

nic is engaged to do a peice of work. It is important that it shall be attended to promptly ; arrangments involving the convenience and comfort of the family depend upon it and except for the positive assurance that it should be done at the appointed time, some other person would have been engaged. But the appointed day comes and goes, and, notwithstanding repeated applications and new promises, weeks pass on before the first hammer is struck, or the first nail driven.

The result of this looseness of speech and consci e is, first, great vexation and disappointment. The party to whom such promises were made relied upon them. But the faithlessness of the party has deranged all his plans, and subjected him to much inconvenience. He is impatient and vexed, gives way to unpleasant tempers, says many hard things, and, perhaps commits much sin.

Then, also, confidence is destroyed in the person who made the promise. The word of the latter had been pledged, and if he has failed to keep it once, he may fail again. The victim of his deception, having discovered that he is not to be relied upon, fixes a mark upon him, and takes care not to put himself in the way of future disappointments, and advises his friends in like manner.

Hence, too, the man who makes and breaks promises is a looser in the end, so far as mere self-interest is concerned. In order to keep his business, or not disoblige customers or friends, he pledged himself for what he knew, or might have known, would not be done. Instead of promoting his end by this deception, he has frustrated it. The loss of customers, and their adverse advice and influence, does him a hundred fold more harm than frankly to have told the truth at the outset.

The worst result of all, however, is the injury done by the faithless promiser to his moral principles. What-

ever interpretation he may put upon his language, and however he may endeavour to excuse himself, he has uttered a falsehood. The repetition of such obliquities deadens his moral sense, so that after long practice, he thinks nothing of giving and breaking his word. At last he can tell an untruth every day of his life, and not even be conscious of impropriety.

The lessons to be drawn from the subjectare, 1. That we should weigh all our words. Strictly interpreted, perhaps, your language may not have necessarily implied an absolute obligation ; but if such an impression was made, the injury is done. And, 2.—That in all transactions it is best in every sense of the term, to be honest. If a request cannot be complied with say so. You may fail, for the time to please a customer or friend, but in the end you will have gained his respect and confidence. It is a great thing to have men say of you, "His word is true as steel. If he has said it, it will be done." "A good name," says the wise man, "is rather to be chosen than great riches."

#### A Teacher's Address to her Scholars, on the last Sunday of the Year.

Dear Children—Now that the year is drawing so near to its close that even the last sabbath has come, I wish to ask a few questions concerning the manner in which it has been spent by each of you ; and I hope that, when you read these questions, you will try to answer them to your own consciences ; remembering that God can look into your hearts, and that he knows when you endeavour to deceive yourselves or others, by seeking to appear better than you are

Another year is nearly gone. Do you think you have been improving, while the days, and weeks, and months have been passing by ? Have you been more dutiful to your parents, more attentive to your teachers, more diligent with your lessons, than you were the