

"That is one reason why I intend to prove that there can be an honest merchant."

"And will you not, for the same reason, choose a religious life, if only to prove that there can be one consistent Christian?"

How many are like this man; making the sins of professors an excuse for not embracing religion. One would think, to a reasoning mind, the reverse would be the case. For if there be so few real Christians, there is the more reason why you should become one, and your class-mate become one, and so on.

Suppose nearly all the physicians in your region to be little better than quack doctors, although having received their degree of M. D. in regular order. You have a proclivity for the study of medicine, but will give no attention to it, because there are so many quacks in the profession.

Another has a great leaning toward the profession of the law; but says: "There are so many rogues and cheats in that department, I will not be a lawyer." But would not the true reasoning and aim be, "Because there are so many ignorant and unprincipled ones in the profession, there is more need of educated and upright men among them. Therefore, having a talent for such a profession, I will take it up and strive to be thorough in the knowledge of it, and upright in all its transactions."

"I will not be a mechanic or artisan of any sort; there are so many poor ones. I will not follow any trade, profession or calling whatever; there are so many rogues in them. I will starve and die rather."

Who would argue thus?

Yet, young man, by neglecting religion or resolving not to make it a personal duty, you seem willing to starve your soul here and die eternally because there are so many false professors; so many seeming hypocrites.

Will this plea avail you before the bar of eternal justice? Does it stand firm, even at the bar of your own conscience and under the close scrutiny of your better judgment and moral sense? Although there were not one true Christian upon earth, not one sincere professor, are not you under solemn obligations

before God to become a consistent follower of Jesus? Are not you personally accountable? Must not you answer for yourself alone? Yea, for "every man must give an account of himself to God."  
—*S. S. Times*

### THE BLIND BOY'S PATIENCE.

The other day I went to see a little blind boy. Scarlet fever had settled in his eyes, and for many months he had not seen at all. He used to be a sprightly little fellow, upon the run everywhere.

"Well, my dear boy," I said, "this is hard for you, is it not?"

He did not answer for a moment; then he said, "I don't know that I ought to say *hard*,—God knows best;" but his lip quivered, and a little tear stole down his cheek.

"Yes, my child; you have a kind Heavenly Father, who loves you, and feels for you more even than your mother does."

"I know it, sir," said the little boy, "and it comforts me."

"I wish Jesus were here to cure Frank," said his little sister.

"Well," said I, "He will open little Frank's eyes to see what a good Saviour He is. He will show him that a blinded heart is worse than blind eyes; and He will cure it, and make him see, and enjoy beautiful heavenly things, so that he may sit here and be a thousand times happier than many children who are running about."

"I can't help wishing he could see," said Lizzie.

"I dare say; but I hope that you don't try to make Frank discontented."

"Frank *isn't* discontented," said Lizzie, earnestly; "he loves God. And love sets everything right, and makes its own sunshine; does it not, Frank?"

"I don't feel cross now," said the little blind boy, meekly. "When I'm alone I pray and sing my Sabbath-school hymns, and sing, and sing; and God is in the room, and it feels light, and—and—I forget I'm blind at all;" and a sweet light stole over his pale features as he spoke. It was heavenly light I was sure.  
—*The Christian*.