

## HOW DO YOU SPEND YOUR SABBATHS?

He was an upright business man. In his heart he believed the religion of Christ to be true. But he was very busy; and when Sunday came he was thoroughly tired. He became interested, too, in his Sunday paper; so he gradually dropped off going to church. His wife went regularly, and sometimes the children. One morning, just after his wife had set out, he was comfortably seated reading the money article, when he heard his boy talking in the next room.

"Said eight year old Willie, "When you grow up, shall you go to church as mother does; or stay at home like father?" "I shall do neither," said the older one decidedly. "When I'm a man, I shall have my horses, and be on the road on Sundays, and enjoy myself."

The newspaper suddenly lost its attraction. Between the father and it there came a picture of his boys associating with loose men, and drifting into a godless, reckless life; and of himself looking on, in his old age, at the fruit of his self-indulgence. Five minutes after, he was rapidly walking towards the church. When the service was over, his wife, coming down the aisle, saw him waiting at the door. There was a questioning, glad surprise in her eyes; but he only remarked that he had taken a walk, and thought he would join her on the way home. Next Sunday, however, the whole family were in their pew; and all the rest of the day there was a kind of peace about the house that reminded him of his boyhood's days in his father's home. And who will say that he was the less fitted for another week of business life by this share in the service of God's house, instead of "staying at home all Sunday to rest?" For the sake of your children, if not for your own sake, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." *Wilber F. Crafts.*

## SHUT THE DRINKING-SHOPS.

Such, indeed, has been the only training, such are the physical, economical, moral and religious conditions of large masses of the people, that their safety lies, not in resisting temptation, but escaping it. None know that better than themselves. How would thousands hail and bless the day, which, shutting up the drinking-shops, would preserve them from

temptations which are their ruin, and to which they at length passively yield themselves; although, as one said, **THEY KNOW THEIR DOORS TO BE THE WAY TO HELL!** Yet not passively, until this fatal pleasure has paralysed the mind, more, even, than the body.

Many struggle hard to overcome this passion. There is often a long and terrible fight between the man and the serpent that has him fast in his coils; between the love of wife and children, and the love of drink. Never more manfully than some of them, did swimmer struggle in his hour of agony—breasting the waves and straining every nerve to reach the distant shore.

Would Parliament but leave this matter to these people themselves—would they for once delegate their powers of legislation to the inhabitants of our lowest districts—we are confident that, by their all but unanimous vote, every drinking-shop in their neighborhoods would be shut up! The birds, which are now drawn into the mouth of the serpent, would soar aloft on free and joyous wing to sing the praises of the hand that closed its jaws, of the heel that crushed its head.

And so long as Religion stands by—silent and unprotesting against the temptations with which men, greedy of gain, and Governments greedy of revenue, surround the wretched victims of this basest vice—it appears to me an utter mockery for her to go with the Word of God in her hand, teaching them to say, "Lead us not into temptation."—*Rev. Dr. Guthrie.*

## DR. ARNOLD'S DAILY PRAYER.

Dr. Arnold's daily prayer was as follows:—"O Lord, I have a busy world around me; eye, ear and thought will be needed for all my work to be done in this busy world. Now, ere I enter on it, I would commit eye and ear and thought to thee. Do thou bless them, and keep their work thine, that as through thy natural laws my heart beats, and my blood flows without any thought of mine, so my spiritual life may hold on its course at these times when my mind cannot consciously turn to thee to commit each particular thought to thy service. Hear my prayer for my dear Redeemer's sake, Amen." This prayer shows how one can be diligent in business and yet fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. It is well worthy of being preserved for daily reading.