

FALSE SUCCESS.

I asked a man who had wrecked his prospects in life by dishonest speculations what started him on such a career. His reply was: "When a mere boy, I saved my pocket-money and bought a lottery ticket. It won a prize. That success made me believe I was lucky. I despised honest, patient industry, and determined to get rich by my wits. I became a gambler in stocks, I salted mines, I learned all the tricks by which values are manipulated. I have made millions of money, but I have lost it all. The worst thing that can happen a young man is to win the first game of cards that he plays for money, or his first bet on a horse-race, or a prize on his first lottery ticket."

There is something to be sought and secured in this life that is worth a great deal more than what the world calls success. It is peace of conscience. It is the feeling that we have tried to do our duty and to please our heavenly Father. This we can have in obscurity and in poverty. God is often served best by those who have the least of worldly goods. This example of cheerfulness and fidelity amid privations and disappointments reminds all who see them of the power of faith and of the blessedness of a hope that is full of immortality and eternal life. I would not discourage anyone who wants to succeed in any honourable calling. It is our duty to ourselves and to God to do the best we can. But I want to warn my readers, especially those who are young, against seeking success for its own sake and as the beginning of a selfish career. Such success is too often like the rainbow bubble; when it is largest and brightest it is just ready to burst.—*Obadiah Oldschool, in the Interior.*

Very few persons recognize the large possibilities of good with which conversation is freighted. It can diffuse intelligence, spread knowledge, inspire new ideas, animate the drooping spirit, move the feelings, kindle the affections, stimulate the activities. These possibilities may be gradually made realities by every one who will constantly and patiently put in practice the two essential parts of good conversation—to seek for the best that is in one's self. No large fund of information, no years of culture, no powers of eloquence are necessary in order to do this.

A GOOD WORK.

The Reformed (Dutch) church of the United States has just completed a noble work in behalf of Foreign Missions. The General Synod moved by the appeals of the Rev. Dr. Chamberlain of the Arcot Mission in India, and by the wonderful blessings which attended the work in that field, resolved, in June last, to raise the sum of \$50,000 to establish a Theological Seminary in connection with that Mission, where native preachers are in great demand. The church at once endorsed the resolution by supplying the money. One church assumed one-fifth of the whole amount; other churches subscribed from five hundred to five thousand dollars each; several individuals gave one or two thousand each; and the amount required has been contributed. This sum is considered equal in India to five times the amount for such an object in this country. The readiness and heartiness with which this undertaking has been accomplished is a good omen for the cause of Foreign Missions.

SECRET DEVOTION.

It is important that you should have stated seasons for secret prayer. Without this, it will be exceeding difficult, if not impossible, to be faithful in the discharge of the duty. Prayer must be a part of our business. Communion with God must be the essential duty of every day.

Set apart some portion of the day, when you can withdraw for a few moments, with the least difficulty, and perseveringly adhere to your resolution. This is a point which requires more decision than is generally supposed. But be decided. Determine that you will serve God, whatever else you may neglect.

The cultivation of this devotional spirit is one great duty of life. Here must be laid the foundation of your Christian character. Here must be found the source of all your efforts to do good and to get good. In the silence of the closet, as your soul communes with God, you will obtain supernatural strength to triumph over temptation, and to go on your Christian way rejoicing.

The nature of true Christian sympathy is, not only to be concerned for our friends in their troubles, but to do what we can to help them.