

"You said you had no influence," said a poor, lame, crooked old man, later in the evening to Nellie Waite. "I knew you had. God wants the bright attractive young people to take hold of his work."

"God wants us all!" said the pastor reverently. "Let none of us undervalue our own power with God in prayer, or our influence upon the people about us. The life of the Christian is seen and known of all men, and words fitly spoken are like apples of gold in pictures of silver."

Bondage and death the cup contains;  
Dash to the earth the poisoned bowl!  
Softer than silk are iron chains,  
Compared with those that chafe the soul.

Spare, Lord, the thoughtless, guide the blind,  
Till man no more shall deem it just  
To live by forging chains to bind  
His weaker brother in the dust.

—Sel.

### A BOY WHO IS SUCCEEDING.

Every boy wishes to succeed, but few men are able to look back upon a successful life. Why some boys are promoted more rapidly than some others is suggested by this story, the writer of which is unknown to us:

"A new boy came into our office to-day," said a wholesale grocery merchant to his wife at the supper-table. "He was hired by the firm at the request of the senior member, who thought the boy gave promise of good things. But I feel sure that boy will be out of the office in less than a week."

"What makes you think so?"

"Because the first thing he wanted to know was just exactly how much he was expected to do."

"Perhaps you will change your mind about him."

"Perhaps I shall," replied the merchant, "but I don't think so."

Three days later the business man said to his wife: "About that boy you remember I mentioned three or four days ago. Well, he is the best boy that ever entered the store."

"How did you find that out?"

"In the easiest way in the world. The first morning after he began work he performed very faithfully and systematically the exact duties assigned, which he had been so careful to have explained to him. When he had finished, he came to me and said, 'Mr. H., I have finished all that work. Now, what can I do?'"

"I was greatly surprised, but I gave him a little job of work, and forgot all about him, until he came into my room with the question, 'What next?' That settled it for me. He was the first boy that ever entered our office who was willing, and volunteered to do more than was assigned him. I predict a successful career for that boy as a business man."

### THE JERICHO ROAD.

Ben Ibrahim, travelling adown the road—  
The Jericho road so rough and steep,  
Where robber hordes their evil watch keep  
To seize from the lonely traveller his load—  
Bethought him of all the dangers nigh,  
And scanned his possessions with carefull eye.

"Treasures are here of silver and gold,  
Spices, fine linen, and fabrics rare.  
'Twere pity to lose such goodly share!  
They have cost thought and time and labor

[untold.

But, hap what may, I must keep this stone  
That I bear in trust; it is not my own.

"'Tis my lord's and not mine," as the pass he  
[neared.

"New stores can I gain, not honor lost;  
I will keep my trust at any cost."  
And he hid the gem safe in his long white  
[beard.

O Ibrahim wise! From out thy hoards  
Thou has saved thy best, as well as thy lord's.

Down life's perilous road our pilgrim way lies,  
Where dangers surround on every hand,  
And robbers beset. Full many a band  
Seeks the joy of our hearts, the light of our

[eyes;

Our gains are snatched by time's clam'rous  
[hordes.

One gem must we guard, for that is our  
[Lord's.

A jewel most precious, designed for his crown.  
A gem all worlds could never redeem.

'Twill last when earth fades out like a dream,  
And the King of the universe claims his own.  
What profit then if, reaching the goal,  
Aught else has been saved by losing the soul?

### GOOD MANNERS AT HOME.

The presence of good manners is nowhere more needed or more effective than in the household, and perhaps nowhere more rare. Wherever familiarity exists, there is a tendency to loosen the check upon selfish conduct which the presence of strangers involuntary produces. Many persons who are kind and courteous in company, are rude and careless with those whom they love best. Emerson says, "Good manners are made up of petty sacrifices," and certainly nothing can more thoroughly secure the harmony and peace of the family circle than the habit of making small sacrifices, one for another. Children thus learn good manners in the best and most natural way, and habits thus acquired will never leave them.