

Young People's Department.



THE BARREL ORGAN.

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MOST of you have seen and heard a "barrel organ." Those of you who live in cities are familiar with the dark face of the "organ-grinder" with his trick monkey.

Some, however, may never have seen one and a short description of it may not be uninteresting.

There are a number of pipes generally made of wood, inside, so arranged that by turning a crank, wind is let through them in such a way as to produce certain tunes.

The present picture represents one of these instruments in a Mission in Africa, and the natives are playing it. They are rather astonished at the sounds produced by the turning of the crank, and the missionary is evidently trying to quiet their nerves.

In olden days these barrel organs were very much used in churches, some of them being much larger than that represented in the picture. Any one can play a barrel organ, but the trouble with it is that it can only play a certain number of tunes, and always plays them in exactly the same way. The story is told of an organ in Scotland of something of the same kind, but so constructed (like a music box) as to play certain tunes when wound up, and that on one Sunday morning some one who did not understand it very well started it going, but did not know how to stop it, and the consequence was that it went on from one tune to another, and the minister could not go on with the service. So four or five strong men lifted it up and carried it out into the grave yard,

where, perched on one of the flat grave stones, it deliberately played out its tunes with the grave stones only as an audience, while the people went on with their service in the church.

No doubt, however, instruments of this nature may be made very useful in missionary work, for any one can turn a crank, while it is not every one that can play an organ.

A BOY is like a piece of iron which in its rough state is not worth much, nor of very much use, but the more processes it is put through the more valuable it becomes. Iron that is only worth \$5 in its natural state is worth \$12 when made into horse shoes, and if it goes through the different processes by which it is made into needles, its value is increased to \$350. Made into penknife blades it would be worth \$3,000, and into balance springs for watches \$250,000.

But the iron has to go through a great deal of hammering and beating, and rolling and pounding, and polishing, and so a boy, if to become useful and educated, must go through a long course of study and training. The more time spent in hard study the better material you will make. The iron does not have to go through half as much to be made into horseshoes as to be converted into watch springs, but how much less value is it! Which would you rather be boys, horse-shoes or watch-springs? It depends on yourselves. You can become whichever you will. This is your time of preparation for manhood.

ALL the American missionaries in Burmah have incorporated total abstinence in their work.