

GENERAL READING

THE SOCIABLE.

(Irreligious Boston Traveller.)

They carried pie to the parson's house
And scattered the floor with crumbs,
And marked the leaves of his choicest books.

They piled his dishes high and thick,
With a lot of unwholesome cake,
While they gobbled the buttered toast and rolls.

They hung around Clyde's classic neck
Their apple parings for sport,
And everyone laughed when a clumsy lout
Spilt his tea in the piano-forte.

Next day the parson went down on his knees,
With his wife, but not to pray:
Oh no, 'twas to scrape the grease and dirt
From the carpet and stairs away!

"BILLY" DAWSON THE YORKSHIRE FARMER.

REV. J. BERTHAM.

William Dawson was born at Garforth, near Leeds, on March 8th, 1778. In his childhood he went to Harrow, in Yorkshire, and lived there till within four years of his death. His mother was a godly woman and brought up her children in the fear of the Lord.

Mr. Dawson had offers and thoughts of entering the ministry of the Church of England, but after some delay, threw up his lot among the Methodists. It was no half-hearted assent. The whole man was given to the service of the Church of his choice.

William Dawson was a man. He was nearly six feet high, well-built, of good appearance and open countenance. His best attire on Sundays was corduroy or plain velvet breeches, thick solid "top boots."

sun possesses a fulness of light and heat, on purpose to bestow upon those who stand in need of it, without money and without price. But with what shall they be filled? With the two grand attributes in the nature and essence of God, viz: light and love.

As a preacher Mr. Dawson was remarkably popular and very useful. It was not an hour's pastime to listen to his burning eloquence. He knew how to grapple with the conscience, and faithfully did he do so? He preached all the counsel of God. He did not win the applause by withholding the terrors of the law, but preached with a pungency and power seldom equalled, on the eternity and fearfulfulness of future punishment.

I was informed by a person who heard him preach in Liverpool, that he produced a wonderful impression, by describing a vessel, supposed to be lost, returning in safety. When the vessel left port there were sad partings, but they expected to meet again after a few months. Time rolled on, but no tidings of the vessel. People began to say it was lost, sailor's wives began to put on widows weeds, their children were taught that they were orphans.

Want of space forbids our writing about his use of the hymn book in preaching. His fame was national as a platform speaker. His addresses were mostly on the subject of Missions. Some of his speeches were as well known as himself, such as The Telescope, The Railroad, the Reform Bill, delivered about the time when Lord John Russell brought his reform bill into Parliament; The Musical Clock; the British Lion, &c., &c.

He died at the age of 68 years, and was buried amid weeping multitudes at Barwick.

WHAT THRIFT AND INDUSTRY CAN DO.

The other day we fell upon our representative man. It required no skill to interview him; he gave us at once, in a pleasant ride of a few miles, his entire confidence, and volunteered to open for our interested inspection his whole business life. He was one of the representative native New England men, breezy, full of resources, hopeful, and fearless of physical labor.

"To-day, after dinner," was the characteristic reply; and at it he went. He worked so diligently, not counting the hours, that he made it pay him over a dollar a day. From this job he readily found others. He had kept at work since, he said, every year, earning sometimes over a dollar a day; he had not deprived himself of any necessary comforts, had lived pleasantly, was fond of reading, and had supplied himself with papers and periodicals, and had laid up something every year; one year, indeed, but seven dollars, after all his bills were paid, but he placed this in the savings bank.

He was a shoemaker in Lynn during the war. These were the best times. Good workmen were enabled some years to earn large amounts of money. He, for long spaces, earned fifty dollars a week. Instead of bringing his expenses, as the majority of his fellow workmen did, up to the very verge of his income, he lived on twenty dollars or less, and regularly put aside thirty. Many of those who earned equal sums expended their money upon their appetites—upon liquor and tobacco, and upon expensive pleasures.

So my friend, who was both a Christian man and a very pronounced temperance man, whiled away very profitably the half hour taken by our ride from Lynn to the place of his residence. Now, the moral of this is that the more we expend wisely upon the public and enforced training of the children of the poor, the more we endeavor to awaken intellectual life among working men, the more earnestly we press the temperance reform, the more we bring under the influence of religion, the less money we shall have to lavish upon poor houses and distribute along the streets, the fewer strikes we shall have, and the small floating, unemployed, dangerous population, tending to crime and hideous immoralities.

