

MAKE HOME ATTRACTIVE.

Go through the town any evening, and you will be surprised, if you have never given the matter any thought, at the number of boys and young men who make a practice of squandering their evenings, to say nothing about the days spent in the same manner. Squandering time is the sin of the age. As a rule, the idle indolent boy goes to the bad. He may have all the elements necessary to make a first-class business or professional man; but if he is not instructed and encouraged to form habits of industry, he will be a failure almost inevitably. There is wisdom in the Jewish proverb, "He who brings his son up without a trade, brings him up to be a thief." Prison statistics show that a large proportion of convicts never learned a trade till they learned one in prison.

There is one way this great evil of squandering time can be remedied, if not altogether obviated. Parents must take the matter in hand—must themselves set the example of industry and frugality, and must see that their children imitate the example, and that they have something to do. Make the home pleasant and attractive. If the boys love the street or the loafing place better than the home, you may rest assured that the home is wanting in some important particular. Provide the boys with interesting reading matter, and useful tools, and encourage them to employ their time in any harmless way that will keep them from idleness and profligacy. When you see a boy or a young man willing to trifle away a day, a month, or a year in doing the work of a disgusting street loafer, you may set it down that it would not take much to persuade that boy or that young man to become a full-fledged scoundrel.

It is well to teach the boys that no success comes from squandering time, and that the better class of people have about as high a regard for a real industrious thief as for an ignorant, idle loafer. It is in the power of most parents to regulate this matter, and if they will do it we shall see our army of triffin' loafing young men and boys diminish. Make the home what it should be, and you have done much towards assuring the future of our boys.

But if parents suffer their own minds to grovel continually in sties and stables, and see nothing higher in life than land and money, how can they lead their children on to useful lives, fruitful in noble words and deeds?

The operation of the Old-age Pension Act in Great Britain has in a curious way brought out a fact which is rather disquieting to the people of the Church of England. Persons applying for pensions have to prove their age, and naturally go to the parish registers for baptismal certificates. In the West Highlands of Scotland a great many Presbyterians have had to apply to the English Church at Fort William for their certificates, showing that their parents had been Episcopalians. Within the memory of living man Lochaber, Morven, Appin, and Ballachulish were Episcopalian, but not so now. The baptisms in one place have gone down from an average of eighteen to three per annum. The Churchman laments that the same tendency is shown in Canada.

THE GOSPEL OF LOVE.

An eminent minister of the Gospel was criticised because he did not preach the law of God, but only and always the love of Christ. It was said that persons awakened by such preaching would not truly repent of sin. But on the contrary, it was found that the more sinners realized the love of Christ in dying for them the deeper and more intense was their hatred of sin. Sin was to them not simply the violation of law, but that abominable thing which nailed their Saviour to the accursed tree. It is well, of course, to present all the doctrines of the Bible in due order and proportion. The old preachers were very systematic. They presented in their sermons, at least once a year, the "whole body of divinity." Their theory was that the people must be indoctrinated in order to be saved. But the great truths of the evangelical system are so vitally connected with each other that if one is received, it will bring all the rest; if one is stimulated it will quicken all the rest. Hence many a preacher who has little logic or learning, by simply telling the story of the Cross, has brought men to repentance and built them up in the faith. That is not always one-sided which seems so. There is a difference between pulling the oar on one side of a boat and spurring one side of a horse.

THE TORONTO POLICEMAN'S SUNDAY.

The policeman's lot in Toronto is not a happy one. He has but one day a month off duty, and if that day does not happen to fall on Sunday he cannot go to church at all, unless he goes without rest or meals. Surely this is not a proper condition of affairs in Toronto the Good.

The men of the force, considering they should have a day off duty more frequently, say one day in seven, so they could occasionally have a Sunday to themselves or with their families, asked the Ministerial Association to speak a word with the Police Commissioners on their behalf. For this they have been pulled up by the chief of police, and asked for an explanation of their conduct. We presume they have broken some rule, but why should there be such a rule? A Christian city like Toronto should treat its servants with more consideration. The police force in that city is one of which its citizens may well feel proud. The men should have a chance to have a Sunday off.

A curious, and at the same time fanatical, illustration of a belief in the efficacy of prayer is afforded by a woman in Great Britain who has been sending to leading physicians and surgeons a printed circular threatening to kill by prayer those who practice vivisection. Her pretensions have been strengthened by the death of a well known vivisectionist after she had prayed that the Almighty would remove the man most likely to cause future suffering by his experiments. Vivisection is perhaps unjustifiable, but this method is hardly the proper one to put a stop to it. It is such things that cause many to consider as superstitious all believers in the efficacy of prayer.

COMMENTARY ON THE HOLY BIBLE.*

We have received from the publishers a handsomely printed volume of over 1,000 pages, purporting to be a commentary on the Holy Bible, "complete in one volume, with general articles and maps. Of the making of books, there is really no end, and certainly there is no lack of commentaries;" but this one, as the editor explains, "has been specially written to meet the wants of the ordinary Bible reader." He further adds: "The One Volume Commentary is an attempt . . . to provide, in convenient form, a brief explanation of the meaning of Scriptures. Introductions have been supplied to the various books, and notes which will help to explain the principal difficulties, textual, moral or doctrinal, which may arise in connection with them. A series of Articles has, also, been prefixed, dealing with the larger questions suggested by the Bible as a whole. It is to be hoped that the Commentary may lead to a perusal of many of the books of Holy Scripture which are too often left unread, in spite of their rare literary charm and abundant usefulness for the furtherance of the spiritual life. "Referring to the problem of space, the editor says that to treat so vast a subject in so small a space must inevitably provoke criticism, but he trusts that even within the limits of a single volume, much will be found to remove difficulties, to strengthen faith, and lead to a wider study and fuller comprehension of the Word of God.

The general articles are of special value, and among them will be found: General introduction to the Bible; the Creation story and Science; Genesis and the Babylonian Inscriptions; The Messianic Hope; The Life of Jesus Christ; The Person of Jesus Christ; Life and Work of St. Paul; The Trinity; The Resurrection; The Atonement; Inspiration; The Study of the Bible; and many others of equal interest. Connected with the work we find the names of two of our own professors—Professor Jordon, D.D., of Queen's University, and Professor McFadyen, M.A., of Knox College, Toronto. Another familiar name is that of Professor G. L. Robinson, Ph. D., for a short time on the staff of Knox College, now Professor of O. T. Literature and Exegesis in McCormack Theological Seminary, Chicago.

The editor has performed his task with rare discrimination; he has called to his assistance a score or more of men, experts it may be said, in the several departments, and the result is a concise commentary that will prove of great value to the ordinary reader, and should find wide acceptance wherever the English language is spoken. It is needless to add that typographically the book is turned out in the excellent manner that characterizes all the publications of the Macmillan company.

*The One Volume Commentary on the Holy Bible, by Rev. T. R. Drum-melow, M.A., Queen's College, Cambridge, Toronto; The Macmillan Company. Price \$2.50 net.