

PLAYING FOOL.

An industrious young shoemaker fell into the habit of spending much time at a saloon near by. One by one his customers began to desert him. When his wife remonstrated with him for so neglecting his work for the saloon, he would carelessly reply, "Oh, I've just been down a little while playing pool." His little two-year old caught the refrain, and would often ask, "Is you going down to play fool, papa?"

Smith tried in vain to correct this word. The child persisted in his own pronunciation, and day by day he accented his father with "Has you been playin' fool, papa?" This made a deep impression on the shoemaker, as he realized that the question was being answered in the falling off of his customers and the growing wants of the household. He resolved again and again to quit the pool table, but weakly allowed the passion of play to hold him a long time. Finally he found himself out of work, out of money and out of flour. Sitting on his bench one afternoon, idle and despondent, he was heard to exclaim,

"No work again to-day! what I'm to do I don't know."

"Why," papa, prattled the baby, "Can't you run down and play fool some more?"

"Oh, hush, you poor child!" groaned his father, shamestricken. "That's just the trouble: papa has played fool too much already."

But he never played, it again, and to-day his home is comfortable and happy.

BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS

If all Christian people were but possessed of the peacemaking spirit no little spark of enmity would ever become a fire. Whenever we find a man angry with another we should then at once seek to remove the angry feeling. This a few peaceable, charitable words will often do in a few moments. Most personal quarrels arise from misunderstandings, which a wise and kindly mediator rarely finds serious difficulty in correcting. The little rifts in friendship that we find we should strive to heal. The unkind thoughts of others which we discover in people's minds we should seek to change into kindly thoughts. We can do no better, Christlier, service in this world than to promote peace between man and man, to keep people from drifting

apart and to draw them closer together in love. There is nothing that this world so much needs as more love. There are things enough to separate people, to drive them apart and to produce frictions and alienations. What we want is more of the spirit which inspires men to love each other better and which makes them patient, gentle, meek, charitable, kindly affectioned. So let us burnish up this neglected beatitude and become children of God, like our Father, in making peace between man and man, even by personal loss and sacrifice.—*Sel.*

TO MAKE A HAPPY HOME.

Learn to govern yourselves, and be gentle and patient. Guard your tongues, especially in seasons of ill-health, irritation and trouble, and soften them by prayer and a sense of your own shortcomings and errors. Remember that, valuable as is the gift of speech, silence is often more valuable. Never retort a sharp or angry word. It is the second word makes a quarrel. Learn to speak in a gentle tone of voice. Learn to say kind, pleasant things whenever opportunity offers. Study the character of each, and sympathize with all in their troubles, however small. Do not neglect little things if they can effect the comfort of others in the smallest degree. Avoid moods and pets and fits of sulkiness. Learn to deny yourself, and perfect others. Beware of meddlers and tale-bearers. Never charge a bad motive if a good one is conceivable.—*Sel.*

TAKE CARE OF YOUR CHARACTER.

Take care of your character. Do not be too much concerned for your reputation. It will give you no trouble. Character is everything—something that cannot be hid from God or man, that cannot be changed as we change a garment; but we carry it with us wherever we go, and by it we are known every day of our life. A pure, earnest, broad, consistent, symmetrical character—what blessings it confers on the world!

Righteousness was the birthright of humanity. "Its corruption was derived. A tempter took it into Paradise." Christ, the Restorer of humanity, is seeking to cast out its evil and restore it to its original righteousness. O blessed Christ! Would that humanity would kneel at Thy feet and accept Thy precious, proffered gift!