

"Not a word, sir. He was as kind as a brother," and the poor man's eyes were suffused with sudden tears.

"Then I can do as much as not to make excuse," said the jeweler, taking the "want" card from the window; Go now and get your order filled, and come back after lunch. It does us all good to be boys once in a while."

A week or ten days later, as the overseer was on his rounds, this man, better dressed, with a bright face and a package under his arm, came up to the buggy with a cheerful and respectful "Good-morning."

"I have been looking for a chance to speak to you," he said. "My wife is better and sends you her thanks and her blessing." He went on to explain that he was doing boy's work, and how it came about.

"My employer takes a real interest in me," he continued, "He gave me this suit, overcoat, and all. They have been worn some, but not to hurt them for me, and I am gaining strength every day. I can pay you half that loan now, sir, and the rest next week."

"I don't need it," said Mr. Francis. "Keep it and pass it along as you have opportunity. I believe that is a way of doing good that the Lord approves. When we give ourselves to Him we must consider that we have nothing that we did not receive from Him; so let us help others as He has prospered us and as He gives us opportunity. The fact is, the Lord has put it into some one's heart to help me out, and it has strengthened my faith."

The grocer tells the story: "I was the only one who could see all around the hill," he says. "Of course, I knew Francis. His family was large, his salary only average, and every once in a while a little order would make my bill larger. I was interested in him at the very first, and when he kept on trading with me we grew to be great friends."

Next came the jeweler, paying Francis' grocer's bill, saying: "I was to send him the receipt marked 'Paid,' no questions answered. That interested me in him, and when he promoted his 'old boy' to be janitor of the block on a good salary, and wanting a boy took Overseer Francis' son, whom he had found out in Sunday school, I began to think that grocer's order carried a tail as long as a comet, and every spark was a kind act or a blessing; for it influenced the janitor and his wife to go to church, and me and my family, too, and we all joined at the same time.

"What the end will be only God can conceive, and I think it is so with every unselfish act done in his name."—*American Messenger*,

GIRLS AT HOME.

"Sometimes a girl who gets discontented, and 'yearns after a higher life,' needs nothing but a good, vigorous struggle to maintain any kind of life at all to bring her to her senses," says a writer, in speaking of girls who leave comfortable homes and rush out into the world because they fancy they have a noble ambition "to be something."

The best thing any girl can be, who has a good home where she is needed and wanted, is to be a success in that dear circle where God has placed her. If it is not necessary that she should go out into the world to earn her bread or help some one dependent upon her, let her thankfully accept her happy position, and leave the wage-earning places to others—there are none too many for those who sorely need them.

"Stay at home and do nothing?" you ask. Not at all. Stay at home and do—everything! For be assured there is work enough all round you to fill your hands full, and leave you no excuse for the "butterfly existence" against which you rightly rebel.

Aside from the duties of the home itself, there is a wide field in every church and community for the girl at home—the girl with eyes quick to see, and time to undertake the many useful things that ought to be done, and which others without her gift of leisure cannot undertake.—*Sel.*

THE RESULTS OF STRONG DRINK.

There is said to be fifty-two penitentiaries and over 17,000 jails in the United States.

They cost \$500,000,000 to build them.

In a single year 1,200,000 persons are imprisoned in them.

The immediate expense of this criminality to the country—to say nothing of the far greater indirect expense—is not less than \$100,000,000 annually.

The larger part of this great expense, and almost all of this dreadful crime and demoralization, are due either directly or indirectly to the drinking habits of the people.—*Sel.*