

Turning Points in Life.

BY REV. ROBERT H. WILLIAMS.

"Once to every man and nation comes the moment to decide,
In the strife of truth and falsehood, for the good or evil side."

No one who has read biography with carefulness has failed to see certain little things, especially in the lives of great men, which have turned them away from ignorance or idleness or error, to a life distinguished for its intelligence and earnestness. Sometimes the turning point is early in life. It is said of Voltaire that at the age of five years he committed to memory an infidel poem, and was never after that able to free himself from its pernicious influence.

William Wilberforce, when a child, was placed under the training of a pious aunt; and although much was done in his early manhood to erase the impressions received from his aunt, his whole life was moulded and colored by that training.

Hume was quite young when he took the wrong side in a debate, and embraced and defended through life the position taken at that time.

Scott, the commentator, in a despairing mood read a hymn of Dr. Watts on the all-seeing God, and was turned from his sin and idleness to a life of usefulness.

The rebuke of the teacher and the taunt of a schoolmate aroused Clarke, the distinguished divine, who up to that time was very slow in attaining knowledge.

The turning point in Doddridge's life was when Clarke took him under his care. The first year he made great progress in study, and soon developed into a man of learning and influence.

Aaron Burr sought spiritual advice in a revival at college, but his counsellor told him that the work was not genuine. His anxieties were dissipated, and from that time his downward career has been dated.

Robert Moffat, the distinguished missionary, as he read a placard announcing a missionary meeting, was led to devote his life to the benefit of the heathen.

Thus it is that character and of usefulness often depend on one little event or circumstance.—*Evangelist*.

"ALLAN GRAY AND HIS DOUBTS" OR
"RHYME AND REASON FOR THE
YOUNG" BY "A LOVER OF THE
TRUTH."

Is the title of a pretty poem of 112 pages just published. The writer tells in pleasant verse a pleasant story, the scene of which is located, if not "in the Acadian land on the shores of the Basin of Minas," yet somewhere on the shores of the Bay of Fundy. The ending is not so tragic as that of Evangeline, the narrative is more probable and the effect of the poem must be decidedly more healthy. The aim is not to tell a thrilling tale but to teach useful lessons, and this is kept steadily in view from first to last. The book is printed in Halifax by the N. S. Printing Company and is for sale by A. & W. Mackinlay and Buckley & Allen. Price 50 cents.

THE slave-trade in Africa is still enormous. Dr. Livingstone estimated the traffic for all Africa at half a million yearly. Col. Gordon puts the loss of lives in the Soudan alone at 30,000 to 50,000 annually. Raouf Pasha, who was left to carry out the work begun by Col. Gordon for the suppression of the slave-trade, is proving an active abettor, and the iniquity is encouraged by the Egyptian Government. The sale and purchase of human beings continues to be practiced on a large scale in the Hedggy Yemen, Nubia, Abyssinia, and at various points on the coast.

FOR two score years, more or less, the Church has been praying—once a year, anyway—that God would open a great and effectual door to the heathen. These prayers have been answered with interest, and doors have been opened numerous enough and wide enough for all God's hosts to march in abreast. But here we stand, gazing helplessly at the open doors, and waiting for infidelity to go in and take possession of the land.—*Missionary Outlook*.

It was stated at the annual meeting of the Church Missionary Society recently held in Exeter Hall, London, that the total receipts for the past year had been \$1,047,040, being \$7,140 less than the expenditure.

AN English gentleman offers \$35,000 a year for the establishment of a mission Sowdan, a wide region in Central Africa, provided American Baptists will raise \$15,000 for the same object.