

back' till you have discovered the cause of it.

"I once 'tried back' with a one-legged soldier, and we talked together in this way:—"How was it that you came to lose your leg?" 'I lost it in a battle in India.' 'But what brought you in India?' 'I listed for a soldier, and was sent there.' 'And why did you list for a soldier?' 'Because I was persuaded by bad companions.' 'And where did you pick up your bad companions?' 'At the wake.' 'But how came you to go to the wake?' 'Ay, there it is.' 'My father and mother made me promise not to go; but I broke my promise, and that led me in the long run to ruin. So you see Master Henry, by 'trying back' I found out that his being one-legged, broken-down soldier all sprang from disobedience to his parents. Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.' (Exod. xx. 12.)

"'And what was it,' said I once to a woman who was at hard labour in prison,—for I wanted to 'try back, with regard to her life,—'what was it that brought you to this pass?' At first she did not like to tell me; but at last she said, that at one time she had a good place, and a good character, but both these she lost by a habit of telling lies. She then ran into evil ways, and got into prison. 'Lying lips are abomination to the Lord.' (Prov. xii. 22.)

"We should 'try back,' not only with respect, to others, but also with regard to ourselves; for evil is in every heart. Sin is a moral disease, and if God had not provided a cure for it in his Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who died on the cross for sinners, there would have been no hope for any of us; but now, blessed be his name, there is hope for us all, for none who feel true sorrow for sin, and apply

to the Saviour for deliverance, apply in vain.

"The more we are in the habit of 'trying back,' Master Henry, the clearer we shall see that we bring ourselves into trouble by our faults, and that, in nine cases out of ten, our sorrows spring from our sins."

Many a time since my youthful days have I profited by taking Alan's advice in "trying back" in seasons of trouble. "In the day of prosperity," says the wise man, "be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider." (Eccles. vii. 14. To examine ourselves, that we may discover and avoid our past errors, is a good and wholesome practice. Sometimes we err through wilfulness, sometimes through weakness and thoughtlessness; and it is well to know which of these has led us astray, for we are not half so likely to stumble with our eyes open as when they are shut. Let us "try back," that we may be the better fitted to go forward in our heavenly course, fearing God, looking to the Saviour and loving one another.—C. C.

NOTHING BUT MOONSHINE.

"It is nothing but moonshine!" cried old Mrs. Hodges, as she stopped to grasp what she thought was silver lying upon the floor. The old lady's spectacles were on awry, that it was a difficult matter, for her to see straight at best. "It's nothing but moonshine," the old lady murmured again to herself, as she sat down and began to take up the stitches in her knitting. "Well, it is wonderful that I was so deceived; but I ain't the first one that has been fooled, that's certain—nor shall I be the last one, unless the world strangely alters.

"There's old brother Taylor, who would insist that his son Ebenezer was the smartest child in the world, and when the boy chose a trade, and want-