

them, and little frictions adjusted themselves in a remarkable way, no one knew how. There were no more graceful little speeches; sometimes the thing that should have been said was not said, but the whole school was in better order, though it was not so efficiently managed to all appearance. Every scholar believed in that superintendent, and the change appeared, not only in the outward manner, but in the style of thought. The Holy Spirit began to touch those sobered boys and girls; because they trusted him, the new leader could direct them to the One whom he himself trusted; they felt that he was a safe guide.

Now this is not logical; it did not at all follow, that because Mr. Crawford did not pay his debts when he should have done so, those scholars had any right to hold themselves excused from any Christian duty; but they did not want to follow as he led, seeing that he was not always right, and it is not strange that they did not. "Character goes a great way," and we have no right to leave excuses open. May our Master make us "sufficient for these things."—*S. S. Times*.

LIGHT AND WARMTH.

BY REV. D. BUTLER.

We had occasion, not long since, to go into a green-house. It was well arranged. The glass was in order, and the pipes for the transmission of the needed warmth were in place, and yet the plants were withered and not a sign of life was visible. The sight furnished no explanation of the state of things existing there, but to the feeling all was plain. A deadly chill pervaded the air and to the shivering senses. The whole place seemed like a beautiful body from which the spirit had fled.

This contrast between the seeing and the feeling, between appearances and the reality, one encounters not unfrequently in actual life. We sometimes go into dwellings which, in their arrangements, seem especially designed for the nurture and growth of the plants of righteousness. There is culture and worldly competence, and the appropriate surroundings of a Christian home, but we miss that genial atmosphere in which the new life is wont to have its beginning and its growth. There is a chill in the air before which the graces wither and die. Impatience, censoriousness, fault finding and ambition load with their fatal chill the air. And so it sometimes happens that persons eminent for their activity and usefulness are called to mourn over children that have in this way been driven into positive unbelief. They built the conservatory with great care, but have left unused the agencies at hand for the needed temperature, and while they looked for life there was death.

Much is said about the different methods of family training. As the result of our reflections and our observation, we believe that nine-tenths of the power which parents have over children, is exerted through their example. There are few natures that can successfully resist the influence that comes from a consistent Christian life, with its wealth of purity, and patience, and kindness and self-forgetfulness—pouring steadily their light and warmth upon the child in the forming period of its life. It creates an atmosphere in which the Spirit loves to work and where its fairest conquests are received.—*Watchman and Reflector*.

A BOY HABIT AND WHAT CAME OF IT.

"Lend me a postage stamp, Hal," said Nicholas, as he was folding a letter to send home. "I am out of stamps and change. I will pay you back when my next allowance comes."

Hal handed over the stamp, and then went on with his writing. Nicholas mailed his letter and thought no more of the stamp. Hal did not care, so you think there was no harm done. But there is where you make the mistake. He had defrauded his school-mate out of three cents, and he had added another link to the chain which was fast binding him. Evil habits are so easy to form, but so hard to break up. The next time he borrowed ten cents, "just till to-morrow, when he would get a bill changed." Then he made himself noted in school for borrowing pencils, pens, knives, and such like schoolboy possessions; and several of the most obliging boys had lost considerable by him. At last it grew the custom to decline, when he wished to borrow. But there were generally new boys, coming from time to time, who had to find out his propensities for themselves.

If you had called Nicholas a thief, I suppose he would have repelled the idea with scorn. But he was, for all that. The habit was growing upon him daily. He grew very reckless of the rights of others. He was always borrowing as a boy and as a young man. His acquaintances grew shy of him, and crossed over on the other side, rather than run the risk of being importuned for "a short loan." He obtained a situation in a bank, and in an evil hour was tempted to enter into a speculation "that would surely make fifty thousand dollars." He "borrowed" twenty thousand from the bank, secretly, intending to return it

the same way, as soon as his fortune was realized. But his scheme failed, and the wretched young man fled to avoid exposure. He was arrested, however, and confined to a felon's cell, leaving a stricken household to the grief and shame with which such an act must overwhelm them. It was the natural end of the habit of borrowing and not returning small sums. Boys, let the strictest honor characterize your dealings, down to the smallest particulars.—*Schoolboy Magazine*.

