

he had lost more, and that not a penny of his own funds remained. With an angry oath he stated the fact to his companions.

"That's unfortunate," said Mr. Ketchem, sympathetically. "There are nearly two hours yet before the train leaves, and with your disposition toward good luck to-night you could clean us out by that time, and would have to lend us enough to pay our fares to New York."

"It's a pity to give up our sport now that we have just got warmed up to it," added Mr. Van Wink, suggestively. "Haven't you some funds about you that you can borrow for the evening just enough to keep the game going, you know?"

Haldane hesitated. He was not so far gone but that conscience entered an emphatic protest. The trouble was, however, that he had never formed the habit of obeying conscience even when perfectly sober. Another influence of the past also proved most disastrous. His mother's weakness now made him weak. In permitting him to take her money without asking, she had undermined the instinct of integrity which in this giddy moment of temptation might have saved him. If he from childhood had been taught that the property of others was sacred, the very gravity of the crime to which he was now urged would have sobered and awakened him to his danger. But his sense of wrong in this had been blunted, and there was no very strong repugnance toward the suggestion.

Moreover, his brain was confused and excited to the last degree possible in one who still continued sane and responsible. Indeed, it would be difficult to say how far he was responsible at this supreme moment of danger. He certainly had drunk so much as to be unable to realize the consequences of his action.

After a moment's hesitation, like one who feebly tries to brace himself in a swift torrent, the gambler's passion surged up against and over his feeble will—then swept him down.

#### CHAPTER VIII.—THEIR VICTIM.

Haldane drew an envelope from his breast pocket, and laid it on the table, saying with a reckless laugh,

"Well, well, as you say, there is no great harm in borrowing a little of this money, and returning it again before the evening is over. The only question is how to open this package, for if torn, it may require explanations that I do not care to make."

"We can easily manage that," laughed Ketchem; "put the package in your pocket a few moments," and he rang the bell.

To the boy who appeared he said, "Bring us three hot whiskey punches—hot, remember; steaming hot."

He soon reappeared with the punch, and the door was locked again.

"Hold your package over the steam of your punch, and the gum will dissolve so that you can open and close it in a way that will defy detection."

The suggestion was speedily carried out.

"Now," continued Mr. Ketchem, "the punch having already served so excellent a turn, we will finish it by drinking to your good luck."

Haldane won the first two games. This success, together with the liquor, which was strong, almost wholly dethroned his reason, and in his mad, drunken excitement he began to stake large sums. The eyes of his companions grew more wolfish than ever, and, after a significant flash toward each other, the gamblers turned fortune against their victim finally. The brandy was now placed within his reach, and under its influence Haldane threw down money at random. The first package was soon emptied. He snatched the other from his pocket and tore it open, but before its contents had likewise disappeared his head drooped upon his breast, and he became insensible.

They watched him a moment, smiled grimly at each other, drew a long breath of relief, and, rising, stretched themselves like men who had been under a strain that had taxed them severely.

"Half an hour yet," said Mr. Van Wink; "wish the time was up."

"This is a heavy swag if we get off safely with it. I say, Haldane, wake up."

But Haldane was sunk in the deepest stupor.

"I guess it's safe enough," said Van Wink, answering Ketchem's questioning eyes.

The latter thereupon completely emptied the remaining package of money, and replaced the two empty envelopes in Haldane's breast pocket, and buttoned up his coat.

With mutual glances of exultation at the largeness of the sum, they swiftly divided the spoil between them. It was agreed that after leaving the hotel they should separate, that one should go to Boston, the other to Baltimore, and that they should return to their old haunts in New York after the interest caused by the affair had died out. Then, lighting cigars, they coolly sat down to wait for the train, having first opened a window and placed Haldane where the fresh air would blow upon him.

When the time of departure approached, Mr. Van Wink went to the bar and paid both their own and Haldane's bill, saying that they would now vacate the room. On his return Ketchem had so far aroused Haldane that he was able to leave the house with their assistance, and yet so intoxicated as to be incapable of thinking and acting for himself. They took him down a side street, now utterly deserted, and left him on the steps of a low groggery, from whence still issued the voices of some late revellers. Five minutes later the "owl train" bore from the town Messrs. Van Wink and Ketchem, who might be called with a certain aptness birds of the night and of prey.

(To be continued.)

THE very air is poisoned in which our children live. No legislation, no single reform, can touch this disease any more than it could cure the malaria which slays its victims by the thousand. It is for each family, each clergyman, each mother, to clean and sweeten their own household.—*Tribune*.