THE VALUE OF WRITTEN EXAMINATIONS.

It is not an uncommon thing to hear disparaging remarks about the value of written examinations in an educational system. We freely admit that such examinations can be conducted in such a way as to become positively mischievous instead of beneficial, but on the other hand, we cannot see how any teacher can dispense with them entirely without doing a great injustice to the pupils. There is so much labor connected with them that a little difference on the subject on the part of the pupils individually and collectively that every good teacher who has once found out their value will cheerfully undergo the extra drudgery. No pupil can fairly be assumed to know a thing until he can put his knowledge to some use, and the best way of at once testing him how to do this, and ascertaining when he is able to do it, is to ask him to set down on paper the answers to judiciously prepared questions.

spelling, it is impossible not to feel regret if not surprise, at the apathy existing on the subject. As specimens of school-boy answering at written and oral examinations the following are worthy of attention, and if any teacher thinks they are not a fair example let him try what his own pupils can do, if they have not been accustomed to committing their thoughts on paper. The specimens are from the pupils in the London Public Schools:

"Where is Turkey?"
"Turkey is the capital of Norfolk."
"Where is Turin?"
"Turin is the capital of China, the people there lives on birds nests and have long tails.

"Gibberalter is the principal town in Rooshia.

"What do you know about the patriarch Abraham?"
" He was the father of Lot, and had two wives—wan was called Hishmael and t'other Havgur. He kept one at home and turned t'other into the desert, when she became a pillow of salt in the day time and a pillow of fire by the nite.

"What do you know of Joseph?"
" He wore a coat of many garments. He was chief butler to Faro, and told his dreams. He married Potiffer's dotor and led the Gypshans out of bondage to Kana in Gallilee, and then fell on his sword and died, in cite of the Promise land."

"Give the names of the books of the Old Testament?"

"Devenshire, Exeter, Littikus, Numbers, Stronomy, Jupiter, Judges, Ruth, &c."

"What is a miracle?"

"Den't know."

"If you saw the sun shining at midnight what would you call it?"

"The moon."

"But if you were told it was'the sun?"

"I should say it was a not true.

Another boy, giving his impressions in regard to Moses, wrote as follows:

"He was an Eypshin. He lived in a bark maid of bull rusers, and he kep a golden calf, and worship braiken snakes, and he bet nuthin but twales and manne: for forty years. He was kory by the air of his ed while riding under the bow of a tree, and he was killed by his Abson, as he was hanging from the bow His end was peace."

"What is meant by conscience?" said a schoolmaster to his class. The almost simultaneous reply of half their number was:

"A hinward monitor." An inspector who happened to be present inquired: And what do you understand by monitor?

To this an intelligent youth exultingly youth answered: "A hironclad."

Every teacher will recognize in these answers the confused ideas, and the mistaking of names for things which all pupils fall into, and out of which there is no means of getting them, except by patiently correcting the errors they make while endeavoring to put their knowledge in a definite shape on paper.—Canada School Journal.

FAMILY READING.

DEAN STANLEY AND THE CHILDREN.

At a special service for children in Westminster Abbey, Dean Stanley delivered an address to the children:—

"Love honest work, love to get knowledge, never be ashamed of saying your prayers morning and evening. It will help you to be good all through the day. Always keep your promises; do not pick up foolish and dirty stories; never, never tell a lie; never strike or be rude to a woman or girl, or any one weaker or younger than yourselves. Be ready even to risk your own lives to save a friend or a brother or a sister. Be very kind to poor dumb animals—never put them to pain; they are God's creatures as well as you, and if you hurt them you will become brutal and base yourselves. Remember always to be gentle and attentive to older people; listen and do not interrupt when they are talking. If you have an old father, or a grandfather, or a sick uncle or aunt, remember not to disturb them by loud talking or rough play. Be careful and tender to them. You cannot think what good it does them, and if it should happen that any of you have a poor father or a poor mother who has to get up early to go about their business to earn their bread—and your bread, remember—what a pleasure it will be to them to find that their little boy or little girl has been out of bed before them on a cold winter's morning, and has lighted a bright blazing fire, so as to give them a warm cup of tea! Think what a pleasure it would be to them if they are sick, if they are deaf or blind, to find a little boy or a little girl to speak to them, or to read to them, or to lead them about. It is not only the comfort they have in having help; it is a still greater comfort in knowing that they have a good little son or a good little daughter who is anxious to help them, and who they feel sure, will be a joy and not a trouble to them by day

