

MOTHER AND SON.

The following incident was related by Mrs. J. K. Barney, of Rhode Island, at the National Meeting of the Women's Christian Union at Philadelphia:—

"There came a woman to me with the question: 'Do you know where my boy is?' and gave me a little clue. For five years she had not looked into his face; and she thought she had traced him under an assumed name to such a prison, and would I find out for her. I located that man in such a prison, to stay there such a time; and then came a letter asking me if I would go to him, with the words, 'Couldn't you come and see me, and take a mother's message to my boy?' Mothers, can you think what message you would have sent that boy? She was in an elegant home. I sat down to a beautiful table with her. She handed me a picture, and told me to show it to him. I said, 'This is not your picture?' 'Yes,' she said, 'that is mine before he went to prison; and here,' said she, 'handing me another, 'is mine after I had had five years of waiting for Charley.' I went with those two pictures to the prison. I called at an inopportune time. He was in the dark cell. The keepers said that he had been in there twenty-four hours; but, in answer to my pleadings, he went down into that dark cell, and the man announced a lady as from his mother. But no reply. Said I, 'Let me step in'; and I did so. There was just a single plank from one end to the other, and that was all the furniture; and there the boy from Yale College sat. Said I, 'Charley, I am a stranger to you, but I have come from your mother; and shall I have to go back, and tell her that you did not want to hear from her?' Said he, 'Don't mention my mother's name here.' Said he, 'I will do anything, if you will go.' As he walked along the cell, I noticed that he reeled. Said I, 'What is the matter?' He said he hadn't eaten anything for twenty-four hours. They brought him something; and I sat down by him, and held the tin plate on which was some coarse, brown bread without any butter, and, I think, a tin cup of coffee. By and by, as we talked, I pressed into his hand his mother's picture; and he looked at it, and said: 'That is my mother. I always said she was the handsomest woman in the world.' He reached it, and held it in his hands, and I slipped the other picture over it. He said, 'Who is that?' I said, 'That is your mother.' 'That my mother?' 'Yes,' I said, 'that is the mother of the boy that I found in a dark cell, after she had been waiting five years to see him.' He said, 'O God, I have done it!' And then he said, 'No, it is the liquor traffic that has done it. Why don't you do something to stop it?' He said, 'I began drinking at home. It was on the table with my food.' Friends, in the name of God and home and native land, let us have our homes pure! I tell you we cannot have the wine socially, and not reap the whirlwind some time."

WHAT MARY GAVE.

When the contribution box comes round in church, boys and girls throw in money which their parents have given them for that purpose. The money is not their gift, but that of their father and mother. They have just as much to spend for their pleasure as they had before. And so I once heard a kind-hearted girl complain that she had nothing of her own that she could give. I will tell you what she gave in one day, and you will see that she was mistaken. She gave an hour of patient care to her little baby sister who was cutting teeth. She gave a string and a crooked pin and a great deal of good advice to the three-year-old brother who wanted to play at fishing. She gave Ellen, the maid, a precious hour to go and visit her sick baby at home; for Ellen was a widow, and left her child with its grandmother while she worked to get bread for both. She could not have seen them very often if our generous Mary had not offered to attend the door and look after the kitchen fire while she was away. But this is not all that Mary gave. She dressed herself so neatly, and looked so bright and kind, and obliging, that she gave her mother a thrill of pleasure whenever she caught sight of the young, pleasant face; she wrote a letter to her father, who was absent on business, in which she gave him all the news he wanted, in such a frank, artless way, that he thanked his daughter in his heart. She gave patient attention to a long, tiresome story, by her grandmother,

though she had heard it many times before. She laughed just at the right time, and when it was ended, made the old lady happy by a good-night kiss. Thus she had given valuable presents to six people in one day, and yet she had not a cent in the world. She was as good as gold, and she gave something of herself to all those who were so happy as to meet her.—Selected.

MEND YOUR MANNERS.

Poor boys! How they have to be lectured and nagged at, because they cannot remember and will not heed the injunctions of their superiors.

A lady friend has a young nephew visiting her, who, though an amiable, handsome and good-natured fellow in the main, wears her life out by obliging her to remind him that his hands are in his pockets, or his hat on, when speaking—neither from lack of knowledge or indisposition to do the right thing, but from pure heedlessness.

Wary of repeating, the lady sat down to her type-writer and printed off these few rules he must remember.

I had the privilege of copying them, and thought perhaps some other boys would like to know what they are.

MANNERS FOR BOYS.

In the street.—Hat lifted when saying "good-by," or "How do you do?" Also when offering a lady a seat, or acknowledging a favor.

Keep step with anyone you walk with. Always precede a lady upstairs, but ask if you shall precede her in going through a crowd or public place.

At the street door.—Hat off the moment you step into a private hall or office.

Let a lady pass first always, unless she asks you to precede her.

In the parlor.—Stand till every lady in the room, also older people, are seated.

Rise if a lady enters the room after you are seated, and stand till she takes a seat.

Look people straight in the face when they are speaking to you.

Let ladies pass through a door first, standing aside for them.

In the dining-room.—Take your seat after ladies and elders.

Never play with your knife, ring or spoon. Do not take your napkin up in a bunch in your hand.

Eat as fast or as slow as others, and finish the course when they do.

Do not ask to be excused before the others unless the reason is imperative.

Rise when ladies leave the room, and stand till they are out.

If all go together, the gentlemen stand by the door till ladies pass.

Special rules for the mouth.—Smacking the lips and all noise should be avoided.

If obliged to take anything from the mouth, cover it with your hand or napkin.

These rules are imperative. There are many other little things that add to the grace of a gentleman, but to break any of these is almost unpardonable.