#### THE TEACHER IN HIS STUDY AND IN THE CLASS ROOM.

This was the subject of Dr. Macvicar's address before the recent meeting of the Quebec Protestant Teachers' Provincial Association at Quebec. It is scarcely necessary for us to say that the theme was ably handled. Below we reproduce his eloquent peroration as reported by the "Morning Chronicle":

"What we need now for still greater national strength and progress are certain things in the moral category. Shall I say a higher sense of honour among all classes, including our public men, and a supreme regard for truthfulness. It is easily seen that defects in these respects must touch and deteriorate our national life at every point, they will influence domestic relations and public transactions, affect our buying and selling, the entire trade or traffic of the country, they must taint our judicial processes and pervert the decisions of our courts; they will pervade our daily literature and render almost worthless and even pernicious the utterances of our press. And is it not a lamentable fact, as recently declared by a leading statesman, that in order to get an approximately correct view of the doings and utterances of any public man you must read the accounts given by the paper which favours him and the paper which opposes him, and even then, you may fail to reach the truth. Now, it is in the power of our schools and institutions of learning to brand with deserved infamy this detestable vice of lying, and to stamp it out of existence by calling it by its right name and making it bear its proper burden of dishonour and disgrace, and by holding up before our youth a true standard of truthfulness and integrity. This is what is needed to purify our commerce and bring back business to a safe and healthy state, and the only sort of National Policy that can ensure permanent prosperity. We suffer much from, and hear a good deal about, *hard times*, but we are slow to take in the thought that *hard dealings* must bring on hard times in the most productive and highly favoured countries under heaven. If men will have double prices for their goods and force their clerks to lie, and force on trade by unlawful competition, and buy and sell on credit with no rational prospects of meeting their engagements; if young men will rush into business and set up domestic establishments the very first year surpassing or at least equalling in extravagance those of persons who have made their fortunes; if wealthy men, eager to become more so, will found superfluous banks and then press hard upon each other while encouraging reckless adventures—if men will make up their minds to over-reach, and cheat, and lie in business, there is no difficulty in seeing how hard times must inevitably overtake them. And the remedy is to be sought in persistent, universal, thorough moral culture. The vices hinted at are not to be cured in a few months or years. They grow slowly and they die hard. Great, tall, rank plants of iniquity do not grow up like Jonah's gourd in a single night. Giant swindlers undergo a long and hard process of education, and when a multitude of them infest a country it may require a generation or even more to drive them out, and there must be many a crash and exposure in business and in public life before they take their leave. It is manifest that the true way of dealing with these evils, in so far as they affect us, is to teach, and speak, and preach, and work against them. They will not disappear by being left alone. Silence respecting them is criminal. Froude, the historian, justly complained that during thirty years of church-going he never heard a sermon on common honesty, on those primitive commandments, 'Thou shalt not lie,' and 'Thou shalt not steal.' Perhaps his experience is not unique. But we need more than sermons on these questions. We need to permeate our whole educational system with ethical training—we need ten thousand daily lessons in our school-rooms and in our homes on the elements of morals, on the principles of truth, and right, and law, and purity, and frugality, and self-control and general government. These are the principles with which to permeate our whole system of education, and our whole country. Let reverence for truth and right reign supreme, then

"Self-reverence, self-knowledge, self-control, These three alone lead life to sovereign power; Yet not for power (for power of herself would Come uncalled for) but to live by law, Acting the law we live by without fear; And because right is right, to follow right were wisdom In scorn of consequences."

THE most mischievous liars are those who keep sliding on the verge of truth.

HATS for gentlemen at popular prices. Current styles ready. Fine silk hats \$3.25. Coxwell, hatter, 146 Yonge street, four doors north of Temperance street.

IN Hebrew schools it is the rule, and has been the practice from olden time, to study Hebrew with covered heads. The Faculty of the Jewish Union College being unwilling to continue this practice, a ferment is arising.

JOHN B. GOUGH delivered his farewell address in England at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, Mr. Spurgeon presiding and presenting him with his sermons, in twenty-four volumes, as a testimonial to the orator on his departure.

ALEXANDER the Sixth is, perhaps, the greatest and foulest criminal in history; and he is, furthermore, an occupant of the chair of St. Peter, the infallible pontiff of a Church which claims to be connected with Christianity.—*Nineteenth Century*.

THE sinner's blessing is, we believe, within reach of us all—the sweet sense of sins forgiven, the overflowing gratitude of the forgiven Mary. Its costs us too much to be pharisaic if it cuts us off from the tender delight of Mary's happy tears.—*Methodist*.

THERE are multitudes who, in weighing their words, think only of their truthfulness and sincerity, rather than of their appropriateness to the hour; whereas words of truth and sincerity may be culpably cruel words through being words out of season.—*Sunday School Times*.

#### BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

AMONG the missionaries sent out last year by the American Board, five were children of missionaries.