SUNSHINE IN THE SCHOOLROOM.

A writer in the *N. E. Journal of Education*, speaking of discipline in the department of schools, says:—As we look about us for other items of comfort, we shall find that sun, and light, and air, and the proper adjustment of each, exert a powerful influence in this direction.

A visitor stepped into my room on one of those bright days when the whole earth seems bathed in sunshine, and, as I never, on any pretext, shut out a single ray, it naturally fell directly across a bevy of little girls. I was anxious to note what effect their next movement would have on my visitor, so made no explanation. They had been taught to leave the seat of their own free will, if they did not like to sit directly in the sunshine, and take any other chair at hand, out of it,—returning, when it should be again shaded, without command on my part. So, then, it was perfectly natural for one and another to move to a more comfortable locality, which they did, exciting no surprise, on the part of the other scholars, because it was of almost daily occurrence, but I must say not a little on the part of my friend.

"Are those children at liberty to leave their seats without permission?" he said.

"Perfectly," I answered.

"How can you preserve order," he then enquired, "if you make no restrictions here?"

To this query I replied that "I regarded even little children as possessed of the intelligence which admitted of my trusting them in a rational manner, and that I found from experience that I could allow this freedom of movement without the confidence being misplaced."

I have the greatest faith in the beneficent effects of the sun, but I have been pained, too, sometimes to see poor little fellows drooping, like so many tender flowers, under an amount of sun altogether too intense for comfort, to say the least—and a careful thoughtfulness, even in this one particular, will assist you amazingly.

Do not shut out the sun, for you need it as a potent physician, which can work marvellous cures; his presence is a blessing few fully comprehend, but, remove a child, at its pleasure, from a forced sitting in it, although you still let it flood and permeate with brilliancy and beauty each corner and crevice of your room.

Again, I say, let the sun help you, as he assuredly will, to govern the little ones, by acting directly on their physical necessities, and thus improving disposition if nothing more!

A TAILOR WHO BETRAYED HIS TRICK.

People who make clothes like to have clothes wear out, but trying to hasten the wearing process is none of their business, and they who do so deserve to be caught as this one was:—

A certain noble lord (relates a contemporary), remarkable for the carelessness of his dress, went personally to pay his tailor's bill. Being unknown by sight to the new manager, who received the money, that worthy mistook him for a servant, and, having cast his eye over the account, and receipted it, he handed the supposed servant a sovereign at the same time delivering himself after this fashion:

"Now, there's a sovereign for yourself, and it's your own fault that it's not two. But you don't wear out your master's clothes half quick enough. He ought to have had double the amount in the time; and I'll tell you it's worth your while to use a harder brush."

With a queer smile his lordship answered, "Well, I don't know, I think my brush is a pretty hard one too—his lordship complains of it anyhow."

"Pooh! Hard—not a bit of it! Now come, I'll put you up to a wrinkle that'll put many a sovereign into your pocket. Look here"—fetching a piece of wood from a shelf behind him—"you see this bit of stick—now that's roughened on purpose. You take that, and give your master's coat a good scrubbing with it about the elbows and shoulders every day, and give the trousers a touch about the knees, and you'll soon wear 'em out for him, and, as I say, it will be a good five pounds in your pocket every year. We shan't forget you, don't be afraid."

"You are very kind," quoth his lordship, with a comical grin. "I will impart your instructions to my valet, though I fear for the future, while he remains in my service, he will not be able to profit by them, as I shall not trouble you with my custom. I am Lord—, I wish you good-day."—*Era*.

A LOAD OF BRICKS.

