

Editor's Portfolio.

LOST OPPORTUNITIES.

OPPORTUNITIES of doing good are lost from other causes besides prostration. Death entered the family of a man who had never manifested any interest in the subject of religion, and had manifested his disapprobation of any efforts to awaken an interest on the subject in the minds of his children. They were not permitted to attend the Sabbath school, though they were desirous of doing so in company with their associates. One of the children, a girl nine years old, was taken with scarlet fever, and died. Her death deeply affected her father, for she was his favorite child. The sympathy manifested by the children of the village was grateful to his heart. A teacher of the Sabbath school thought of requesting him, while his heart was thus softened, to allow his remaining children to attend the Sabbath school. But the teacher was afraid of giving offence. He hesitated, and debated the matter within himself, till it was too late to make the request with any prospect of success. Through *fear of giving offence*, he lost an opportunity of doing good to a family of children who had none to teach them the fear of the Lord.

A Christian was travelling in a stage coach. He found among the passengers a young man who was to be his travelling companion for two days. In an unguarded moment he got into an altercation with one of the passengers, evinced a temper, and uttered language inconsistent with the Christian character. Subsequently he was alone with the young man for half a day. He desired to speak to him respecting his soul, but the recollection of his inconsistent behaviour restrained him. He lost an opportunity of doing good in consequence of *losing his temper*.

A young man, a stranger to religion, and not an habitual attendant upon any place of worship, one evening entered a church in one of our large cities. The discourse made a deep impress on his mind. He left the church an awakened and anxious sinner. He knew

not where to go for counsel. At last it occurred to him to call on the preacher whose words had carried conviction to his heart. He found out his residence and was shown into the parlor. The minister was in the back parlor with one or two clerical friends. The folding doors were ajar. The young man could hear every word that was uttered. He was not waiting while the minister gave utterance to a jest that was not "convenient." The effect on his mind was very unhappy; he could not open his mind to the minister. He retired from the house with less anxiety than he entered it, and soon became more careless than ever. The minister lost an opportunity of doing good in *consequence of jesting*.

Reader! How do you lose opportunities for doing good? Many seem to think they are chiefly responsible for the wrong they do. They are equally responsible for the good they fail to do. In the account of the judgment-day peculiar stress is laid upon the sin of *not doing*: "Inasmuch as ye did it not."—L. L.

THE REWARD.

AT Worms, when Luther had returned forsaken and dispirited to his hotel, a servant entered bearing a silver vase filled with refreshing beverage, the offering of the aged Duke Eric of Brunswick,—a powerful lord belonging to the Pope's party. As the Reformer—touched deeply by the kindness—drank, he said: "As on this day Duke Eric has remembered me, may the Lord Jesus Christ remember him in the hour of his last struggle." The servant took back the message to his master. The aged duke called to mind these words at the moment of his death; and, addressing a young man who stood at his bedside, said: "Take the Bible and read to me." The youth read the words of Christ, and the soul of the dying man took comfort: "Whoever shall give you a cup of cold water to drink, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward."