

this side is. What makes the difference?"

"It's been rubbed down," said one.

"It's been smoothed off," said another.

"It's been polished up," said a third.

"Yes, that's it. And boys, do you know that's just what we are trying to do with you in this Sunday-school? We've brought some of you in here as rough as the other side of the clam-shell; and now we are trying to rub you down, to smooth you off, to polish you up so that you'll shine like this side of the shell. This polishing business is hard work, boys, and it takes time, but it pays."

Then he pressed home the need of soul-polishing in words which were never forgotten in that room. Dr. Beadle was thenceforward known by those boys as "the clam-shell man;" and they always gave him a hearty welcome in their school-room, or as they met him from time to time in the street. Many of them were more willing to be rubbed down and smoothed off in consequence of his suggestive words of then and later; and some of them came finally to have a character which reflected beautifully the rays of the Sun of Righteousness. There were boys from the mission school to meet Dr. Beadle in Paradise, and others of them are still living as polished shafts in God's earthly temple—"polished after the similitude of a palace."  
—*S. S. Times.*

### IMPORTANCE OF BELIEF.

Our conviction is clear that it *does* make a difference what a man

believes, and the weight of human opinion and experience is on our side. The maxim that we protest against is pernicious and deadly. It would not for a moment be asserted, much less acted on, in the affairs of life. No one could have the slightest confidence in a man who should proclaim it as a principle of social or business or political life. Such a man would have no following, and no friends.

It is true now, as it was when Athanasius stood against the world, that "in the knowledge of God standeth our Eternal life." To know Him, truly is life eternal, as it is the basis of uprightness and purity of life temporal. Not to believe is not to be. To have no principles grounded in the eternal verities of things not seen, is to have no moral character; and in most cases, no virtue or godliness of living.—*Selected.*

### GIVING TO GOD.

It is the spirit in which our oblations are brought which determines their character. We must offer them holily, as part of the outcome of holy life, and in reliance on the merits of our Lord. He who walks with God in the daily round of common duties, and on the plain path of secret suffering, is sure to keep Him in sight in all the services of His holy house, and everything there will be so perfectly natural to him (in the sense in which habits of grace become a second nature) that to give to God will be as easy and pleasant as to speak to Him. It will be the heavenly Father's voice which utters to him the sentences for the offertory, the heavenly Father's hand