

oath, I will never drink another drop of intoxicating liquor, I will never gamble again.' And, as God is my witness and help, I have kept those three vows to this hour. This decision led me to reflection; and shortly after I became a Christian, and that settled my temporal, as, blessed be God, it has also settled my eternal destiny."

What a lesson to every one! How strikingly does it show the connection between early habits and subsequent character; and that to cease to do evil is the first step toward doing well; and that thoughtfulness may not only lead one to forsake evil courses and habits, but may be the means, as blessed by God, of leading to a faithful Christian life. How many a young man who, by false views of what is manly, and by allowing himself to engage in evil indulgences, is now making shipwreck of character, and of all that is honourable and successful in life, if he would but stop and think of the tendency of his course, might be saved to himself and to his friends and his country, as Farragut was, and, like him, might become the exemplary and faithful Christian, an honour to himself and a blessing to others.

"He that is faithful in that which is least, is faithful also in much." "He that despiseth small things, shall fall by little and little."

#### *I CAN AND I WILL.*

I know a boy who was preparing to enter the junior class of the New York University. He was studying trigonometry, and I gave him three examples for his next lesson.

The following day he came into my room to demonstrate his problems. Two of them he understood, but a third—a very difficult one—he had not performed. I said to him, "Shall I help you?"

"No, sir! I can and will do it, if you give me time."

I said, "I will give you all the time you wish."

The next day he came into my room to recite a lesson in the same study.

"Well, Simon, have you worked that example?"

"No, sir," he answered; "but I can and will do it, if you will give me a little more time."

"Certainly, you shall have all the time you desire."

I always like these boys who are determined to do their own work, for they make our best scholars, and men too. The third morning you should have seen Simon enter my room. I knew he had it, for his whole face told the story of his success.

Yes, he had it, notwithstanding it had cost him many hours of the severest mental labour.

Not only had he solved the problem, but, what was of infinitely greater importance to him, he had begun to develop mathematical powers, which, under the inspiration of "I can and I will," he has continued to cultivate, until to-day he is professor of mathematics in one of our largest colleges, and one of the ablest mathematicians of his years in our country.

#### *A LITTLE LIE.*

Mind the little things. A lie is a little thing. Boys, you have told a lie; just one single word that is not true, but let us see what else you have done. First, you have broken the law of God. If it is a sin to break a law made by man, how great a sin it must be to break a divine law—the law of our Creator. Second, you will have to tell many more to maintain that one. Third, you lose the love and friendship of your school-mates. Fourth, if you practise lying, that will lead to something worse. Lying is the entrance door by which other and greater vices enter the heart. Think of it! all this from one false saying.

Words are little things, but they accomplish great things sometimes. A kind word or act might have saved many a boy or girl from ruin, who are now at the lowest point of degradation.