

very unusual to it, during his drive to Fullerton.

Jerry Tomlinson's store was in the middle of the village, and being the only shop in the place the old man did a thriving business, though his rough eccentric manners frightened many of his customers, and he made no secret of his contempt and hatred for every thing "religious."

But by this time Thomas had arrived at his door. The upper half was swung back on its hinges, and over the lower half the old man was to be seen peering out into the gloom.

Jerry paused a moment in his reply, and then spoke with great deliberation: "Ye mind t'answer I gied ye when ye cam' on that business afore, and I wonder that ye'd come again, but ye soldiering folk don't give in for a trifle I reckon."

A striking lesson, never more needed than in these times. It is easy to say "Lord, Lord," when saying so does not put the life in jeopardy; it is not so easy to be true in all our words and honest in all our dealings for his sake.

GHOST STORIES.

I know that some young people are fond of ghost stories, and sometimes are dreadfully frightened as they hear them. A cold chill runs through their veins, and perhaps they dream of them at night, and wake up with a start, ready to fancy all sorts of strange things.

One night, soon after we had got comfortably settled into it, I was awakened by a mysterious creaking sound, as if some door in our room was being slowly opened; and yet it hardly seemed quite like the noise of one of the bedroom doors.

Immediately afterward we were awakened by another mysterious sound—a deliberate rapping somewhere downstairs—we could not tell exactly where—not like the rapping of a knocker on a door, but a hollow, muffled, curious kind of sound.

Next day we thought and spoke of the mysterious sound, but no explanation of it could be given, until at night just as I was looking round the house, and seeing that all was safely bolted and locked, I passed by the hat-stand in the hall, and suddenly remembered that some time ago, in our former house, our dog used to pull down the cloaks hanging upon the stand, in the middle of the night, to make himself an extra-bed and that in so doing he had made a rapping sound which several times had awakened us, and was something like the sound which we had heard the night before;

Yes, the strong sometimes become weak, and the courageous timid; but, if we fear God, we have really no reason to fear anything else, for in darkness or in light, in danger or in safety, in life or in death, He will be ever near to protect and preserve us. —Episcopal Recorder.

"HOW READEST THOU?"

You remember, no doubt, the old lawyer, our college treasurer, Squire Clark, said an editorial friend to me lately, in an evening home-talk, in which memories of early days were recalled.

Yes, I replied, and I remember, too, the lesson that he taught the law-students one day, by means of a short question that they heard him ask in open court.

Squire Clark was a good-looking old gentleman, nearly seventy, but quick in movement, not tall or heavy, but, as one said, "lively as a cricket," and cheerful as any of "our boys."

It happened once that in conducting a case, his statement of the law differed from that of the Judge on the bench. Squire Clark's correction was not accepted. He was overruled.

Still, he declared that the law had not been truly stated.

The Judge affirmed his opinion with a tone of authority. The lawyer rose again and began to renew his denial, when the order from the bench rang through the hall,— "Sit down, Mr. Clark!"

The genial old gentleman, smiling, sat down. Ere long, however, he was seen with an open book in his hand, quietly, with bent

frame, moving along toward the Judge's seat, and putting the volume straight before the Judge, pointed to a scored sentence, with the question whispered aloud,— "How readeest thou?"

There was dead silence. The Judge read it, and then lifting his eyes from the page, said in a calm, judicial tone,— "You are right, Mr. Clark!"

Quick as thought the grand old man responded pleasantly, "Yes, your honor, always right, always right!"

The courtroom rang with peals of laughter, in which the Judge joined heartily. That was a victory. The professor who reported it, in his closing gave the talk a turn toward religion, and said,— "Young gentlemen, in studying matters of religious interest you will have to deal with men's contradictory statements, backed up by quotations from the Bible, the old law-book of the ages."

Now, if you would escape bewilderment, treat your Bible as Squire Clark treated his law-book; study it thoroughly—each for himself—so that you are intimately acquainted with its principles and its decisions.

During the last summer, three boys, stopping with their parents at Atlantic City, New Jersey, one being ten and the others thirteen years of age, saw a little boat at the landing which so pleased them that they wished the little craft was theirs, and tried hard to prevail upon their parents to purchase it for them.

BUILT THEIR OWN BOAT.

"Where there's a will there's a way," has been illustrated in the victory of more than one enterprising lad over difficulties.

Failing in this, they resolved to build one themselves, and gathering together the proper materials by purchasing lumber and borrowing tools, went at the work.

In thirty days, with no assistance from any boat-builder and only an occasional look at their model boat, their little craft, eight feet in length, was ready for the water. The happy day came when all preparations were completed to launch her, and with the ceremonies usual to such circumstances, with a beautiful flag floating from her mast, and amid loud hurrahs from the spectators, who were seated on a platform erected by the lads, the little boat was sent afloat.

