

at the age of twenty-eight, I am a wreck—body and mind. You led me to drink. In this room I formed the habit that has been my ruin. Now, sell me a few more glasses and your work will be done! I shall soon be out of the way; there is no hope for me. But they can be saved. Do not sell it to them. Sell it to me and let me die, and the world will be rid of me; but for heaven's sake sell no more to them."

The landlord listened, pale and trembling. Setting down the decanter, he exclaimed, "God help me, it is the last drop I will sell to anyone!" And he kept his word.

**NO DIFFERENCE.**—A little black girl, eight years old, was setting the table, when a boy in the room said to her, "Mollie, do you pray?"

The suddenness of the question confused her a little, but she answered, "Yes, every night."

"Do you think God hears you?" the boy asked.

She answered promptly, "I know He does."

"But do you think," said he, trying to puzzle her, "that He hears your prayers as readily as those of white children?"

For full three minutes the child kept on with her work; then she slowly said, "Master George, I pray into God's ears, and not His eyes. My voice is just like any other little girl's, and, if I say what I ought to say, God does not stop to look at my skin."

**EFFECTS OF DISOBEDIENCE.**—"Let the sickles alone," said a farmer to his son, who was left in the field while the reapers went to dinner. James obeyed his father for a time; but at length he grew lonesome, and took up a sickle "just to look at it." He then felt its edge, and then thought he would cut "one handful." In so doing, he cut his little finger, inflicting a wound which rendered the middle joint useless for the rest of his life. When it was healed, an ugly scar and stiff finger were lasting mementos of his disobedience. Disobedience to God leaves a scar on the sinner's soul, and lessens his capacity for virtue. Every sin thus effects a change for the worse in the condition of the soul. It is not merely registered in the book of God's remembrance; it is registered in the very condition of the soul.

**MR. SPURGEON'S ADVICE TO BOYS.**—"When I was just fifteen, I believed in the Lord Jesus, and joined the Church of Christ. I tell you, boys, the day I gave myself up to the Lord Jesus, to be His servant, was the very best day of my life. Then I began to be safe and happy; then I found out the secret of living, and had a worthy object for my life's exertions, and an unfailling comfort for life's troubles. Because I wish every boy to have a bright eye, a light head, a joyful heart, and overflowing spirits, I plead with him to consider whether he will not follow my example, for I speak from experience."

**WHY** the Turkish Government should have taken such extraordinary pains to prevent any allusions in the press to the burning of the famous mosque at Damascus, it is not easy to understand. The fire occurred on the 14th of October last, and the destruction of the building had a most depressing effect upon the city. It is said that people regarded it as a portentous calamity, indicating the decay of Turkish power and prestige. One of the most singular facts connected with the mosque is that an inscription upon one of its towers, which was placed there when the building was the Church of St. John the Baptist, prior to the conquest of Omar, has been allowed to remain during all these centuries. Strange to say, in this last fire the tower, with its inscription, was not injured. There it stands to-day, looking down on the ruined mosque, and one may still read the words: "Thy kingdom, O Christ, is an everlasting kingdom, and Thy dominion is from generation to generation."

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