

to whom he was greatly attached. All was going merrily as a marriage-bell, when one day the girl heard her lover swearing at an old servant. From that day she took an aversion to him, and broke off the engagement. "I am truly sorry," she said to him, "but my husband must be a gentleman, and gentlemen don't swear; besides, the man who would curse his servant, would probably do the same to his wife when the bloom of youth had faded from her cheek."

The famous Dr. Johnson has been described as "a bear who was privileged in rudeness"; but no one can be privileged in rudeness in the sense of not having to pay for it sooner or later. Even the doctor's rudeness cost him something. When asked why he was not invited out to dine, as Garrick was, he answered: "Because great lords and ladies don't like to have their mouths stopped."

Faults of manner are faults which the world has agreed to exaggerate; they have been the ruin of fine abilities and great careers. It is a pity; but we must remember that of people who see us, the majority only see us for perhaps half an hour in their lives, and they judge us by what they see in that half hour.

But the man who is not rude only for fear of the consequence does not deserve to be called a gentleman. Such a negatively polite person is continually making sad mistakes, and never has the happiness of entertaining an angel unawares. "The idea of calling this the Wild West!" exclaimed a lady, travelling in Montana, to one of the old hands. "Why, I never saw such politeness anywhere. The men here all treat each other like gentlemen in a drawing-room!" "Yes, marm, it's safer," laconically replied the native, with a glance at his six-shooter. "The greatest snob is polite when he knows that it is safer or more to his interest to be so." The test, therefore, of true politeness, is to behave well to the weak and to those in a humbler position in life. "My child," said a father to his daughter, "treat everybody with politeness, even though they are rude to you; for remember that you show courtesy to others, not because they are ladies, but because you are one."

"Spite and ill-nature," it has been said, "are among the most expensive luxuries of life." None of us can afford to surround himself with the host of enemies we are sure to make, if, when young, we allow ill-nature to produce in us unmannerly habits.

ASCENSION-DAY.

SURELY this is a day to be much observed. Indeed it is strange that it should ever have fallen into neglect among Christian people, for it is the day of crowning triumph in our Blessed Lord's earthly sojourn. It is in some ways even more glorious and joyous than Easter Day itself, the Day of His Resurrection. For then He had to stay for forty days more here below, still among the sins, and sorrows, and sufferings of men. His holy Body, however much changed and spiritualised, had not yet put on the heavenly clothing of light and glory. But now—to-day—the earthly sojourn is ended at last. All is fulfilled; the work below is done; and the Son of God returns to His Father's home of glory. We seem to hear the choirs of Angels chanting the old prophetic words: "Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of Glory shall come in." If there is joy in Heaven over one sinner that repenteth, what must there have been when the Saviour of sinners returned from His earthly sojourn, His work accomplished, the Atonement completed, a sinful world redeemed! When the Spirit of Jesus went and "preached to the spirits in prison," that is, when His Spirit, parted for a little space from the Body, went into Paradise, and visited the souls of the departed in their place of waiting, proclaiming to them, as we may well understand it, the fulfilment of the long-promised Redemption, then surely there was rejoicing in the ranks of the holy dead. But the joy and the triumph must have been tenfold greater when, soul and body re-united, the King of Glory mounted as Conqueror the everlasting throne. Glory and great worship were laid upon Him. All power was given unto Him in heaven and in earth. And now He reigns as King. "Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of Thy kingdom is a righteous sceptre." And we, His subjects, are here below, waiting a little while till He returns to take us to our home.—THE BISHOP OF WAKEFIELD.

MISSIONARY GLEANINGS.

The Gospel in the Multiplication Table.

THE Rev. W. J. Richards, of Alleppy, Travancore, South India, says: "There is an energetic man now at work in the Alleppy district who was first brought to think of the Christian religion by a stanza in the arithmetical tables published in Malayalam by the Christian Literature Society." The thing, at first sight, appears incredible, but it should be remembered that much Eastern instruction is given in a rhyming form, which would allow of the introduction here and there of a phrase such as Mr. Richards speaks of. The blessed result in this case leads us to ponder on the vast consequences which may follow from our most unconsidered efforts.