

## THE WAY TO SUCCEED.

A certain man, who is very rich now, was very poor when he was a boy. When asked how he got his riches, he said: "My father taught me never to play till my work was finished, and never to spend money till I had earned it. If I had an hour's work in the day, I must do that the first thing, and in an hour. And after this I was allowed to play; and then I could play with much more pleasure than if I had the thought of an unfinished task before my mind. I early formed the habit of doing everything in time, and it soon became easy to do so. It is to this I owe my prosperity."

## "ONLY."

*Only a stray sunbeam?* Yet it cheered a wretched abode—gladdened a stricken heart.

*Only a gentle breeze?* It fanned aching brows, cheered many hearts by its gentle touch.

*Only a frown?* But it left a sad void in the child's heart—quivering lip and tearful eyes.

*Only a smile?* But how it cheered the broken heart, engendered hope and cast a halo of light around the sick-bed.

*Only a word of encouragement,* a single word? It gave the drooping spirit new life and led to victory.—*Kind Words.*

## PROGRESS OF MISSIONS.

For long years there existed but three versions of the Holy Scriptures. To-day they may be read in 350 of the many tongues that are spoken. In 1804 there were in the world only 5,000,000 Bibles, in 1880 there were in the hands of humankind 160,000,000 copies of the sacred Word. At the beginning of our century the way of life could be studied by but one fifth of the world's population, now it is translated into languages that make it accessible to nine-tenths of the inhabitants of the world. Protestants occupy over 500 separate fields. In them they have more than 20,000 mission stations, supplied with no less than 40,000 missionaries. Five hundred thousand heathen children attend Christian schools. One million communicants are enrolled in congregations gathered from among the heathen. Two million stated hearers are nominally adherents of the evangelical faith. Of the 1,433,000,000 that people the world, 135,000,000 are

Protestant Christians. The area of the habitable globe is computed at 52,000,000 square miles; of these 18,000,000 square miles are under Greek and Roman Catholic dominion; 20,000,000 square miles under Mohammedan and Pagan governments, and 14,000,000 square miles under Protestant rule.—*Christian-at-Work.*

## SIN'S SNARE.

The dogbane sets a trap for flies which is very ingenious and successful: "Allured by the honey in the nectary of the expanded blossom, the instant the trunk is protruded to feed upon it, the filaments close, and, catching the fly by the extremity of the proboscis, detain the poor prisoner writhing in protracted struggles until released by death—a death apparently occasioned by exhaustion alone; then the filaments relax, and the body falls to the ground."

What a striking illustration of the trap which sins of sensuality set for the soul? Conscious of their power, they affect no concealment. The honey is exposed, but a sign is plainly written over the forbidden pleasure, "Beware." No sinner can plead ignorance of danger. Every sin of the flesh that allures to ruin is plainly labelled "dangerous." The poor, helpless insect held to its death by the snare set with seductive sweetness, is a picture of the struggling soul, battling for escape, but held a prisoner by the very sin which allures it.

## PREVENTING INFANT MARRIAGES IN INDIA.

"An important event has recently occurred in India, and one that will have a most favorable bearing upon the social condition of the people of that vast empire. The Princes of Rajpootana have voluntarily abolished throughout their dominions the custom of infant marriages. This custom is one of the saddest and most productive of misery of any prevailing in India, and the present regulation is that in the future no girls shall be married under the age of fourteen, no boy under the age of eighteen, unless, prior to the adoption of this law, a contract of marriage had been entered into. These Princes of Rajpootana hold the highest rank in Hindu society, and apart from the authority which they have in their own dominions, the example set by them will have wide influence throughout the whole of India.