

fingers. This is only one of many such cases. Perhaps, however, no pernicious habit has as great a hold on them as the use of tobacco, and never is this disgusting practice more offensive than as it is carried on by these lads. Some of them seem to

PREFER TOBACCO TO SWEETMEATS,

a most unnatural taste for a child. They chew it constantly, and, until forbidden, used it in the Sunday-school. But just here it is necessary to say a word for the encouragement of those who may fear to come in contact with this class, especially to ladies, who may feel that they could not undertake such work. These boys, as a rule, try to please their teachers, though it may be in rather a rough way. To illustrate this, an instance may be given from the Sunday-school already referred to, which shows the rather peculiar way in which these youths desire to be agreeable. When they first came to school last October they all had quids of tobacco in their mouths. With its attendant filthiness this practice became intolerable, and they were told how much the teachers disliked the use of tobacco at all, and were requested not to chew any more in school. They instantly put the offensive weed out of sight, and next Sabbath none of these boys attempted to use it in school. However, a new boy, who had not been there before, was present, and when he did what they had done only a week before, they took him by the collar and

LED HIM OUT TO EMPTY HIS MOUTH,

and then brought him back again. Since then the boys themselves have attended to this department of the work, and have assisted their teachers in abolishing this nuisance from the school, so that, with one or two exceptions, the matter has not required a rebuke from the teachers. A few have signed the pledge against both liquor and tobacco. Though rough, these boys seem to possess a sort of native gallantry, and not one of them has ever been rude to one of us. Each one seems to consider himself a policeman, and very often the efforts of one to keep others in order, while very amusing, only increase the disturbance. It is kindly meant, though we could do without the assistance thus rendered. They are very severe in their judgment of each other, and if they had the passing of sentences, there would be little leniency. Many interesting incidents might be given, but from the foregoing the state of these children may be imagined. As a mission field, this is

A WORK AT OUR OWN DOORS,

and we cannot shirk the responsibility that has been laid upon us of teaching and helping these uncared-for ones. As we look into the faces of these precocious, restless, dirty children, we cannot but think of the grand possibilities in their future, and we long for wisdom and patience and love, as well as faith, to deal with them so as to foster whatever good there may be in them and to implant a yearning after a

better and higher life. How to really help them, body and soul and mind, is a problem that many in our city are now, happily, striving to solve. To help the body without pauperising, to help them to help themselves, is

THE POINT TO BE REACHED.

Whole families are quite willing to be beggars, and it is a delicate and difficult matter to help without hurting their independence—to help judiciously. There is no doubt many come to school for what they get, but we care not for motives at first, they may learn something that will in time change the motive. They seem to have no ambition to be more respectable in appearances, and are as happy in rags as anything else; at least, so it would appear, for they sometimes warn us against each other, that clothing given may be sold. It is scarcely possible to do much good if these children are only brought under healthy influences for one hour a week, and it is therefore desirable that a Band of Hope, night school, mothers' meeting and savings bank be started as soon as practicable. There is also much visiting to be done. Here are

FIELDS OF USEFULNESS

for those who, because they love Christ, love those He died to redeem. While there is so much to do we cannot be held guiltless if we neglect to work in some part of the Lord's vineyard. It is nothing less than a duty. To the unemployed Christian we extend a cordial invitation to join us and help in this cause. There is enough variety to give you a choice as to what share you will undertake. But beyond its being a duty, I believe all who will give it a trial in the spirit of earnest, persistent Christian work, will find it a pleasure. It brings its own reward with it, even in the present; but how unspeakable will be our joy in the future if we have been the means of bringing even one soul from darkness to light, and we hope to see many of these children become centres of influence for good which will reach beyond any calculations we can make. This is possible, and this is what we are striving for and aiming at. And then, how our hearts will glow when we hear the words, "Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye did it unto me." It is necessary to enter on this work with thoughtful and prayerful consideration. There is

NOTHING ROMANTIC ABOUT IT.

It must not be taken up for awhile to be laid aside in a short time, because we have grown tired of it. We must not work only when we feel like it, because at all times we may not possess the same amount of enthusiasm. We must settle it whether this be our work, and then go forward, no matter what discouragements cross our path, acting on principle rather than impulse. Before beginning it is well to understand that there is a good deal more prose than poetry in it. Still, the work is interesting in the extreme, and if we ask we shall have help that we "grow not weary in well-doing."