

using those we have, we expand them. Providence always helps them that help themselves. Surely, Mr. Spider, you deserve your freedom for teaching me this lesson.

But possibly there may be negative lessons that the spider may teach me. Its life-work is trapping and snaring others. Is this the reason why it manifests ambition, ingenuity, and industry? How many boys and girls will toil and weary themselves at play or mischief, and then think it cruel bondage to perform some slight duty in the home. The spider reminds me oftentimes of the great enemy in all conceivable ways spreading nets for the unwary—luring them to destruction. *His* snares are specially set for the young. The lad is enticed, by a companion perhaps, to smoke a cigar, or take the first glass, or go to wicked amusements, and the beginning of sin is like the letting out of water. Never forget the warning of the wise man: "My son, if sinners entice thee consent thou not." Every young person should study carefully the book of Proverbs, where are the choicest maxims for every day life.

But after all, how shallow is its confidence,—how frail the thread on which it puts its whole trust. The falling of a leaf,—a breath of wind,—a passing shower,—a brush of the hand, and it is gone. Three thousand years ago Job spoke of the paths of those that forgot God and the hypocrite's trust being just a spider's web; and a later prophet makes the statement, that those whose lips speak lies, whose fingers work iniquity, whose tongues are perverse, who do not like justice, who trust in vanity, who speak lies, who conceive mischief, who bring forth evil, are just weaving a spider's web. Now surely that is a sweeping statement, their trust so frail that a breath may carry it away.

Now let us see what lessons we have learned, and we will go over them backwards:—

1. If you are wicked and serving Satan, you have no surer foundation than the spider's web.
2. It seems more congenial to our nature to practise evil rather than good. Carefully examine what spirit you are of, and seek to delight in duty rather than sin.
3. Having laid a right foundation, use every gift for God's glory.
4. Instead of repining under adversity, set instantly to work to repair the breach.
5. Never neglect present opportunities.

GOD'S WORD HID IN THE HEART.

Children, there was once a little boy who went to Sabbath School regularly, and learned all his lessons well, so that he had a great many Bible verses in his mind. He was a temperance boy. This boy was on a steamboat making a journey. One day as he sat alone on deck looking down into the water, two ungodly gentlemen agreed that one of them should go and try to persuade him to drink. So the wicked man drew near to the boy, and in a very pleasant voice and manner invited him to go and drink a glass of liquor with him. "I thank you, sir," said he, "but I never drink liquor."