

THE NEGLECTED LETTER.

The importance of present hours and present opportunities is often but little felt. To-morrow shall be as this day, and more abundant," is the fond dream of the idle, the indifferent, and the pleasure seeking soul. But how often sad surprises break in upon our mirth and ease, and blast our cherished hopes.

Many years ago, a Greek nobleman made a feast for his friends. In the midst of the festivities, a messenger entered in great haste with a letter. It was from a distance, and was sent to inform him that a plot had been formed by his enemies to *kill him that night.*

"My Lord," said the messenger, "my master desired me to say, that you must *read the letter without delay*; for it is about serious things."

"Serious things to-morrow," said the nobleman, as he threw the letter aside, and took up his cup of wine. The delay was fatal. Before the feast was at an end, his enemies rushed into the hall and slew him.

He neglected his last chance, and perished through his own folly. And are there not thousands who to-day are neglecting opportunities and disregarding warnings, who will mourn at last, when they are lost beyond remedy? To-day God sends his message to us. Oh, *read the letter to-day*, for "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?"

LETTING THE LIGHT SHINE.

A chaplain in the army during the American civil war, was passing over the field, when he saw a poor fellow that had been wounded, lying upon the ground. He happened to have his Bible under his arm, and he stooped down and said to the man: "Would you like me to read you something that is in the Bible?"

The wounded man said: "I am so thirsty, I would rather have a drink of water." The chaplain hurried off, and, as quickly as possible, brought the water.

After the man had drank the water, he said: "Could you lift my head and put something under it?" The chaplain removed his light overcoat, rolled it up, and tenderly lifting the head, put it as a pillow for the tired head to rest on.

"Now," said the man, "if I only had something over me. I am so cold." There was only one thing the chaplain could do, and that was to take off his coat and cover the cold man.

As he did so, the wounded man looked up in his face and said: "Oh, if there is any-

thing in that Book that makes a man do for another what you have done for me, let me hear it." There is a world of meaning in this incident. The need of to-day is the acting of object lessons the Book teaches. Young people you can love the Gospel and thus lead others to it.

SNAKE CATCHING IN INDIA.

A new industry has sprung up in Delhi, India. Some enterprising natives are taking advantage of the government offer of two annas for every snake killed, to trade on the old traditional tree and serpent worship. August 4th is the great serpent worshipping day, and every Tuesday the pipal tree is worshipped by Hindoo women. Taking advantage of the reverence paid to snakes, a large number of men have set to work catching these reptiles.

Then, taking them into the streets where pious Hindoos most abound, they announce that they are on their way to claim the reward, but that they are quite willing, for a *piece* or two more, to release the reptiles, and so save themselves from the sin of snake murder which their poverty would otherwise drive them to commit. The appeal is invariably successful.—*Selected.*

"GET AWAY FROM THE CROWD."

The following from Robert Burdette has been a source of help to some. I give it, thinking, perhaps, some other young man may get some good from it:—"Get away from the crowd a little while every day, my dear boy. Stand one side and let the world run by, while you get acquainted with yourself, and see what kind of a fellow you are. Ask yourself hard questions about yourself; find out all you can about yourself. Ascertain, from original sources, if you are really the manner of man people say you are; and if you are always honest; if you always tell the square, perfect truth in business deals; if your life is as good and upright at 11 o'clock at night as it is at noon; if you are as good a temperance man on a fishing excursion as you are at a Sunday-School picnic; if you are as good a boy when you go to Chicago as you are at home; if, in short, you are really the sort of a man your father hopes you are, and your sweetheart believes you are. Get on intimate terms with yourself, my boy, and believe me, every time you come out from one of those private interviews, you will be a stronger, better, purer man. Don't forget this, Tele-machus, and it will do you good."