

and faith strong, and temporal wants supplied, and family ties pleasant, and the retrospect of life peaceful, and no hopeless grief for the dead or the living of kindred is upon the soul, and there be peace with God and man, there is a condition of things that leaves no room to envy the youth or the middle-aged, or the most prospered of earth, in mid-career of success and honour. It is a period full of ripe experiences, usually also of calm passions, of enlarged charity, or deep humility, and of growing heavenly-mindedness, the reflex of a nearer approach to the better land. And then death generally comes easier to the aged than to others, as ripe fruit is readily plucked, and as the worn-out labourer soon falls asleep when the day's toil is over. Our Lord says, the old cloth must be put with the old garment, as matching best therewith, and so the old age of the Christian joins in happily with the olden eternity. God Himself gives the promise, "With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation," as a reward and favour, and so it is. Happy are they who have reached a serene, peaceful, religious threescore and ten. Let them render thanks to the God of all grace, who has brought them through the wilderness to that Nebo on its border; let them stand there, and look awhile on the goodly land beyond, and then yield up the soul into the hands of a most merciful God and Saviour, and the body to His keeping for the Resurrection of the Just.—*Rev. W. H. Lewis, D. D., in the Churchman.*

### A PROFITABLE PASTIME.

A newspaper writer, speaking of the annoying way in which many persons correct others in the pronunciation of words, makes the following suggestion:

Errors of speech may be pointed out among intimate friends in a kind manner, and often with mutual profit. Well-educated people may be astonished to see how many simple words they have been mis-pronouncing all their lives, if their thoughts are specially directed to them. In a social party, an amusement both instructive and interesting may be obtained by reading in turns under some

forfeit for each mistake. Take for example the following words: "acclimated," "amenable," "opponent," "altercation," "adult," "illustrated," "harrassed," "truculent," "inquiries," "notable," "matin," "mediocre," "extant," "decade," "conversant," "deficit," "defalcating," "isolate," "contumely," "extirpate," "obligatory," "leisure," "sonorous," "clandestine," "servilely," "subtle," now in a mixed company say of seven persons, how many of them will agree upon the proper pronunciation of the words?

### THE COCK-FIGHTER AND HIS DAUGHTER.

BY H. W. ADAMS.

Some years ago on a Sabbath morning, John Brady, the cock-fighter, sat at home counting over a great roll of bank-bills. He had made by his night's work in one of the dens of New York, three hundred dollars, by betting shrewdly upon the prowess and endurance of his favourite birds.

Notwithstanding the fowl work of the father there was one soft spot in his heart, and his daughter held the key to it. She was his pet, and this morning she sat by his side, intently watching him.

"What is it Mary?" he said presently. She made no answer, but looked so earnestly into his eyes that it troubled him.

"Tell me what's the matter," he said again.

Still no reply. But the hero of the cock-pit was not to be conquered by a little girl of ten summers, so he took her by the shoulder, somewhat roughly, and said:

"But you *must* tell me, Mary."

Very calmly and sweetly she answered:

"Papa, I will tell you what I was thinking. That great roll of money will not buy heaven."

Brady was vexed, but the words cut to the quick. He lost all interest in his bank notes, and nervously paced the floor. Soon Mary went up stairs to her room. She had found Jesus in the Sunday-school, and he had been her strong refuge ever since.