

It's a year and a half since I borrowed that two-pence, and it had clean gone out of my head, and why I should just remember it this evening I'm sure I don't know.

But the poor widow did know. She was sure that God had brought the forgotten debt to light that her little ones might be fed. She joyfully called her children, and sent them out with the pence to buy bread for their supper.

Surely the faith of that little one, who was sure that God would send him his supper, must have strengthened his mother's faith that evening.

#### THE LUCKIEST FELLOW.

"Fred Dixon is the luckiest fellow in town; everything he wants he gets; everything he undertakes prospers. Did you hear he has the place at Kelley's, that so many have been trying to get?"

"You don't say so! Why he is a very young man to fill so responsible a position."

"Yes," added the first speaker, "he always would stand on the top of the ladder in school. Though not the brightest scholar, he managed to carry off the honors upon quitting school, which he did at an earlier age than most of his classmates, because he had to help support a widowed mother and younger brothers and sisters. He only had to ask for a situation, and lo! all other applicants were ruled out, and Fred had the preference."

Boys, "Our Boys," do you know any Fred Dixons? If you do, don't think that it is luck that helps him along, gives him the laurels at school, aids him to obtain first class situations, put him in places of trust and honor, where a good name or untarnished character is required. Look back in the pages of his life. See if he was not studious at school, fair and square in all his boyish games, gentlemanly and obliging, honest in all his dealings. Ask his friends if truthfulness, faithfulness to his duty, steadfastness of purpose are not his characteristics. Find out whether he has ever been known to frequent tippling shops, gambling dens and kindred places of vice; whether he spends his spare time in filling his mind with trashy literature, such as is thrown broadcast over our land, in the shape of dime novels. Depend upon it, boys, you will never be "the luckiest fellow in town," unless you earn it by honesty and integrity of character, and fidelity to all your undertakings.

#### THE CHRISTIAN'S DUTY TO MISSIONS.

The rector of the Church of the Holy Trinity, Harlem, New York, uses the following strong words in a pastoral letter, summoning his people to organize themselves into a phalanx to help on the good work of missions at home and abroad. There is hope in the future of our missions when the rectors thus intelligently and earnestly make the cause their own, and stir up the people to do the same:

The churches at the East will be inexcusable if they neglect to exert themselves to evangelize those growing communities in the far West, and to furnish, in the Gospel, the antidote to the infidelity, the irreligion and the immorality which sweep in on every tide upon our shores from the Old World. Our young men, by thousands, are seeking homes in the newly-settled communities of our western border. Is it no concern of yours and mine that they shall be surrounded there, as here, with the restraining and saving influence of the Church of Christ?

The poor remnant of the Indian tribes who once roamed at will over this vast continent, monarchs of it all, silently appeal to us, who profess to be Christians, to give them the Gospel that, having no more inheritance on earth in their ancestral domain, they may at last have an inheritance in Heaven. Can we, remembering the shameful story of the red man's wrongs, refuse his mute appeal for help?

And from beyond the seas comes the Macedonian cry, "Come over and help us!" St. Paul heard it wafted across the Aegean, from a small province of the smallest European nation. We hear it from vast continents, whose teeming millions "know not God." Not only Ethiopia, but India and China

and Japan and the islands of the sea, are stretching out their hands unto God. Can we, as disciples of Him who said, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature," answer this appeal by asking in the spirit and the words of Cain, "Am I my brother's keeper?"

I cannot permit myself to doubt that you will answer these questions by the determination, henceforth, to bear these great missionary enterprises of the Church (at home and abroad) upon your heart, and that you will agree with me, that every communicant of the Church, and also every man who believes in the value of Christ's Gospel, should be a regular contributor to the support of the same.

#### "HE FEARED GOD WITH ALL HIS HOUSE."

There's no prettier picture hung upon the walls of any house, none which heaven can eclipse, than that of a father, mother and the whole family loving God with all their heart, and their neighbor as themselves. You can't beat that picture! "He feared God with all his house."

A wheelbarrow bequeathed to a good boy is a better heritage to him than a system of railroads stretching across America bequeathed to a dissipated, godless boy. It isn't "What shall I leave my children?" but it is "What kind of children shall I leave when I leave this world?" It isn't "What shall I give my children when they become of age?" but it is "What will my children give me and my wife in our old age?" That's it. "He feared God with all his house." If there is one prayer that consumes my whole heart it is, "Oh, God, leave me my wife, so that by precept and example she may teach my children to know God." Thank God today for the grace and religion of Jesus Christ, that saved me from sin before God gave me children to live with.

