

the close, speaking a word which may, by God's blessing, be the means of leading an anxious soul to the Lord Jesus.

Dear friend, these are some portions of the field which we open up to you. Will you not join us in the work?

FIRST CHANCE.



APPROACHING a certain city in the West, the traveler reads this sign, placed at right angles to a saloon front. When he enters the city, "First Chance." Chance for what? A chance to waste his money; a chance to muddle his brain before transacting his business; to weaken his moral character and make himself an easier prey to the other snares which abound in that same city; a chance to lower his own self-respect, and a chance to lose the respect of others. Worst of all, a chance to harden his heart against the pleadings of the Holy Spirit and the accusations of his own conscience; a chance to lessen his chances for Heaven and increase his chances for Hell. Who will take the "First Chance?"

On leaving the city by the same road, one reads on the other side of the sign, "Last Chance." The last chance to get drunk before going home to the mother and sisters, or to the wife and children; the chance to make the wife's cheeks tingle with shame for the man she vowed to love; the chance to make the children cower before their father, who has degraded himself below the brutes; the chance to destroy the home that love has helped to build; the chance to bring upon himself remorse and anguish when it is forever too late.

—*Burlington (Iowa) Bulletin.*

THE LAST OPPORTUNITY.



MANAGERS of amusements have the art of awakening public attention by captivating and stirring appeals in their advertisements. "The last chance," "Only a few days longer," "Positively the last opportunity," are conspicuously capitalized to stir up the curiosity. As our eye has often been arrested by such announcements, we have thought of the serious and solemn application they would bear. To every sinner there is a "last" and "positively" last opportunity for securing a neglected salvation. They have line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little; and then the appeals to their conscience, to their hopes and fears, become less frequent, until, the awful juncture arrives when the last invitation is offered, and the cry is heard, "He that is unjust let him be unjust still; and he that is filthy, let him be filthy still." It has often occurred that an individual eager for some sensual pleasure, and hastening with light and buoyant steps to some resort of sinful amusement or some haunt of polluting vice, has in the very act, lost the last opportunity for securing the blessings of eternal life. The invitation of mercy has been changed into the summons of judgment, and hopes of heaven into the realities of hell. The last opportunity of averting a fate which no earthly language can describe, may be nearer than the soul may imagine. The special call through God's ministering servants, which falls on the ear; that earnest exhortation from a friend; that providential care, continually watching over you; that still small voice, dissuading from sin and urging to repentance and conversion, may be the last opportunity. It is first, "Turn ye, turn ye, for why will ye die?" and then, before the soul is aware, comes the terrible decree, "He that is joined to his idols, let him alone," and upon his soul falls the voice of God, "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee!" If you have not repented, embrace the present opportunity; "Now is the accepted time, now is the day of salvation." "Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near."

"Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth its color in the cup, when it moveth itself upright. At the last it biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder.—Prov. xxiii. 31-32.