

ever heard of a shop where 'ready made' characters were for sale? No, indeed!

Character is something that grows and develops in every girl and boy little by little every day, grows with their growth and strengthens with their strength until at last, like a cloak or coat, it envelops them. Look at papa. He is an honest, upright man, prompt, conscientious and reliable in business, and at home tender, affectionate and considerate. Now, do you suppose he waited until he became a man to develop these qualities? And did mamma gain her winsomeness and gentle manners, her patience and forbearance after she had grown to womanhood? No, my dears, these admirable traits were cultivated in youth and encouraged until they became fixed and permanent qualities.

Show me a boy who likes to lie abed in the morning, who is always behind at breakfast, late at school, neglectful of his lessons and duties, and always making excuses for his tardiness, and I will show you a man who is lazy and unreliable, and who will never prosper—one whom no one will honor or respect. And the girl who is idle, careless of her appearance, snappish and snarlish, and inclined to procrastinate and put off, will become a slothful, untidy, cross, dilatory woman whom none will admire, but whom everyone will shun. But the boy or girl who is prompt, industrious, persevering, honest and amiable, who works, plays and studies with a will, will make a reliable, prosperous, noble, generous gentleman, or a bright, clever, winsome gentleman.

Now is the time then, dears, to build for the future, and Grandma hopes if any of you have formed habits that cannot fail to bring unhappiness when you are older you will get rid of them at once before they become too deeply rooted. Somebody has taken the word habit and worked it out in this clever way, which shows how a bad habit sticks and how hard it is to get rid of:—"Habit is hard to overcome. If you take off the first letter it is 'a bit.' If you take off another you still have a 'bit' left. If you take off another the whole of 'it' remains. You take off another, it is not 'it' totally used up." So be sure and form good habits.—*Christian at Work.*

#### A MOSLEM SCHOOL IN SYRIA.

Lately, the mother of three girls, through some influence brought to bear upon her by the Moslems, made a solemn vow that her girls should attend school

no more, and sent them to tell their teacher. She told the children, "all you can do is to pray to God to change your mother's heart; and I will pray also."

They said they would; but added, "Mother cannot change now, because she has made a vow, and would have to pay a great deal of money to the Sheikh." Time passed on. Behold, one morning, there were the girls in their usual places. The teacher saw the elder one was very eager to tell her something, and gave her an opportunity.

Then she burst out, quite excited, "I know God hears prayers. Yes, I know; now I know. Every day I have been going to a quiet place at the top of the house, and praying to God to make mother send us back and this morning she said, 'You may go to school again.' Did you pray, teacher?" "Yes," said the teacher, "I was praying too." "*Now I know,*" said the child again.

Prayer had evidently become a reality to her little heart. Perhaps another member of the mission helped to get these children back, though unknown to us at the time. This was old Mousa, our gatekeeper. He is a Christian; and knowing the father, who had sold fruit in the bazaars, had a talk to him about it, which did some good. It is pleasant to feel that even our servants are helpers to the work.—*Gospel in A' Land.*

#### GOOD MANNERS.

Boys, do not forget to take off your hat when you enter the house. Gentlemen never forget to take off their hats in the presence of ladies, and if you always take yours off when your mother and the girls are by, you will not forget yourself when a guest or a stranger happens to be in the parlor. Habit is strong, and you will always find that the easiest way to make sure of doing right on all occasions is to get into the habit of doing right. Good manners cannot be put on at a moment's warning.

#### HELP UPWARDS.

I shall never forget the feelings I had once when climbing one of the pyramids of Egypt. When half way up, my strength failing, I feared I should never be able to reach the summit or get back again. I well remember the help given, by Arab hands, drawing me on farther; and the step I could not quite make myself, because too great for my wearied frame, the little help given me—sometimes more and sometimes less—enabled