Oh, gracious Father, help, us to encompass our children about and carry them to glory with us. It is a privilege to do such a thing. "He feared God with all his house, and he gave much alms to the people." Religion and inspiration, with the touch of a divine pencil, are bringing out character that will outlive the stars, and is grander in all its phases than the character of an angel.—Sel.

#### THE CHURCH'S ENDOWMENTS IN ENGLAND.

Many persons speak of "the National Church" as if they were speaking of the National Gallery. The Church is National, because of her duties to the whole Nation. The great Gallery of Paintings is National, because it has been raised, furnished and maintained with the public money, at the expense of the Nation. The Church is not maintained, and never was maintained, out of the public purse.

The Clergy are not paid out of the Taxes; and the only Clergy who are "the Servants of the State" are those (comparatively few) who are employed by the state as Officials; chiefly, e. g., as Chaplains in National Institutions—Army, Navy, Prisons, &c.

Though the Archbishops and a certain number of Bishops sit in the House of Lords as Peers for life, they are not State Officials, or Servants of the State, or paid by the State. The fact of their being chosen by the Sovereign, or by the Premier acting for the Sovereign, does not make them State Officials; and they do not receive salaries from the State, as 'Her Majesty's Ministers' do.

The clergy of this day receive payment, partly out of the endowments (which were not given by the State, but by private individuals), and partly by the free-will offerings of the people; and very few Clergy are rich out of the endowments. Many of the Clergy have private property, or some money of their own; and such Clergymen give to the Church a sort of "rich hue" which makes outsiders imagine that "the Church is awfully rich!"

But though some clergy are well off, many more are poor; and the Church, taken altogether, is not rich, considering the work she does all through the land. For, if she were so, the Pastoral and Clerical Aid Societies would not be needed; and shrewd and wealthy men (or poor men, either) would not

see any good reason for pouring their free-will offerings into her lap, for her work's sake, as they do.

The Church has much larger Endowments, and more numerous and venerable buildings, than any other Religious body, because she alone of them has an ancient history—older, in fact, than the State itself. But the State has just as much right to confiscate the smaller endowments and fewer and newer buildings of Nonconformist Bodies as she has to disendow the Church of England.

G. F. G.

#### SOMETHING TO DO.

Do not say that there is nothing that you can do for God and man. Take the word "do" in its most general meaning. You can "do" good by words, deeds, and thoughts.

I need not explain what is meant by doing deeds of kindness. And I suppose you know something of the good that is to be done by pleasant words. Let me rather tell you of a thing which is just as real as a deed, or word—I mean a thought.

What I want you to see is that you cannot "keep your thoughts to yourself." Even if you refrain from deeds and words, the thoughts within you must find expression; they will come out. And their coming out—the manner of it and all about it—affects the people that live with you and around you. "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine," not only to him or her who hath it, but to all who see what a good thing it is. They take it as a sign of goodwill to themselves; they thank you for it. And God smiles upon you for it too.

Ye that do your Master's will,  
Meek in heart be meeker still;  
Righteous, still yourselves confess  
Seekers after righteousness;  
Gracious souls, in grace abound,  
Seek the Lord whom ye have found;  
Follow on, nor slack your pace,  
Till ye see His glorious Face.

#### THE BOY WHO TRIED.

Many years ago a boy lived in the west of England. He was poor. One day, during play-hour, he did not go forth with the other lads to sport, but sat down under a tree by a little brook.

He put his head upon his hand and began thinking. What about? He said to himself, "How strange it is! All this land used to belong to our family. Yonder fields and that house and all the houses round were once ours. Now we don't own any of this land, and the houses are not ours any longer. Oh, if I could but get all this property back!" He then whispered two words—"I'll try." He went back to school that afternoon to begin to try. He was soon removed to a superior school, where he did the same. By-and-by he entered the army, and eventually went to India as an officer. His abilities, but still more his energy and determination, secured promotion. He became a man of mark.

At length he rose to the highest post which a person could occupy in that land—he was made Governor-General. In twenty years he came back to England and bought all the property which had once belonged to his family. The poor west of England boy had become the renowned Warren Hastings!

#### KNEELING DOWN.

There are different kinds of kneeling, or of that which is called kneeling. But the only right way of kneeling is that which may be called "kneeling down." A woman called a friend to look at the excellent arrangement which she had made in her seat. She sat down, and showed how, by a simple movement forward about a foot, she might keep her sitting position on the cushion—and at the same time bring her knees into contact with the so-called kneeling cushion which she had got built up from the floor till it was a very few inches lower than the seat-cushion. Kneel down.