

displayed his choice liquors without thanking God that the proprietor had a praying wife, who had early in life instructed her little daughter about Jesus who is "mighty to save."—Young People's Paper.

### A POOR EXCUSE.

"During a visit to London," says Mr. Marchmont, my friend Mr. Murray made the acquaintance of a young man, to whom, as



Rev. D. Macrae.

was his habit, he put the question, "My friend, are you one of the Lord's people?"

The young man frowned and sullenly replied, "No I am not, and I do not wish to be."

"Can you give me any reason for what you say?" continued the clergyman, quite calmly.

"Oh, yes, I can give a reason and a good one."

"May I ask what it is?"

"Well, just twenty years ago I was in a professing Christian's kitchen, and he finding me there, swore at me and kicked me out. From that time I resolved never to have anything to do with religion, and I never have."

And you have thoroughly made up your mind to continue in that course?"

"Certainly I have."

Then let us put it in writing," he said and with that he wrote down the young man's words and handed the paper to him saying, "Take this, and when you are asked for your excuse on the day of judgment hand this up."

The man took it mechanically, scarcely realizing what he did, and they parted. Mr. Murray had got home; prayers had been said, when the door-bell rang.

"As he was in the hall he opened the door himself; there was the young man to whom he had spoken that day.

What is the matter now, my friend? Can I do anything more for you?" he asked.

Holding up the little slip of paper, and trembling perceptibly, the young fellow said: "Oh, Mr. Murray, I want to talk this over with you. It will not hold water. When I look at it in black and white I see it will not do for me to reject the Lord Jesus Christ for such a paltry excuse. I cannot continue to do it; is there no help for me?"

Very kindly he was drawn into the house, and the clergyman asked: Is this excuse of twenty years' standing not sufficient for you?"

"No it is not."

"Then we will throw it in the fire;" and suiting the action to the word, the paper was cast into the flames.

Together they knelt down, and after praying to God to save the poor sinner who knelt before him, they arose and gave praise to the Lord for all his goodness; and the man went away renewed in heart, resolving to serve the Lord from that time onward.