

and genuine reformation takes place, the individual always suffers the cravings of former excitement.—*Mother's Assistant.*

### LITTLE JOHNNY.

#### HAPPY INFLUENCE OF SUNDAY-SCHOOL TEACHING.

Some years ago, I became acquainted with a family consisting of the father, mother, and two dear children. The mother was a kind-hearted woman. She had been from early years the subject of conviction, and now, for some time, a consistent Christian. But the father, from his youth up, had been daring and wicked. Why did such a woman marry such a man? Because, as she said, she loved him, and followed her feelings rather than her judgment and the Book of God. (1 Cor. vii. 39.) He was a member of an Odd Fellows' lodge, and was there very frequently until midnight, and was very popular as a good singer at "free-and-easy" clubs. This lasted for some years.

Johnny was four years old, and his mother permitted him to go to a Sunday-school. There you might see him Sunday after Sunday, sitting among the little ones, with an A B C card in his hand. There he learned to repeat hymns and sing, and answer questions put by his teachers. His dear mother attended the same place of worship, and the gospel was indeed food to her soul. But Mr. P——, the father, cared for none of these things; he attended no place of worship. He was "pretty constant" at "his lodge," and generally very late at home, so that he was but little society for his wife. She acutely felt his inattention and unkindness. However, she and "little Johnny" spent the long winter evenings at home, singing, repeating hymns, reading the

Bible, and talking about God and heaven.

It was in vain for the wife to remonstrate with Mr. P——. She prudently bore with him as well as she could, and committed her cause to God. She thought, if she could get him under the sound of the gospel, the Lord might change his heart, and thus appear for her. She spoke to him repeatedly, but all to no purpose. But "Johnny" went to Sunday-school; he loved to go, and would remain to attend public worship afterwards. The Sunday-school was at some distance, and there was some difficulty in getting him to and from the church; and he was so young, he could not go alone; his mother did not always like to trust him to the care of other children, and to detain him at home appeared cruel, for he was so happy in his Sunday-school. But Johnny, in the simplicity of his little heart, removed all this difficulty himself. He asked his father to go with him to church. Mr. P——, though a rough man, was very fond of his little son; and though he could say *no*, and that with anger, to grown persons, he could not deny the request of his little child. Hence, after this you might see, up in the gallery, a fine little boy, with rosy cheeks, washed clean, and neatly dressed; and close by his side a strong, well-built man, with a broad forehead, rather bald, listening with attention to the preacher. It is Johnny's father.

Henceforward you may see him there as constantly as circumstances will allow. He hears, believes, and is converted. He becomes a Sunday-school teacher. There you may frequently see him teaching Johnny's class. The writer was at that time a teacher in the same school, and has walked with Mr. P——, in turn with others, five and six miles to teach Sunday-schools at our stations.