

Alone and in silence that young leper died.

The missionary was greatly affected at the sight, and looking down to the hymn-book, his eye caught these sweet words:—

"Of all that decks the field or bower,  
Thou art the fairest, sweetest flower;  
Thou, blessed Jesus, let not me  
In thy kind heart forgotten be.  
Day after day, youth's joys decay,  
Death waits to seize his trembling prey;  
Then, blessed Jesus, let not me  
In thy kind heart forgotten be.

The dear lad had seemed to die with this prayer trembling on his lips. Who can doubt that Jesus, in answer to it, kept him blessed company in his departing hour, and cheered and comforted his soul, though all beside were far away.—*Selected.*

### The two Paths and the two Ends.

I once knew two little boys, of nearly the same age, who lived within a few rods of each other. They both attended the same school, and both had similar advantages while at school, and both attended for about the same period, though one was far more constant than the other. John, for such was the name of the older boy, was permitted to go, and generally was sent, as much as Joseph. John, however, sometimes "played the truant," and went to the fields, ponds, or forests, to spend his time in idleness, or, sometimes, in what was still worse. His parents were not always careful to ascertain where he had been during the day, seeming to take it for granted that he had been as obedient in the matter, as they were careless. They were kind-hearted, but were very deficient in restraining their erring son. If he did wrong, it seemed to grieve the parents, yet very little, if any thing, was done to restrain him. If he wished to associate with bad boys, he did so. His evenings were generally spent away from home. And as this was at a time when ardent spirits were used very freely, John was frequently known to take so large quantities that he was often intoxicated. In fine, he was disobedient to his parents.

Joseph was a far different boy, or, at least, he was under different influences at home, and was far more obedient to the wishes of his parents. John had but lit-

tle if any regard to his father's wishes, while Joseph would as soon have parted with his right hand as to disobey one of his father's requirements. Perhaps Joseph was not naturally kinder in his disposition, and perhaps had no superior talents for being a useful member of society; but one was obedient to his parents, and the other was disobedient whenever he felt an inclination to do so. Both attended the same Sabbath school, or, rather belonged to it; for one was seldom, if ever, absent, and the other was present only occasionally. I am not certain that he ever loved to go, but was sometimes induced to go, perhaps to get some of the pretty books that belonged to the library. It is not quite certain that he always returned what he had, or that he ever read them, for such boys sometimes destroy or sell such good books, when they can get them.

But Joseph was constant, loved his teacher, and even now, since he has grown up to be a man, and engaged in the noise and bustle of business, can repeat verses that he then learned in the Sabbath school. Nor has he yet left the Sabbath school, though considerably advanced in life. He has been a scholar, teacher and superintendent for most of the time since he was able to commit a few verses from God's holy word.

As these two boys advanced in life, the paths which each chose seemed to separate more and more. John became more and more disobedient, was found oftener in the company of the vicious, and was more and more degraded by the use of rum, or some intoxicating liquor, for the use of which he gradually acquired a strong tendency. He soon learned to take God's holy name in vain, to lie, and at last to steal. The Sabbath school was visited no more, and God's holy day was spent in sports and recreation. In the process of time he married one as worthless as himself, and became the father of several children, but they were not "brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord," but were allowed to follow in the steps of their ungodly parents. None of them probably, have ever been taught of a Saviour in the Sabbath school or elsewhere. But this is not all of the sad history of this disobedient boy and erring man. He has set the example of disobedience, and his children, perhaps, followed it, for he did not live happily in his family, and at last left them and wandered, a vagabond, know not where. The unhappy and worse than orphan children, are