She will carry three persons, has a mast and sail, and is painted and finished throughout in a neat and substantial manner.

THE BIBLE ITS OWN WITNESS.

The following incident was related by the Rev. Dr. Yates, a veteran member of the American Baptist Mission in Shanghai. It occurred some twenty years ago. A Chinese merchant came into his chapel one afternoon and after talking with him for a short time Dr. Yates sold him a copy of the New Testament. He took it home, 200 or 300 miles away, and after about three months appeared again in the chapel. He came back to say that he was under the impression that the book was not complete, that surely it must have other parts, and so he came to get the Old Testament, as he had read and studied the New. What had he done with the New Testament? He had taken it to his home and had shown it to the schoolmaster and the reading people. They said, "This is a good book. Confucius himself must have had something to do with it. As there was only one copy, they unstitched this one, and took it leaf by leaf, and all those who could write took a leaf home. They made twelve or fifteen complete copies of the New Testament, and introduced it into their schools without any "conscience clause." It was introduced as a class-book, throughout that district, for heathen schools.

HOME DUTIES FIRST.

A girl of fourteen, who had lately been converted, asked God to show her what she should do for Him, and what was her special work. After praying for some time, the thought came into her mind that there was her baby brother, only a few months old, which she could take and nurse for the Lord. So she took the charge of the child, and re-

lieved her mother in the work and care of the little one.

This was godly and Christ-like. Home duties and fireside responsibilities have the first claim upon every child of God. We need not go abroad for work when God places work within our reach.

"The daily round, the common task," provides ample opportunities for serving God, doing whatsoever our hands find to do.

Little words, not eloquent speeches; little deeds, not miracles, nor battles, nor one great heroic act or mighty martyrdom, make up the Christian life.—Dr. H. Bonar, Word and Work.

THE BEST RECIPE for going through life in an exquisite way with beautiful manner, is to feel that everybody, no matter how rich or how poor, needs all the kindness he can get from others.

Question Corner.—No. 13.

Answers to these questions should be sent in as soon as possible and addressed EDITOR NORTHERN MESSENGER. It is not necessary to write out the question, give merely the number of the question and the answer. In writing letters always give clearly the name of the place where you live and the initials of the province in which it is situated.

BIBLE QUESTIONS.

- 145. For whom did a band of men lie in wait, bound by an oath that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed him?
146. Where in the Bible is Paul first mentioned?
147. Which of the apostles cut off the right ear of a man with a sword?
148. On what occasion did he do it and who was the man?
149. Who said that if all the things which Jesus did were recorded "I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written"?
150. What was the parting promise of Christ to his disciples?
151. By whom was Paul educated?
152. Who was the father-in-law of Moses?
153. What prophet when he was first called was ploughing with twelve yoke of oxen?
154. What exile returned and rebuilt the walls of the city of his fathers?
155. How long did the Israelites sojourn in the land of Egypt?
156. How long did Job's friends tarry without saying a word when they came to mourn with him?

BIBLE ACROSTIC.

- 1. What the Spirit is sometimes called.
2. The city in which Paul preached his most noted sermons.
3. The name of the damsel who was gatekeeper for the church while they prayed for Peter.
4. The name of the people whose great champion David killed.
5. The name of one of Jacob's grandsons.
6. The name of an ancestor of every person now living.
7. The name of a disciple whom Peter raised from the dead.
8. The name of the man whose prayers brought or withheld the rain.
9. The name of an ancient total abstinence family.

The initials form the name of the trade at which Jesus worked.

ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUESTIONS IN NO. 11.

- 121. Absalom's. 2 Sam. xviii. 9, 15.
122. Jezebel. 1 Kings xxi. 1, 16.
123. Elijah. 1 Kings xxi. 17, 24.
124. She was thrown out of a window and devoured by dogs. 2 Kings ix. 30, 37.
125. At Jericho. 2 Kings ii. 5, 9.
126. Enoch. Gen. v. 24; Heb. xi. 5.
127. To the tribe of Judah. Dan. i. 6.
128. The street which is called Straight. Acts ix. 11.
129. Samuel. 1 Sam. xii. 2, 3.
130. Lev. xix. 32.
131. Caleb. Josh. xiv. 10, 11.
132. Judah numbered seventy-four thousand six hundred men able for war. Num. i. 27.

CORRECT ANSWERS RECEIVED.

To No. 11.—David McGee, 12; Alex. George Burr, 12; Janet Pattison, 11; Sarah Pattison, 11; Annie M. Pattison, 11. To No. 10.—James Dudley, 12; Helen Nicholson, 11; David McGee, 11; Florence E. Weatherby, 14.