"See what I will do in the morning!" So thought a little boy to himself, as he lay in his snug little bed, about ready to fall asleep. He had heard his father, the minister and the neighbors talk a great deal about a new church; a long time, he had heard that one ought to be built, long enough it seemed to him to build one, but still nothing was done. In fact he had heard it said lately that maybe they would not have a new church after all. Perhaps he did not like the old meeting-house, and fancied he should like to go to church better if they had a new one; at all events he gave his mind to the subject and resolved to do something. The next morning he rose very early, intent on carrying his plan into execution. Whether he consulted with any one or not we do not know, but we doubt not he had learned the verse: "Let not your left hand know what your right doeth," and thought it was best to go by himself, believing that he was doing right. Very happy he felt as he trudged along to the minister's house, although when he reached the door, it was so early that the good doctor had not come down stairs. Soon, however, he appeared, and his youthful parishioner delivered to him a load of bricks which he "had brought to build the new church with." In a wheelbarrow three times the size of the little boy, lay two bricks, the beginning of the new church, and as he returned to his home, cheered by the kind words of his pastor, we are sure that he felt that doing was better than talking. As the doctor went into the street he said to every one he met, "The church will be built; the first load of bricks is on the ground;" and before our little hero was much older, he had the pleasure of seeing the church finished which he had begun.

EDUCATIONAL ITEMS.

—The *Pall Mall Gazette* states that the London Educational Budget this year is less satisfactory than usual. The finance committee of the London School Board have had to declare a deficit of £33,834 on the balance of receipts and expenditure for the past year, and the estimate for the year ending March, 1876, including the replacement of this deficit, is £263,713, against £149,866 voted as the cost of schools up to March 25th of the present year. This adverse balance was explained by the finance committee, as being due to the fact that a very much larger number of schools were opened than was expected, so that a much larger number of children than had been anticipated twelve months ago had to be provided for. Then the increase of schools had led to an increase of expenditure; the cost per head of education in the board schools had been more than was estimated; for in place of being 17s. 6d. a head net, it had proved to be £1 2s. 9d. net, and this was owing to the fact that "the board was doing its work in a most perfect manner, and having greater appliances, larger playgrounds, and paying larger salaries to teachers." The hope was expressed that as the board closed the small temporary schools and opened its larger schools, and the children became more regular, this expense would fall down somewhat, but it is claimed that the net cost of education will not be less than £1 a head.

WEEKLY READING EXERCISE.—Every member of the class brings some short, interesting item selected from magazine or newspaper; this he carefully studies, as his reading lesson for the day; and that he may make his selection interesting, he naturally strives for clear, distinct utterance, and correct expression. As in every class there is a wide diversity of tastes, this exercise will bring into the school-room a great variety of information. As this exercise creates a regular weekly demand for something new and interesting, it tends to the formation of a habit of observing and retaining facts in general reading. Frequently, items are found having reference to some topic in geography, history, or some other school study; they thus aid in fixing the memory of things hitherto learned. At the close of the exercise a scholar collects the various articles, all of which are written on papers of uniform size, and preserves them neatly, in a school scrap-book, where they are easy of access for future reference.—*Educational Journal*.

CHANGING SCHOOL BOOKS.—A very large part of the work and money spent in changing school-books is spent in the interest of the writers and publishers of school-books and not in the interest of the pupils or their parents. Often the interests of the pupils and of the parents are sacrificed to the interests of the writers and of the publishers. An ordinary book depends for its sale upon its own merits, or upon influences that may be brought to bear upon individuals. A school-book is not presented to a tenth part of the persons who are to be its purchasers, but to a small number of committee-men. If by any means they can be induced to adopt it, a whole city-full of schools purchase it—are in a manner forced to purchase it; and it has thus a market beyond that of the most sensational novel. The

parents grumble, and—buy. A very small sum goes out of the pocket of each purchaser, a large sum goes into the pocket of the proprietor. Meanwhile the children have a book that may be better than its predecessor, but is just as likely to be worse.—*Gail Hamilton, in Christian Union*.