and by night. No Christmas present can be so welcome to any father or mother or friend as the belief that their children are growing up truthful, manly, courageous, courteous, unselfish and religious; and do not think that any of these things are too much for any of you. It was only the other day I heard of a brave and modest little boy, Hammon Darker was his name who was only fourteen years of age, and who has already saved at different times the lives of no less than four other boys by plunging into the rough sea after them on the coast of Norfolk. That is what you can do, not perhaps by plunging into the stormy sea, but at any rate by saving a little brother or a little sister from going wrong. You can do far more for them perhaps than any one else, because you are always with them. Stand by them and protect; stand by each other, and then the foolish, wicked, cruel people who want to mislead you will, very soon run away. Bad people are always afraid of good people, even though the good are much fewer, and even though the good may only be a little child. I knew once a very famous man who lived to be very old, who lived to be eighty-eight. He was always the delight of those about him. He always stood up for what was right. His eye was like an eagle's when it flashed fire at what was wrong. And how early do you think he began to do this? I have an old grammar which belonged to him, all tattered and torn, which he had when a little boy at school, and what do you think I found written in his own hand in the very first page? Why these words; "Still in thy right hand carry gentle peace to silence vicious tongues—be just and fear not." That was his rule all through life, and he was loved and honored down to the day when he was carried to the grave. Be just, be good and fear not; let that be your rule, and may God and Jesus Christ be with you then, now and always."—Public Ledger.

BEFORE THEY CALL I WILL ANSWER.

A Dutch preacher one evening held a meeting in a strange city. While he was preaching, and enforcing upon the hearts of his hearers the doctrine of the cross a police-officer came into the room and forbade him to go on. He even commanded him to leave the city. As he was a stranger in the place, and the night was dark, he wandered around the gates. He was not, however, without consolation; for he remembered Him who hath said, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." "Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

He had long been in the school of Christ, and had learned to watch for the slightest intimations of his will. While he was thus wandering around, suddenly he saw a light in the distance. "See," he said to himself, "perhaps the Lord has provided me a shelter there," and in the simplicity of faith he directed his steps thither.

On arriving, he heard a voice in the house; and as he drew nearer he discovered that a man was praying. Joyful, he hoped that he had found here the home of a brother. He stood still for a moment, and heard these words poured forth from an earnest heart:

"Lord Jesus, they have driven thy persecuted servant out of the city, and he is perhaps wandering at this moment in a strange place, of which he knows nothing. O may he find my home, that he may receive here food and lodging!"

The preacher, having heard these words, glided into the house, and as soon as the speaker said "Amen," he saw his prayer answered. Both fell on their knees, and together thanked the Lord, who is a hearer of prayer, and who never leaves nor forsakes his servants.—Christian Era.

PAY YOUR DEBTS.

1 If you wish to receive the reputation of being an honest man, pay your debts. 2 If you would avoid bringing disgrace upon the church of which you are a member pay your debts. 3 If you are anxious to get a good article, and at the lowest possible price, never delay to pay your debts. 4 If you wish to obtain such credit as your business may require, be sure to pay your debts. 5 If you would remain on terms of friendship with those you trade with, pay your debts. 6 If you would avoid embarrassing others who are depending upon the settlement of your account, pay your debts. 7 If you wish to prevent mistakes and litigation, keep your accounts well adjusted, and pay your debts. 8 If you wish to aid in the circulation of money never let cash remain by you, but pay your debts. 9 If you would do to others, as you wish them to do to you pay your debts. 10 If you wish to stand clear of lying and making false statements, pay your debts. 11 If you desire to pursue your business with peace of mind, pay your debts. 12 If in the expectation of death, you would like to leave your affairs in a satisfactory condition pay your debts. 13 If you wish to do what is right in the

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