

need be afraid to follow Him anywhere."

*BLESS, AND CURSE NOT.*

A BAD, passionate man was one morning swearing at his wife, when his little girl of five years old came into the room and said, "Mother! I know my text, let me make haste to school."

"What is the text, my dear?" wishing to keep her child from hearing the oaths of her father, "Bless and curse not" said the little girl, putting her rosy mouth to her father for a kiss as she finished the words.

The tears came into the man's eyes as the child departed. All day "Bless and Curse not" rang in his ears. He became indeed a changed man from that time and strove hard and successfully to overcome his besetting sin. God had spoken to him as he has done to so many by the mouth of a little child. So you see little ones every word you speak as well as everything you do has an influence for good or evil. Think of this and see that you set others a good example following in the footsteps of your Saviour and your God.

*CHURCH HISTORY.*

THE THIRTEENTH CENTURY.

*Q.* What chiefly marks the reign of Henry III?

*A.* The struggles of the barons against the King's arbitrary government.

*Q.* Who supported the pretensions of the throne?

*A.* The Pope invariably; while the clergy of England formed the party of resistance.

*Q.* What has the thirteenth century been called?

*A.* "The golden age of English Churchmanship." (Stubbs.)

*Q.* Why so?

*A.* Because it produced some great bishops, among others Langton and Grosseteste; it also showed the power of the clergy, and perhaps because the leading statesmen, judges and lawyers were clerks in Holy Orders.

*Q.* What new exactions were the clergy now subjected to?

*A.* Taking their spiritual revenues instead of lands.

*Q.* To what did this lead?

*A.* Assemblies of the clergy, who asserted and possessed as a body deliberative, legislative and taxing powers.

*Q.* Of what is this the origin?

*A.* What is now called Convocation.

*Q.* For what time was this, a mere tax-paying agency?

*A.* Until 1664; it was administrative until 1717, and has been employed as a mere debating society since 1854.

*Q.* Who protected the Church from exactions for a lengthened period?

*A.* Bishop Langton, who died in 1228.

*Q.* By what was his death followed?

*A.* The Papal demand for one-tenth of all moveables in order to prosecute a war.

*Q.* Why were the clergy unsuccessful in resisting it?

*A.* Because they had to contend against the combined powers of King and Pope, who gave all vacant benefices either to Bretons or Italians.

*Q.* What two evil practices