Your most affectionate AUNTIE.

"Did you make up these rules, auntie?" said Jack, with rather an amused expression on as he thought how many points they hit.

"Not at all. These are just the common usages of good society that every gentleman observes. You will not find your father failing in one of them."

"O, well he's a man."

"And you? don't you want to be a manly boy? Good manners must grow with your growth. If put on too late the patch will show."

Not visitors only, but mothers, sisters and aunts are the "ladies" to whom these attentions are to be shown.

Jack whistled a little to himself, but we noticed that he put his "Rules" into a big envelope and laid it rather carefully in his drawer. Time will tell whether any impression has been made.—Christian Intelligencer.

CARELESS WORDS.

The most cutting wounds given are those of careless speech. Comments upon their own decaying looks, toilets, fortunes or misfortunes, are of course intensely disagreeable to them, but they forget that the rest of the world also find them unpleasant. "Oh, how you have changed! I shouldn't have known you!" exclaimed a lady to an elderly friend, whom she met after an absence of sixteen years, and who had just lost

her only son. "Your hair is so gray, and you're so thin and wrinkled! Dear me! You'll find mother changed; but don't tell her of it. She is very nervous, and it hurts her feelings very much to be told she has grown old."

The lady to whom this careless speech was addressed told me of it with tears. "I know I am changed," she said, "but I had gone back to O—to bury my son, and she cut me to the heart."

It was once my misfortune to be in very feeble health. I knew my friends were anxious about me, but a warm day, or some little pleasure, so brightened me up I felt sure that the spring would bring me new vigor. Everybody told me I looked well, and I was made to feel that I was at least a very healthy appearing invalid. But one bitter January day, a lady came whom I had not seen in six months. "Why, how ill you look!" she cried, taking my hands. "Why, I should scarcely have known you!"

A deadly chill crept over me, and it was weeks before I recovered from Mrs. A's ill-timed interest.—Elizabeth Ovington in Christian Union.

HOW THEY DO IT.

I once knew a frail, ambitious girl who entered the state university at sixteen. She attempted to "jump" a class, that she might finish in three years instead of four. She over-taxed her strength of course, and in her weakened physical condition she contracted a fever, and died.

"We told you so," cried all the croakers. "Girls can't endure a college course. They might as well give up trying to do what men do."

But I repeat—and I know that all who have had any experience in this matter, or who have brought thoughtful observation to bear upon it will agree with me—that it is not trying to do as much as men that hurts these ambitious girls, but trying to do three times as much in half the time.

The other girls in the class which this poor girl entered attempted only the regularly appointed studies, within the usual time, and finished the course without harm, and were graduated with honor. One of them told me that in the whole four years she missed only two days through sickness. But she did not play, sing, paint or embroider, and thoughts of dress troubled her no more than they do the average boy.

This last point is by no means an unimportant one. The odds against the girl in the scholastic race are vastly increased by her dress, and the amount of time, thought and strength it takes to prepare it, keep it in order and, last but not least, to wear it.—Helen Herbert.

Question Corner.—No. 9.

BIBLE QUESTIONS.

EASY SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS.

What animals and birds are mentioned in the following references, and with whose names are they connected?

- 1. 2 Chron. 9: 21. 12. Lev. 8: 14.
2. Gen. 24: 46. 13. Gen. 22: 13.
3. 2 Kings 8: 13. 14. Job. 39: 9.
4. 2 Kings 2: 24. 15. 1 Sam. 17: 37.
5. 1 Kings 4: 26. 16. Jonah: 1: 4.
6. Judges 15: 4. 17. Jeremiah 49: 16.
7. Gen. 22: 7. 18. Ex. 23: 4.
8. Gen. 8: 11. 19. Matt. 7: 15.
9. Num. 11: 31. 20. Lev. 16: 10.
10. 1 Sam. 6: 18. 21. Gen. 8: 7.
11. Isaiah 2: 20.

SCRIPTURE CHARACTER.

By the aid of the following notes from the Bible, find out the personage intended: Give the passages in the Bible to which allusion is made.

- 1. He was a prophet, not one of the great ones.
2. He lived after the Jews' return to their own land.
3. His chief aim was to encourage them in their greatest work.
4. In doing so, he was helped by another prophet.
5. His prophecy contains a mention of the price paid for betraying Jesus.
6. He prophesies Christ's entry into Jerusalem.

ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUESTIONS IN NO. 8.

- 1. Shemaiah (Neh. 6: 10).
2. Naomi (Ruth 4: 16).
3. Jonathan, son of Shimeah (2 Sam. 21: 20, 21).
4. Asabel (2 Sam. 2: 18).
5. Abimelech (Judges 9: 45).
6. Joab. 2 Sam. 3, 27.

EASTER ENIGMA.

THE LORD IS RISEN.—Luke xxiv. 44.

- 1. Thomas John xx. 29.
2. H-manus Esther ix. 24.
3. E-mmanuel Luke xxiv. 18.
4. J-aban Luke xxiv. 20.
5. O-bed Ruth iv. 17.
6. R-achel Gen. xxix. 18.
7. Dagon Judges xvi. 23.
8. I-taly Acts xvi. 25.
9. S-itus Acts xxvii. 1.
10. R-uben Gen. xxxix. 32.
11. I-sraelites Ex. ix. 7.
12. S-aruch Luke iii. 35.
13. E-glon Judges iii. 14.
14. N-imrod Gen. x. 9.

CORRECT ANSWERS RECEIVED.

Correct answers have been received from Albert Jesse French, Hannah E. Greene, Lillian Greene, Jennie Lyght, Annie C. Rothwell, and Jennie McIntock.

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