

TRUE MANLINESS.

Those who have read that capital book, "Tom Brown at Rugby," will remember Tom's bravery when he knelt down in the dormitory and said his prayers in the presence of the other boys. The *Youth's Companion* mentions a similar incident which occurred in a school near Boston. Two strangers who were assigned a room together spent the first day pleasantly in arranging their new quarters. When night came the younger boy modestly asked the other if he did not think it a good plan to close the day with reading the Bible and a prayer. His companion bluntly objected. Said the other, "I suppose you don't care if I pray by myself?" The older one retorted, "I don't want any praying in this room, and I won't have it." His mate arose slowly, walked to the middle of the room, and standing on a seam in the carpet, quietly remarked, "Half of this room is mine; I pay for it. You choose your half, and I will take the other and pray in it, or get another room." The older boy was completely conquered by the true manliness which claimed as a right what he had boorishly denied as a privilege.

THE HAPPY HOME.

The truth cannot be too often repeated, that no home can be rendered permanently happy or wretched by mere circumstances; that it is not wealth nor style nor learning; not leisure nor labor, which gives to the household its saving or ruinous influence over the young lives that spring up within its sacred circle. "Tone and temper," as a wise man has said—good sense, human love, and the grace of God—these only can insure a happy home.

A parlor may be neat and delightful, and filled with innumerable suggestions of domestic felicity, even though its owners are ignorant of the latest devices of "æstheticism." No flowers are brighter than the common "hardy" plants which are within the reach of all. No books are so full of intellectual riches for a sturdy brain as the dozen antiquated volumes which hardly any old family is without. No music is so sweet as the artless carol of a happy heart. No boys or girls are blither than those brought up, perhaps, on homely fare, but into whose souls there is continually pouring through the avenue of every sense the inestimable blessing of a mother and a father's love.

THE BOOK.

I tell you, brother, when you get where you like this Book and read this Book, ah, you are laying a foundation then. You boys like this Book. Let your delight be in the counsel and in the law of the Lord.

I never think of what this Bible is to me, but what I think of the little boy who was the good boy in the town, and all the boys recognized him as a good, upright boy, and they set their traps to get him drunk.

They fixed their plan: they sent one of the shrewdest of the bad boys to him, and he met him on the street, and he says, "Johnny, come into the grocery and let us have a mint julip." Johnny says, "O no, I can't go in there." "Why?" "My Book says 'Look not upon the wine when it is red,' much less drink it." "O," he says, "I know the Book says that, but come in and take one drink," and he says, "I can't do that." "Well, why?" "Because my Book says 'At last it biteth like an adder and stingeth like a serpent.'" He says, "I know the Bible says that, but come in and take one drink." "No," he says, "my Bible says 'When the sinner entice thee, consent thou not.'"

And the bad boy turned off and left him, and went over to his companions, and they said "Did you see him?" "Yes." "Did you get him to drink?" "No; I could not get him in the grocery." "Wh'?" "Well," he says, "that boy was just as chock full of the Bible as he could be, and I could not do a thing with him."—*Sam Jones*.

A MOTHER'S POWER.

A moment's work on clay tells more than an hour's labor on brick; so work on hearts should be done before they harden. During the first six or eight years of child-life mothers have chief sway, and this is the time to make the deepest and most enduring impression on the youthful mind. Often, very often, do men and women ascribe their conversion to the prayers of holy mothers. The examples of maternal influence are countless. Solomon himself records the words of wisdom that fell from his mother's lips, and Timothy was taught the Scriptures from a child by his grandmother and his mother. Parents who thus act and teach and pray, may well commit their children to Him "who delighteth in mercy."