

young friend, 'How do you do? What do you want books about New Zealand for?'

He answered with a sad face, 'I am ordered off to that place.'

'Indeed,' I said, 'why is this?'

'Oh, you know, I have been rather wild lately, and they tell me I have just done for myself. The old doctor says, if I go to New Zealand at once, I may live; but that it is quite impossible if I remain in this country.'

I thought to myself, God has various ways with men, if they will not 'come,' they may have to 'go.' If they will not yield in one way, he tries them in another.

In the meantime several books were brought and set before my friend. Some with pictures and no maps, and others with maps and no pictures. He was obliged to supply himself with more than one book to obtain the information he wanted.

While the parcel was being tied up I said to him, 'Why are you getting so many books?'

He replied, 'I need them all in order to acquaint myself with the place to which I am going. I must get to know something about the manners of the people, and the climate; also what preparations to make.'

'Yes, exactly so, that is well and wise,' I said.

He having paid the bill and taken up the parcel, we set off together.

On our way, I said, 'My dear fellow, if you had given your heart to God, I do not think you would have had this banishment from home put upon you. Now, the next best thing for you to do is to accept this sentence as from God, and ask him to bless it to your soul's good.'

The young man was rather sad, and I thought impressible; so I went on to say, 'You have refused many invitations to come to God, and now he is bidding you to go. Thank him that it is not to go away out of this world, but at present only to another part of it, where you may perhaps live and enjoy health. Now, do you propose to spend your life there as you have done here, or be a wiser man?'

'I have been thinking about that,' he said. 'I see now what a fool I have been; but the fact is I am as weak as water.'

'You dear fellow,' I replied, 'then you are exactly the kind of person to go to God for strength. Do not trust yourself, or your own resolutions.'

By this time we were passing the bible depot, so I went in, and, in remembrance of the kindness I had received from his family, I bought a good bible, and wrote his name in it.

'Here is a book for you,' I said, 'a book which will tell you of a better world than New Zealand. It has maps, pictures, illustrations and directions of all kinds. Mind you read this as well as the other books you have bought. It is well to know about the land to which you are going. I am doctor enough to tell you that we have no abiding city here; we are all under orders to go, but where? To heaven or to hell?'

My young friend was very sad at the thought of going away from home, and, as he said, perhaps to die in a far-off land, and be buried by strangers.

He was intending to read his books, and by their means set up an object of hope in his mind. But, notwithstanding this effort to cheer himself, the prospect of dying in a strange land made him very unhappy.

I was rather glad it did. I said to him, 'Now, my dear fellow, do let me persuade you to give your heart to God before you go. It will do you good, and nothing will cheer and comfort your dear mother so well. She will have anxiety enough about your going off alone, especially in your precarious state.

You really ought to give her this comfort. The voyage itself may do you good, and the climate yonder re-establish your health, or it may not. Give God your heart.'

'I will,' he said with emotion.

'Thank God,' I replied. 'Now, then, do it, and I will call again and see you in the evening.'

In the evening I found him in a most hopeful condition. He was not ignorant of the way of salvation; all he wanted was a definite surrender of himself to God, and this he now made unreservedly. After a few words of cheer and encouragement his soul came into liberty. What joy awaited his dear mother next morning, after the sleepless and anxious night she had passed.

'Now, Lord,' she said, 'I can trust my boy with thee anywhere!'

In due course he embarked on his voyage and arrived in safety at New Zealand. There he travelled about and had many opportunities of testifying for God and telling about salvation, which was too much neglected in these parts.

The physician had told him that, if his health improved by the end of the year he might return to England.

Accordingly he came home, and spent many happy years in the Lord's service, joyfully following, and by his life recommending him to others. He was especially led to care for young men who he knew were wasting their lives in dissipation and folly. He could speak feelingly to such, and warn them to take heed from his own case. Testimonies of this kind are better often than doctrines and precepts.—Rev. W. Halam, in 'The Christian.'

