

thinking on how God had kept these little chickens and the old mother hen from harm amidst all the bustle and dangers of a crowded street.

You, dear young people, and I, and all, pass through all sorts of danger unknown to us, but known to God, who keeps his good hand around all those who love him and trust in Jesus. —*Children's Record.*

BITTEN BY A SERPENT.

BY THE REV. C. H. SPURGEON.

What an awful thing it is to be bitten by a serpent! A sad case occurred in London, in October, 1852. It was that of Gurling, one of the keepers of the reptiles in the Zoological gardens. The unhappy man was parting with a friend who was going to Australia, and according to the wont of many he must needs drink with him. He drank considerable quantities of gin; and though he would probably have been in a great passion if any one had called him drunk, yet reason and common sense had evidently become overpowered.

He went back to his post at the gardens in an excited state. He had some months before seen an exhibition of snake-charming, and this was on his poor muddled brain. He must emulate the Egyptians, and play with serpents. First he took out of its cage a Morocco venom-snake. The assistant keeper cried out, "For God's sake put back the snake!" but the foolish man replied, "I am inspired."

Putting back the venom-snake, he exclaimed, "Now for the cobra." He took it up by the body, about a foot from the head, and then seized it lower down by the other hand, intending to hold it by the tail and swing it round his head. He held it for an instant opposite to his face and like a flash of lightning the serpent struck him between the eyes. He called for help, but his companion fled in horror; and, as he told the jury, he did not know how long he was gone for he was "in a maze."

When assistance arrived Gurling was sitting on a chair, having restored the cobra to its place. He said, "I am a dead man." They put him in a cab, and took him to a hospital. First his speech went—he could only point to his poor throat and moan; then his vision failed him, and lastly his hearing. His pulse gradually sank, and in one hour from the time at which he had been struck, he was a corpse. There was only a little mark

upon the bridge of his nose, but the poison spread over the body, and he was a dead man.

I tell you that story that you may use it as a parable, and never learn to play with sin; and also in order to bring vividly before you what it is to be bitten by a serpent. There was no remedy for that poor infatuated creature, but there is a remedy for you. For men who have been bitten by the fiery serpents of sin, Jesus Christ is lifted up; not for you only who are as yet playing with the serpent, not for you only who have warmed it in your bosom and felt it creeping over your flesh, but for you who are mortally wounded. If any man be bitten so that he has become diseased with sin, and feels the deadly venom in his blood, it is for him that Jesus is set forth. Though he think himself to be an extreme case, it is for such that sovereign love provides a remedy.

"And as Moses lifted the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up;

"That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life."—John iii 14, 15.

TAKE THEM TO CHURCH.

Parents should not only train their children at home and take them to Sabbath school, but they should take them to church. It is a sad commentary upon the state of religion if children cannot endure the service of the sanctuary for an hour or more, when for week after week and month after month they can sit six hours daily in the common school. We have sadly degenerated from the practice of our fathers. What was more beautiful than to see a whole family led by a parent, enter the church and seat themselves in the same pew. Getting away from the family pew is often the child's first step toward getting away from the church altogether. —*The Lutheran.*

A CLEVER REPLY.

Some time ago a working-man was urged by his employer to do some work on the Sabbath. The man courteously, but firmly declined to do it. "Why?" said the employer, "did not our Lord himself say that the Sabbath was made for man?" "Yes, sir," was the shrewd reply of the work man; "you are right—the Sabbath was made for man, and is therefore not to be taken from man."