

mind too bewildered to attend to anything properly. Donaldson was there, and seemed to be watching for him.

'You have been to see Rushton,' said he, eagerly. 'What did he want with you? Did he tell you anything?'

'What should he tell me?'

'I do not know; only I thought—I hoped—' and Donaldson paused, and looked so confused that Frank at once suspected, what was in fact the truth, that he was one of the six who stole the peaches, and had repented of it afterwards.

CHAPTER XXIII.

BETTER THAN A PRIZE.

MANY were the hours which Frank and Rushton spent together. The latter, subdued by illness, and grateful for the undeserved kindness of his companion, grew strangely patient; and when it occasionally happened otherwise, Frank remembered how much he suffered, and bore with him as well as he could.

'I wonder,' said Philip Doyle, somewhat impatiently to Frank, 'how can you spend so much time with that disagreeable Rushton, especially when every moment is precious and you ought to be working hard for a prize.'

'Rushton is not disagreeable now,' replied Frank. 'I am really beginning to like him.'

It is so natural to like those to whom we are kind.

'But the prizes,' continued Doyle: 'I thought that you wanted to gain one?'

'So I did; and so I do.'

'You never will, if you idle away your time in the way you have been doing of late.'

'I suppose not; but Rushton looks so for my coming.'

'Why cannot his friend Howard sit with him?'

'Because Howard is working hard too; harder than any of us. It would do him good to get a prize.'

'Yes, I hope he will,' said Doyle; 'he deserves it for his industry and perseverance. But I want to gain one also.'

'Thank you,' answered Frank, 'I should like it very much; and I think I could if I were to try.'

'Then try by all means. Remember how pleased your father would be.'

'And Helen,' continued Frank. 'Yes I will try. I will go and tell Rushton the reason why I cannot be with him so much, and I am sure that he will let me off.'

'Let you off?' repeated Doyle. 'Why,

what possible claim can he have upon you?'

'The claim of sickness and misfortune,' replied Frank, gently.

'You are right,' said Doyle. 'Now run along, and join us in the school-room as soon as you can.'

Frank ran a few steps and then hesitated; and instead of going up stairs to visit his sick friend, went, as it was playtime, into the garden, where he walked up and down, apart from the rest, and full of thought.

'It is late, to be sure,' argued he; 'but I think, I have no doubt, but that, by working hard, and making up for lost time, I might still gain a prize. I want to show Helen that I can win a prize. My dear father, too, how pleased he would be! It is almost certain to be a book, and then I would leave it in his study, where he could see it every day. Rushton is not a selfish boy; and if I were to tell him this, he would be the first to urge my staying away. But then how lonely he would be, for no one else thinks of going to see him! And perhaps he might give over reading the Bible, just as he has begun to take an interest in it. I should not be afraid if he had gone on for some time, for then he would not be able to do without it. I wish I knew what was right.'

(Concluded next week.)

IMPORTANCE OF JUVENILE ORGANIZATION.

(From the Youth's Temperance Visitor.)

Children are sensitive about keeping their pledge. A father was once telling his family about quenching his thirst with cider, because water could not be obtained. "Father," said his little boy, "how far were you from James River when you drank the cider?"—"Rather more than fifteen miles, my boy."—"Well, I'd have walked there and back again rather than break my pledge." During the last few years, we believe that those who signed the pledge in childhood have been the most faithful to it.

Are our sabbath schools awake on this subject? Of course, no one would be foolish enough to require the pledge, as a condition of admission to a school; but is the formation of temperance societies within the school encouraged and aided? If one asks wherein the new movements commencing should differ from the former ones, we should say, first of all, let the Church have more prominence, and let there be temperance organizations connected with every religious congregation. On the same principles, the

Sabbath school should have a branch society for its members

After all, is there much hope of succeeding with the children, unless the adults join the movement too? Is it well to give the young the impression that temperance is good for them only until they overgrow it? Let the children be educated to total abstinence by the example of their parents, teachers, and friends. Temperance for children exclusively is regarded by them simply as one of the disabilities of childhood. The rule for temperance is the same as for all moral education, "Train up a child in the way he should go [i.e., after he becomes a man]; and when he is old he will not depart from it." Any other temperance than such as is adapted to all ages, a child, if he live, certainly will depart from. Nothing could be better adapted to teach him that it is manly to drink, than to make total abstinence a duty peculiar to childhood.

We wish to say, then, that juvenile temperance organizations will be worth but little, unless the adults are also organized, keeping the pledge themselves, and carrying it to the degraded around them, as one means of bringing the world to Christ.

LOOK OUT FOR MASKED BATTERIES!

Beware of masked batteries! You know the mischief they work. They have various forms, and are located at various places; but they always work mischief. There are many of them, and for fear that they should be brought to bear upon you, we will point out some of them.

That screen, that you see as you pass the saloon door, is a masked battery. You know this without being told; for why do men or boys go behind that screen for anything that is honest or proper? Did you ever go near enough to read what is written upon it? "Come behind here, boys," it says, "and do what you are ashamed to be seen doing! Come behind here, and be cheated, by giving your money for what will do you more hurt than good! Come behind here, and conceal a bad example! Come behind here, and see how mean a business we carry on; see how we mislead boys, and ruin men; how we get our living by doing evil to others; how we make drunkards and promote poverty; how we ring the hearts of fathers and mothers by enticing their boys to ruin! Come behind here, boys, men, women, children, and see what the screen tries to hide."

Those little dog kennels, in the shop below, are masked batteries indeed. What kind of