SELECTIONS.

—To extend a hand of help to the helpless is to find and clasp the hand of Jesus. The man who from the Galilean crowd should have gone forward to help up the dying lunatic child, would have locked his own with Jesus' fingers, for they were there before him. The life of God can never be touched or tasted until we give up our own. The truth of God can never be our still we do his will. Be it a faintly erring Christian brother, or be it a degraded outcast sinner, you shall never get so closely hold of the Redeemer's hand as when you humble yourself and stoop to lift up such a person. Touch and help the helpless, O my brother, and the Divine Helper shall touch and help you. Are you in darkness, weariness, anguish? Do you find your burden greater than you can bear? Your hope slipping from you? The ground of your faith, which you thought solid, all hollow and quaking beneath your feet, and your fingers groping upwards through the gloom to find the hand of divine help? You shall find it when you put it of your own to help others.—*Rev. D. Merriman*.

ASKING AMISS.—There is much fruitless, powerless praying—if, indeed, it is worthy of the designation of prayer. The Apostle James reveals the chief cause: "Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss." Iniquity secretly hidden in the heart, lurking selfishness, or something of the kind, comes in as a barrier, shuts up the windows of heaven and sends the bended suppliant from the foot of the Throne unblest, unfurnished.

TEACHING CHILDREN.—What parents ought to consider most of all in instructing young children is to teach them how to see correctly, to hear correctly, to understand correctly, and how to reproduce correctly in thought and language what has been imparted to them. It is not the fault of the eyes, but of the perceptive faculties back of the eyes, that so many do not see correctly. There is no more prolific source of errors, follies, and half-unconscious immorality, than the habit of imperfect perception, causing a sort of untruthfulness and mental dishonesty. It is the duty of parents, of elder brothers and sisters, to cultivate in children from their earliest youth the habit of correct perception and reproduction of what has been said to them. This can be done concerning the simplest objects and in the simplest ways. Following this first course of education comes the work of the school-teacher.

SIMPLE AND ABLE.—It was said of the Rev. Mr. Wiseman, President of the Wesleyan Conference in England, that "He has the rare power of adapting himself to the capacities and circumstances of any congregation, whether lowly or lofty; so that while children listen to his teaching—couched in purest, easiest, tersest English, and enlivened with telling incident and graphic illustration—with intense eagerness and interest, the most refined and cultured are instructed and edified. 'Why don't you preach like Mr. Wiseman, papa?' said a little intelligent fellow of nine or ten years of age to his father; 'I can understand every word he says.' That faculty of dealing with the greatest truths in a mode and style which Sunday-school children can comprehend, is one of the most precious and enviable of ministerial gifts, as it is one of the surest signs of a clear, strong mind, master of its subject, and one of the latest and ripest fruits of finished training and culture."—*S. S. Times*.

VERBAL VICES.—Indulgence in verbal vice soon encourages corresponding vices in conduct. Let any one of you come to talk about any mean or vile practice with a familiar tone, and do you suppose, when the opportunity occurs for committing the mean or vile act, he will be as strong against it as before? It is by no means an unknown thing that men of correct lives talk themselves into crime, into sensuality, into perdition. Bad language easily runs into bad deeds. Select any iniquity you please; suffer yourself to converse in its dialect, to use its slang, to speak in the character of one who relishes it, and I need not tell how soon your moral sense will lower down to its level. Becoming intimate with it, you lose your horror of it. To be too much with bad men and in bad places, is not only unwholesome to a man's morality, but unfavorable to his faith and trust in God. It is not every man who could live as Lot did in Sodom, and then be fit to go out of it under God's convoy. This obvious principle, of itself, furnishes a reason not only for watching the tongue, but for keeping ourselves as much as possible out of the company of bad associates.—*Indiana Arcana*.