THE difficulty of procuring suitable sites upon which to erect churches is beginning to be felt in London, land bringing fabulous prices.

PRINCIPAL RAINEY has just laid the foundation-stone of a new Free church at Comrie, Scotland. The late Miss Macfarlane left £9,000 towards its erection.

THE Rev. David McKee, the successor of Dr. John Hall in the pastorate of Rutland square Presbyterian church, Dublin, has resigned to go to New Zealand.

It is a good illustration of "the power of the littles" that the receipts of the British government last year from its penny stamps was £825,559 11s. 1d., or over \$4,127,000.

MR. THOMAS SPURGEON, son of the eloquent London preacher, has again been compelled by the state of his health to go to Australia, where he intends to labour as an evangelist.

LORD CAIRNS, the Lord Chancellor of Great Britain, holds religious meetings among his neighbours. His lordship expounds the Scriptures, and Lady Cairns leads the music, playing a melodeon.

COREA, with its population of twelve or fifteen millions, which has been closed to the world two thousand years, has opened one of its ports to Japan, and a native Church of Japan has arranged to send the gospel there.

AN anchor which Columbus lost in 1498 has recently been found on the western extremity of the Island of Trinidad. It was found six feet beneath the surface, and 372 feet inland from the nearest point of the coast line. Its weight is 1,100 pounds.

OVER three millions of dollars have been given by only a dozen individuals within the past year in bequests to missions connected with the Congregational, Presbyterian, Episcopal, Baptist and Wesleyan Churches in the United States.

THE Russian Government has ordered a foundry to devote itself exclusively to the manufacture of ordnance, and is understood to have ordered a ship-building firm on the Clyde to construct a monster ironclad, which is for attack as well as defence.

It is felt that the resignation by Dr. Cumming of the pastorate of the Crown Court congregation, London, removes one of the main difficulties from the way of a union between the English Presbyterians and the congregations of the Established Church of Scotland south of the Tweed.

A PARTY of forty-seven persons, among whom there are twelve married couples and fourteen children, have lately sailed from Bergen, Norway, to colonize the uninhabited Aldabra Island in the Indian Ocean, 300 miles north of Madagascar, which is said to be admirably adapted to agricultural industry.

A CHINESE boy belonging to one of the mission schools at Peking at a recent examination repeated the entire New Testament without missing a single word or making a single mistake. He is now committing to memory Dr. Martin's "Evidences of Christianity." He united with the Church last year, and he has dedicated his extraordinary talent to the service of God.

THE temporary occupation of Afghanistan has been decided upon by the British Government. Gen. Roberts' public entry into Cabul took place at noon, October 12th. The Ameer, pleading indisposition, did not accompany the British forces. Most of the influential men in the city paid their respects to Gen. Roberts. Gen. Hill was appointed Military Governor. Russia has intimated her willingness to permit the destruction of Cabul, but will not allow the annexation of Afghanistan.

A BILL for the abolition of slavery in Cuba, to be presented to the Cortes, provides that slaves aged 55 years and over shall become free immediately; those aged 50 in September, 1880; those aged 45 in 1882, those aged 40 in 1884, those aged 35 in 1886, those aged 30 in 1888, and all others in 1890. From 1880 100,000 piastres will be charged on the Cuban budget for defraying the expenses of emancipation. The sum of 350 piastres will be paid to the owners for each slave. The government will, as much as possible, favour the immigration of free labourers.

A FRENCH Roman Catholic clergyman, the Abbé Meigne, appeals in "Les Mondes" to the whole Christian world for funds to make excavations on the spot where the Egyptians were swallowed up when attempting to follow the Israelites across the Red Sea, "because the finding of the remains of Pharaoh's army would be a powerful reason in favour of the truth of the Holy Scriptures." If \$60,000 are subscribed he will at once begin the work. He seems to have overlooked the probability that, even if the identity of the site is beyond dispute, the decaying power of time must long since have destroyed every vestige of armour, harness, chariot and skeleton, unless, indeed, they have been preserved by a miracle as great as that the belief in which their proposed recovery is to support.

THE Roman Catholics of Australia are waging an unpopular and unsuccessful warfare against the public schools, because their priests, by the terms of the laws, are allowed access only to the children of Catholic parents in giving religious instruction. Their denunciation of the schools has had little effect. The congregation walked out of one of the cathedrals while the bishop was reading his fulmination. In another church the bishop announced that he would confirm no candidates who attended the public schools. He asked the candidates one by one if they attended them, and set those aside as rejected who answered yes; then he took his action all back, and proceeded to confirm the rejected ones, saying that the priest of the parish had expressed his belief that the parents would withdraw the condemned candidates from the schools, and that children should not be made to suffer for the sins of their parents.