectable and attractive any public-house is, the greater the mischief it is able to do in any decent community.—*Evangelical Messenger.*

## Silence about Ourselves.

Think as little as possible about any good in yourself; turn your eyes resolutely from any view of your acquirements, your influence, your plan, your success, your following—above all, speak as little as possible about yourself. The inordinateness of our self-love makes speech about ourselves like the putting of a lighted torch to the dry wood which has been laid in order for burning. Nothing but duty should open our lips upon this dangerous theme, except it be in humble confession of our sinfulness before God.

Again, be specially upon the watch against those little tracks by which the vain man seeks to bring round the conversation about himself, and gain the praise or notice which his thirsty ears drink in so greedily. Even if praise comes unsought it is well, while men are uttering it, to guard yourself by thinking of some secret cause for humbling yourself inwardly to God, thinking unto what these pleasant accents would be changed if all that is known to God, and even to yourself, stood revealed to man.

Place yourself beneath the cross of Calvary; see that sight of love and sorrow; hear those words of wonder; look at the Eternal Son humbling himself there for you, as you gaze fixedly upon Him, whether he, whose only hope is in that cross of absolute self-sacrifice and self-abasement, can dare to cherish in himself one self-complacent action. Let the Master's words ring ever in your ears, "How can ye believe, who receive honor one of another, and seek not the honor that cometh from God only?"—*Bishop Wilberforce.*

## Little Things.

More depends on little things than we think. It is said that Voltaire, when five years old, read an infidel poem, and he was never able to free himself from its effects. Scott, the commentator, while despairing, read a hymn of Dr. Watts, and was turned from a life of idleness and sin to one of usefulness. Cowper, about to drown himself, was carried the wrong way by his driver, and went home to write "God moves in a mysterious way." The rebuke of a teacher roused Dr. Clarke to great action, who had up to that time been slow in acquiring knowledge. Ole Bull, the great violinist, rescued from suicide by drowning, and taken to the near residence of a wealthy lady, became her *protege* and soon acquired fame. Robert Moffat, the distinguished missionary, reading a placard announcing a missionary meeting, was led to devote himself to work for the heathen. One step downward often leads men into the greatest guilt. It is the little words or actions that make or mar our lives.

A LATE number of the "Christian Intelligence" has this sentence: "We are persuaded that there is a gradual breaking down of the popular feeling of the sacredness of the Lord's day, and we fear Christians are more responsible for this than they are willing to acknowledge."