

that for this, the evil might have been averted, or at least mitigated. The rich man had spared his own abounding flocks and herds, and had seized his neighbor's solitary ewe-lamb. The wronging, who ought to have been "just, ruling in the fear of God," had regarded neither the self-sacrificing patriotism of the one, nor the yet unstained beauty of innocence in the other.— He had even "despised" the Lord,—had insulted His purity, His seeing justice, and His power. He fell, not alone. That sin was heightened in a thousand ways; and Absalom's career tells of the *Nemesis* that prevails in more than fable. David repented, wept, and found grace: but often do the bitter temporal results of transgression survive its pardon. Let the "fools" who "make mock at sin" trace the terrible illustration amid the blood-shed of David's family, down to Zedekiah, and the proscription by the Romans of all who were ascertained or suspected to be of that re-honored lineage.

Let every youth who reads this little essay learn gratitude for the humbler lot, which excludes the particular temptations that beset Absalom. But let each mark the beginnings of evil; especially of revenge, pride, and unfilial conduct. "The eye that looketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it." (Prov. xxx. 17.) Never forget the responsibilities that attend a religious training. If you perish, the heaviest chains, the deepest of the "many stripes," the memory of countless mercies, facilities, and advantages, will multiply the terrors of your unblest *eternity*.
Banks of the Thames. L.

A KEEN ARGUMENT.

The name of *James Axley* was rendered familiar to us by being read by himself, during the sitting of the Conference of 1807, from the back of the seat in front of the one in which we usually sit in the little old brick chapel.* Our recollection of his person rather indistinct; but we think he was tall and raw-boned, and a little awkward in his manners and movements. In the matter of delivery of his discourses there was a marked originality, a touch of humor, and even drollery, which, while it interested and frequently amused his hearers, often gave severe point and direct-

ness to the "Western Conference" of the American Methodist Episcopal Church.