

"You may depend upon it, that this looking for things in the wrong place is a very general failing among us all.

"When a poor man finds that poverty has made his own house uncomfortable, where does he look for comfort? too frequently at the public house? Away he goes, with what little he has got, and setting himself down in the corner, by the fire, he calls for his pint of ale. While he sets drinking, a friend pops in that he has not seen for some time, so they must have another pint between them; and then, as their hearts grow warm, and the remembrance of their troubles passes away, it becomes next to impossible to leave a pleasant companion, and a pint of fresh ale, and a good fire, for an uncomfortable and cheerless home. Another pint is called for; one sings 'Be-gone dull care,' and the other some foolish song. The poor man, at last rises to go, but his friend reminds him that it may be long before they meet again, and proposes a parting-pint. The parting-pint is brought in, and, at a late hour, the poor fellow reels home to a poor habitation, and a wretched family, that he has made poorer and rendered more wretched by his intemperance.

"Why, this poor man finds out, to his sorrow, that he has not been looking for comfort in the right place.

"I well knew a man, who, after visiting many places in the four quarters of the world, returned home poor and unprovided for. 'Ay, sir,' said he, 'I wanted to get money, but have looked for it in the wrong place. I have been burnt by the sun in hot climates, and almost frozen to death in cold ones. I have travelled by land and by water; suffered hunger and thirst, shipwreck, sickness, and sorrow, and am as poor now as when I left my home. If I had only been contented to seek money by diligently attending to my business at home, instead of neglecting it abroad, I should now have enough to provide for my necessities.'

"This poor man, you see, ran into the same mistake, he did not look for the thing that he wanted in the right place."

"Almost all young people indulge in dreams that are in themselves useless. When they hear of the wide world, they think what great things they would do, if they were here, or there, or yonder; or, if they had this, or that, of the other. But depend upon it, that almost all that is worth having; or, at least, all that would be good for us to possess, may be obtained wherever we are, if we seek for it, by diligently and uprightly using the faculties God has given us, and look to him for his blessing. We may look for a thousand blessings, in a thousand ways, but it will be in vain, if we neglect to look for them, in the right place.

"This is a subject on which I ought to manifest much forbearance, for it would not

be right in me to be severe upon others, for doing that which I have so frequently done myself. Many years was I looking for peace, and found it not; and the only reason why I did not find it was, that I did not look for it in the right place; if I had, I doubt not that I should have found it.

"First, I thought that money would assuredly give it me, and I set to work, determined that whoever might be poor I would not; and if working hard, and spending little, is the way to obtain riches, I verily believe I should have been rich, had it not occurred that one day opening the bible, I read about the rich man in the parable. This account, and the verse that told me it was easier 'for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven,' so startled me, that I was afraid to be rich, lest, when I died, my riches might bear testimony against me, that I had not relieved the wants of the distressed, and made a good use of my riches.

"Well, thought I, if riches will not do, I will get reputation. I will be clever at a thousand things, and shall then always have enough to employ and amuse me: I shall be at peace. But, somehow, the thought of another world followed me, and convinced me that although I might be at peace in this world, I should not, on that account, have any certainty of being at peace in another.

"Just at this time, too, I picked up Esop's Fables, and read there of the cat and the fox. The cat had but one shift, the fox had a thousand; but when the hounds came in sight, the cat, with her one shift, ran up a tree and saved her life, while the poor fox, with a thousand shifts, was overtaken and torn into pieces. I then gave up my intention of being clever at so many things.

"My next determination was to make friends, for I thought they would increase my joy, and solace me in my sorrows, as well as give me the best advice in obtaining peace. Alas! I soon found that one friend was called away, a second quarrelled with me, and became my enemy, and a third died; so that I plainly saw it would be folly to depend upon my friends for peace; and that I must, certainly, have looked in the wrong place to find it.

"The bible asks, 'Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?' and truly we may as reasonably expect them to do this, as to hope that we shall ever find many things that we want in the places where we seek to obtain them. No, no; we shall never find them till we look in the right place for them. What a long story have I made about seeking things in the right place, and all because I happened to lose, for a minute or two, my poor spectacles. Well! what I have said will not be in vain, if it teach you to be a little more careful in seeking things aright.

"If you want money, seek it by diligence in your calling, and habits of frugality you want reputation, seek it by punctua and integrity, and by the determination excel in all you undertake; if you w friends, seek them by endeavouring to desc them; but, if you want peace, you may l for it every way, and in every place, vain, unless you seek it from the Lord Je: Christ, who died for our sins, and rose ag: for our justification.

"You must remember that I did lo for my spectacles before I found that I h lost them; and so in like manner no one w seek for any thing heartily until he feels th want of it.

"My dear children you will not see peace until you have known sorrow; yo will not seek a Saviour until you kno yourselves to be sinners; for until the you will feel no want of the one or the othe

"The wide world is before you many are its pleasures and many are its pains both are necessary, because both of them, through the grace of God, when sanctified to our souls, are made instrumental in doing us good; the former by making our hearts grateful, the latter by showing us our own weakness. But, when the pleasures and pains of this world are passed, we shall enter on the pleasures or pains of a world that is eternal. What an overwhelming subject is this for our reflection, and how is it that it does not, frequently as we are reminded of it, occupy more of our attention! Surely, if it did, we should be diligent in our inquiries after the best information upon it, and be anxious to seek, in the right place, for that peace and assurance which can alone be obtained through the blood of the cross; which God alone can give, and which he will never withhold from those who seek it in sincerity and truth. Seek it thus, in your earliest days, and as sure as your grandfather is talking to you, so surely you shall find it."

#### PRINCIPLE AND FEELING.

Let us suppose that one evening Feeling and Principle were walking in the road upon the skirts of a country town. They had been to attend an evening service in a school house, half a mile from their homes. It was a cold winter evening, and as they passed by the door of a small cabin with boarded windows and broken roof, they saw a child sitting at the door, weeping and sobing bitterly.

Feeling looked anxious and concerned.

'What is the matter, my little fellow,' said Principle, with pleasant countenance.

The boy sobbed on.

'What a house,' said Feeling, 'for human beings to live in. But I do not think any thing serious is the matter. Let us go on.'

'What is the matter, my boy?' said Principle again kindly. 'Can you tell us what is the matter?'