### A Girl's Influence.

( 'Christian Herald.' )

Not long ago I heard a girl defend a man for a course of conduct which was, to say the least, open to much criticism, if not really censurable. Her inexperience, perhaps, made her confident, for the expression of her opinion, that one cannot hold a man to the same rigid standards of right living which are demanded of a woman, was unqualified. An older friend challenged the position taken by the young girl, and in a few sentences showed her that right and wrong are the same for human beings, whatever their surroundings, that a man, equally with a woman, is bound to live soberly, honestly, and in the fear of God.

What I want to impress upon girls is a feeling that their influence for good or ill on the characters and lives of men is potential and far-reaching. A girl cannot condone vice in her associates. She must not have loosely elastic notions as to what her brothers and cousins and the men she meets socially may do without reproach. The truth is that a man has no license beyond that accorded to a woman, and good men and good women do not need license. There is abundant liberty for all right-minded and right-deeded persons, within the safe and sacred circle of divine and human law.

A girl exercises her influence, first and most strongly, by simply being good herself. By good I mean all that the term implies: truthful, sincere, virtuous, Christian. Such a girl goes on her way as Una with her lion. Evil does not touch her, for her garments are white. Sin, profanity, intemperance, are repelled, and shun her presence.

We will take an example: it may be bible-reading, or church-going, or attendance on the mid-week prayer-meeting. The young girl who always, as naturally as the flower

blooms, takes her stand on the highest plane, as to these things, creates around her a sweet atmosphere which has its magical effect on those whom she meets. One such girl will uplift a whole set of young people, holding them to that which is noble by the force of her own sweet consistency, although she may never say a word in blame or reprobation.

'Evelyn Archer is coming home from college,' said Ralph Earl to a friend. 'When Evelyn is here, nobody knows how she does it, but we all take more interest in good things. The young men go to church more regularly. The town puts on better manners. How one girl can manage to do so much nobody can tell, for she seems to be doing nothing, but there it is! A fellow would be ashamed to do anything mean when Evelyn Archer was around.'

Yet quiet Evelyn's only spell was that of one who communed with God and daily endeavored to let her light shine.

A girl's hand should never offer temptation to anyone. A girl's lips should never jest about sacred things. A girl's temper should be serene. A girl's friendship should be always among the honest and upright.

One great mistake which a girl sometimes makes, is in accepting attentions from and yielding her love to a man infirm of purpose, erring in practice, who assures her that her love will be his salvation. It never will. Jesus Christ may and will save the man who repents and forsakes his sins and begins a new life of trust and service. But the man who thus abjures his past and begins to follow Christ is not a weak sentimentalist, willing to crucify in her tenderest nature a woman who disapproves his conduct, but loves and tries to uplift him. Do not marry a man to reform him, my dear girl, but let him give proof of reformation before he even asks your love.

The suitor who is worth a woman's love should be worthy. So let him live that he may be the protector, not the drag-weight of the woman who becomes his wife.

I do not wish to be understood as saying that good men are rare, or that women have a monopoly of the virtues, for this would be manifestly unjust and untrue. But the influence of pure and earnest women should ever be for the elevation of the race and the enlightenment of society. 'Bear a lily in thy hand,' dear lady, and carry the Christ-life to men.—Margaret E. Sangster.

### Reading to Purpose.

One is sometimes asked by young people to recommend a course of reading. My advice would be that they should confine themselves to the supreme books in whatever literature, or, still better, choose some one great author, and make themselves thoroughly familiar with him. For, as all roads lead to Rome, so do they likewise lead away from it, and you will find that in order to understand perfectly and weigh exactly any vital piece of literature, you will be gradually and pleasantly persuaded to excursions and explorations of which you little dreamed when you began, and find yourselves scholars before you are aware. For remember that there is nothing less profitable than scholarship, nor anything more wearisome in the attainment. But the moment you have a definite aim, attention is quickened, the mother of memory, and all that you acquire groups and arranges itself in an order that is lucid, because everywhere and always it is in intelligent relation to a central object of constant and growing interest.—James Russell Lowell.