

he had authority. He was as fruitful and lavish in promises and flattery as a modern politician on the eve of an election, and so he stole the hearts of the people from his father. There is unspeakable meanness in giving people to feel that those in authority in church or state are unfeeling and indisposed to rectify wrongs unless we have sure ground and evidence that such is the case. It would have been more manly and honest of Absalom to make these matters known to his father.

5. *Evils are made more intensely evil when done under the guise of religion.* When Absalom had completed his plots and plans with great skill and secrecy against his unsuspecting father, he asked leave to go on a religious errand to Hebron. Nothing is more perfidious than this. It is a sign of deep depravity when people profess to be working in the service of God and are really "stealing the livery of the

court of heaven to serve the devil in." Every reader can probably recall many instances of this in our own day. Beware of wolves in sheep's clothing.

ADDED POINTS.

1. A wrong-doer restored unconditionally is a continual menace.
2. A generous heart is slow to suspect treachery in others.
3. No stab is so deadly in pain as that received from those of our own households.
4. Hence we should even avoid the use of harsh words or unkind remarks.
5. Adversity tests the strength of friendship. Ahithophels fail us.
6. Darkness brings out the stars, so does trouble reveal true friends.
7. Kindnesses shown will bring their return.

THE BLACKBOARD.

THE INGRATITUDE AND DISOBEDIENCE

OF

ABSALOM		THE SINNER
DAVID HIS		OUR HEAVENLY
FATHER.		

"Honor thy Father and thy Mother."

DOES NOT PAY.—A record of train robberies is published in the St. Louis *Globe-Democrat*, in which it is clearly shown that the business is attended with much danger and is exceedingly unprofitable. In eight cases, participated in by twenty-two men, only \$840 was secured by the robbers, and this sum would not pay for their outfitting. Of the twenty-two men, all but one have been killed, executed, or sentenced to the penitentiary for from seven to forty-five years each, and two of them for life. Undoubtedly the last of the gang will be captured or killed soon. —*Cut Gems.*

A pianist of world-wide reputation came to a western city. The largest auditorium was crowded. The receipts for a single evening were \$2,750. On Sabbath night there was a grand mass meeting to express the sympathy of the Christian people in that city for the persecuted Armenians. A collection was taken up, which amounted to \$17.50—exactly one per cent. of what was paid to hear the great pianist. A hundred times as much to gratify musical taste, and, in some instances, no doubt, mere curiosity, as to feed the hungry and clothe the naked. When we see such contrasts between our benevolence and our selfishness, we are tempted to think that the millennium is yet in the far future. —*Herald and Presbyterian.*

Demosthenes once had great trouble in getting the attention of his hearers to a most important matter, so he commenced a foolish story about an ass, leaving it half told. On his hearers pressing him to finish it, he said, "O ye Athenians! will ye attend to me when speaking about the shadow of an ass, and will ye not attend to me when I address you on the most important affairs?"