

THE SOLDIER'S PRAYER.

It was the evening after a great battle. Among the many who bowed to the conqueror, Death, that night, was a youth in the first freshness of mature life. The strong limbs lay listless, and the dark hair was matted with gore on the pale, broad forehead. His eyes were closed. As one who ministered to the sufferer bent over him he at first thought him dead, but the white lips moved, and slowly, in weak tones, he repeated—

"Now I lay me down to sleep;
I pray Thee, Lord, my soul to keep
If I should die before I wake,
I pray Thee, Lord, my soul to take;
And this I ask for Jesus' sake."

Opening his eyes, and meeting the pitying gaze of a brother soldier, he exclaimed:

"My mother taught me that when I was a little boy, and I have said it every night since I could remember. Before the morning dawns I believe God will take my soul 'for Jesus' sake,' but before I die I want to send a message to my mother."

He was carried to a temporary hospital and to his mother he dictated a letter full of Christian faith and filial love. Just as the sun rose his spirit went home, his last articulate words being:

"I pray thee, Lord, my soul to take;
And this I ask for Jesus' sake."

The prayer of childhood was the prayer of manhood. He learned it at his mother's knee in infancy, and he whispered it in dying when his manly life ebbed away on a distant battle-field.

God bless the saintly words, loved and repeated alike by high and low, rich and poor, wise and ignorant, old and young! Happy the soul that can repeat them with the holy fervor of the dying soldier!—*Dr. H. Bonar.*

THE MOTHER'S INFLUENCE.

It is hard for a young mother, who has not yet overcome the impulsive tendencies of her youthful nature, to realize the influence she exerts over her own little ones. She is constantly surrounded by successful imitators, who copy her morals and manners. As the mother is, so are her sons and daughters. If a family of children is blessed with an intelligent mother, who is delicate and refined in her manners, and does not consider it necessary to be one woman in a drawing-room and an entirely different person in every-day life; but who is a true mother, and

always a tender, charming woman, you will invariably see her habits of speech and perfect manners repeated in her children. Great, rough men, and noisy, busy boys, will always tone down their voices, and step lightly, and try to be more mannerly, when she stops to give them a kind word or a pleasant smile, for a true mother will never fail to say or do all the pleasant things she can that will cheer those whose lives are shaded with care and toil. The mother of to-day rules the world of to-morrow.

MANY WAYS OF DENYING CHRIST.

It is a fatal mistake to suppose that there can be no apostasy from Christ where we are not absolutely called on to deny His name, or to burn incense to an idol. We deny our Lord whenever, like that Demas, we, through love of this present world, forsake the course of duty which Christ has plainly pointed out to us. We deny our Lord whenever we lend the sanction of our countenance, our praise, or even our silence, to measures or opinions which may be popular and fashionable, but which we ourselves believe to be sinful in themselves or tending to sin. We deny our Lord whenever we forsake a good man in affliction and refuse to give countenance, encouragement and support to those who, for God's sake and for the faithful discharge of their duty, are exposed to persecution and slander.—*Bishop Heber.*

GOOD TESTIMONY.

Rev. R. W. Clark, D. D., of Albany, has lately addressed a circular to leading railroad men of the country to learn what they thought about running Sunday trains and the Presidents of two of the largest railroad companies in the United States have given answers that are worthy to be heard everywhere. President Dickson, of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company, replied:—"I can only say that if I had the power there would not be a wheel moved on that day upon any railroad of the Company." President Sloan, of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Road, replied: "This Company does not run Sunday trains, as we believe the efficiencies of the service, health and good discipline are promoted by rest on the Sabbath day." President Sloan is unquestionably one of the ablest of railroad presidents, and few men have had larger experience in the responsible service."