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What a Wrong Thought Led To.

It was one a king had. The king's name was Ahab. He had two grand houses to live in. Close to one of his houses was a beautiful vineyard. King Ahab wished it was his. But it was owned by a man whose name was Naboth. The king asked Naboth to sell it to him. Naboth did not want to sell it, however, for his father gave it to him, and he

went into battle. He rode in his chariot. A man shot an arrow into the chariot and wounded him. As they were driving him home he died, and the chariot was besmeared with his blood. The servants took it to some water to wash, and the dogs came and licked the blood.

You see what the wrong thought was. It



loved the place, and of course he had a right to keep it.

But the king was angry. The more he thought of it, the more he wanted Naboth's vineyard. Ahab had a great many beautiful things; but people who do not love God are never satisfied; they keep wishing for things, and because they cannot get them, they are unhappy. Ahab went home and would not eat, nor did anything please him. The Queen saw something fretted him, and asked what the matter was.

'I wanted to buy Naboth's vineyard, and he would not sell it to me,' said Ahab.

'Never mind,' said his proud and wicked queen; 'eat and drink, and I will give you the vineyard.'

What did she do? She laid a plan to have Naboth killed; and she carried out her plan. She got people to stone him to death, and the dogs licked up his blood. Then she said to Ahab, 'Go and take Naboth's vineyard, for he is dead;' and Ahab went and took it for his garden.

God saw what was done; and do you not think God was displeased? He told Elijah to go to Ahab and tell him that the dogs would one day lick up his blood, and that the dogs would one day eat up the body of his wicked queen. Elijah met him and told him the message. He was sorry, not because he had offended God, for he did not love God; he was sorry for the punishment.

Did it come to pass? Yes, for God does what He says He will. All He says must come true. A long while after this Ahab

was wishing and fretting for things which God had not given him. That is coveting. God says, 'Thou shalt not covet,' but nowadays, as in times gone by, the command is often disobeyed. Nevertheless, it remains God's command, and we should do well to pray God to take away from us all thoughts of what is forbidden, and 'lead us not into temptation.'—'Friendly Greetings.'

The Retouched Picture.

Bishop Thoburn tells a beautiful story about a picture of his dead child. It seemed a very imperfect photograph, so blurred that scarcely a trace of the loved features could be seen in it. But one day he took the picture to a photographer and asked him if he could do anything to improve it. In three weeks the Bishop returned, and, as he saw the picture in its frame on the wall, he was startled. It seemed as if his child was living again before him. The image had been in the old picture, but was concealed beneath the blurs and mists which were there also. The artist, however,

had brought it out in strong, living beauty, until it was like life in its tender charm.

In every true disciple of Christ there is the image of the Master. It may be very dim; its features are overlaid by blurs and blemishes, and are almost unrecognizable by human eyes. It is the work of Christ in our lives to bring out this likeness more and more clearly, until at last it shines in undimmed beauty. This is what Christ is doing in many of His ways with us.

'Who from unsightly bulb or slender root
Could guess aright

The story of the flower, the fern, the fruit,
In summer's height?

Through tremulous shadows voices call to me,
'It doth not yet appear what we shall be.'

—J. R. Miller, D.D.

The Bible.

Who composed the following description of the Bible we may never know. It was found in Westminster Abbey, nameless and dateless, but nevertheless it is invaluable for its wise and wholesome counsel to the race of Adam:

A nation would be truly happy if it were governed by no other laws than these of this blessed book.

It contains everything needful to be known or done.

It gives instruction to a senate, authority and direction to a magistrate.

It cautions a witness, requires an impartial verdict of a jury, and furnishes the judge with his sentence.

It sets the husband as the lord of his household; and the wife as mistress of the table—tells him how to rule, and her how to manage.

It entails honor to parents, and enjoins obedience on children.

It prescribes and limits the sway of the sovereign, the rule of the ruler, and the authority of the master; commands the subjects to honor and servant to obey, and promises the blessings and the protection of the Almighty to all that walk by this rule.

It gives directions for weddings and burials.

It promises food and raiment, and limits the use of both.

It points out a faithful and eternal Guardian to the departing husband and father; tells him with whom to leave his fatherless children, and whom his widow is to trust—and promises a father to the former, and a husband to the latter.

It teaches a man to set his house in order, and how to make his will; it appoints a dowry for his wife, and entails rights of the first born, and shows how the young branches shall be left.

It defends the rights of all, and reveals vengeance to every defaulter, over-reacher, and trespasser.

It is the first book, the best book.

It contains the choicest matter; gives the best instruction, affords the greatest degree of pleasure and satisfaction that we have ever enjoyed.

It contains the best laws and most profound mysteries that were ever penned; and