

BRIEF RULES FOR HOLY LYING.

Rev. William Wisner, of Ithaca, N. Y., about fifty years ago drew up a set of rules for holy living, to be adopted by the families of his parish. No wonder that a pastor and a parish adopting such principles should have been greatly blessed with the power and the joy of God's salvation.

1. We are not our own, but are bought with a price; therefore we will make it our first business to glorify God in our bodies and in our spirits, which are his.

2. We will not be conformed to this world, but will labor and pray to be transformed by the renewing of our minds, that we may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

3. We will consider ourselves as living to promote the glory of God, to do good to others, and to prepare our own souls for heaven.

4. We will strive to keep our minds free from every thought which we believe will be offensive to God.

5. We will not spend our time in foolish jesting or unprofitable conversation, but will consider the very moments precious, and endeavour to fill them up with usefulness to ourselves and others.

6. We will not indulge ourselves, nor countenance others, in speaking of the faults of anyone, unless it may be with a view to do good.

7. We will neither visit or receive visits on the Lord's day.

8. We will endeavour to educate our children in such a manner as may make them most useful in the world.

9. We will not suffer any person not belonging to our family to reside under our roof, unless he will abstain from all profane and unclean language, from Sabbath-breaking, from intemperance and all outward wickedness.

10. We will devote a portion of every day to prayer, to reading the Scriptures and to devout meditation.

11. We will love the church which Jesus has purchased with his blood; we will seek her peace, and profer her interests "above our chief joy."

12. We will endeavour constantly to remember that we are in the presence of God.

13. We will endeavour to understand the doctrines and precepts of the Holy Scriptures, and will "contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints."

14. We will consider ourselves as laboring for God by the day, and will endeavor to please him, and will depend on and look to him for everything that we need.

Why not adopt and practice such principles now?

WHO READS THE BIBLE?

Of course, everybody reads it, by fits and starts—a stirring story there, a comforting chapter here and a short, sweet psalm when in a hurry. But who reads it as we read our books—beginning with the first chapter and going right through the sacred pages—which are so full of thrilling biographies, entrancing poetry, soul stirring eloquence and Gospel light? Dr. Andrew Bonar says that one evening he asked a large Bible-class, "How many of you can say you have really read all the books of the Bible?" and only six or eight hands were held up. If this happens in a Bible-class, what proportion of a mixed crowd are regular, systematic Bible-readers? "I believe it would startle and move anyone," says Mr. R. L. Stevenson, referring to the Gospel of Matthew, "if they could make a certain effort of imagination, and read it freshly like a book, not drolly and dully like a portion of the Bible." Why not try it? Every man who neglects the Bible is in danger, but there is hope for the worst so long as he is under the influence of God's great Book."

THE FLOOD IN CHINA.

Some months since, we gave an account of a disastrous flood that had taken place in China. The Hoang-ho or Yellow River, had burst its embankments and flooded a large part of the fertile province of Honan, destroying a great many towns and villages, and many lives.

"The imperial commissioner appointed by the Emperor of China to superintend the repairs on the Yellow River has reported that the case is hopeless, meaning thereby, apparently, that it is expedient to allow the river to remain in its new channel. The government, however, seems indisposed to accept the commissioner's conclusions; and it is proposed to expend 20,000,000 taels in restoring the river to its old bed.

The province of Shantung has for a series of years suffered greatly from the overflow by the Yellow River, but since the recent break this province has been