

Similar results followed, in another case, a gift of Mr. Venn's. He had not long brought out his "Complete Duty of Man," when he was sitting at the window of an inn in the West of England. A man was driving some refractory pigs, and one of the waiters helped him, while the rest looked on and shouted with laughter. Mr. Venn, pleased with this benevolent trait, promised to send the waiter a book, and sent him his own. Many years after a gentleman, staying at an inn in the same district, asked one of the servants if they went to a place of worship, and was surprised to find that they were required to go at least once on the Sunday, and that their landlord not only never failed, but maintained constant family prayer. It turned out that he was the waiter who had helped the pig-driver, that he had married his former master's daughter, and that he, his wife, and some of their children owed all their happiness to Mr. Venn's present. Books are missionaries, and the humblest caterer who keeps a choice volume to lend may sometimes be as useful as his wealthier neighbor who dispenses charities.

Of Samuel Bradburn, one of the most original and powerful preachers of the last century, it is recorded that he was first stilled into seriousness by looking at some decayed flowers. And in a similar way it has frequently happened that an action, or its manner, has been effectual in exciting the profoundest thoughts when no word has been spoken. Early in life John Angell James was arrested in a downward course by seeing a fellow apprentice on his knees. The mother of the late Dr. Buntin was awakened rather by the sight than by the hearing of a strange man who stood in the village street and earnestly exhorted sinners to repentance. She contrasted the manifest sincerity of the man she watched with her own conscious want of a worthy aim in life, and was first startled and then subdued by the reflection, "The fruit of a righteous man is a tree of life, and he that winneth souls is wise."

The realization of a single thought has many a time sufficed for the conversion of men. Mr. Benson, at a period of great personal trial, had been preaching in Cornwall, when he found himself one day so pressed by a crowd of out-door listeners that he begged those already converted to stand back, and those as yet unsaved to come within hearing. But they stood still with eyes fastened on him. "What!" he cried, "*all unconverted?*" and in a moment the terrible conviction of sin, guilt, and danger ran like fire through the multitude, and conscience-stricken sinners fell by hundreds, as if slain by those two words. In common words what mighty forces lie when the dull ear is opened to receive their full significance.

Sometimes the tone of voice has inspired seriousness. Mr. Madan, who became the founder and first chaplain of the Lock Hospital, and a very popular preacher, went one evening from a coffee-house, at the request of some of his gay companions, to hear Mr. Wesley preach, that he might turn and exhibit his manner and discourse for their entertainment. When he entered the chapel, Mr. Wesley gave out as his text, "Prepare to meet thy God," with a solemnity of accent that so impressed him he could not but listen reverently to the sermon. On returning to his friends, and being asked if he had taken off the old Methodist, he answered, "No, gentlemen, but he has taken me off," and from that time he forsook their society and changed entirely his habits of living.