

Why, just last night 'fore he went to meeting he pounded his finger, and then I heard him use a swear-word. I did, truly, and I just can't forget how mad he gets at every little thing, when he up and asks prayers for his "little daughter."

The latter words were said in a tone so sarcastic that the listener ventured a rebuke, but the child, seemingly determined to make her meaning clear, now that she had told so much, continued:

'And—and ma's religion is tricky, too. Yes, it is, for a fact!' persisted Ethel, as the teacher attempted to hush her. 'She talked so sweet in meeting to-night that she made lots of 'em cry; but when she begged sinners to confess Christ, and looked right at me, I wanted to do like some of the rest of them did, for about a minute, and then I thought how she scolded a blue streak this morning 'cause her bread was sour, and boxed my ears just as if I was to blame, and then I didn't feel one mite like going forward.'

The teacher was speechless, but the child voiced her sentiment when in a spirited tone she added:

'If there wasn't so much tricky religion folks wouldn't need to be coaxed to have the right kind.'—Selected.

Wanted a Christian Wife.

A well-known judge in one of the southern states, speaking of his younger days, says that some fifty years ago he had become skeptical, and that Mr. H.—, a noble, whole-souled man, whom he revered almost as a father, but who was a confirmed deist, though he had a Christian wife, soon found him out, and endeavored to instill in his mind his own deistical notions. 'But he charged me,' said the judge, 'not to let his wife know that he was a deist, or that he was skeptical.' I asked him why. To which he replied that if he were to marry a hundred times he would marry only a pious woman.

'Because,' he said, 'if she is a Christian it makes her a better wife, a better mother, a better mistress, and a better neighbor. If she is poor, it enables her to bear adversity with patience and fortitude. If she is rich and prosperous, it lessens her desire for mere show. And when she comes to die, if she is in error, she is as well off as you and I; and if we are in error, she is a thousand times better off than we can be.'

I asked him if he knew of any other error, or system of errors, attended with so many advantages. His reply was evasive. But what he had said led me to examine the subject for myself, and I often look back to that conversation as one of the most important incidents of my life, and to it I trace my determination to study the Bible carefully, and to examine the subject for myself, the result of which has led me to a full and living faith in Jesus Christ, My Saviour.—'Religious Intelligencer.'

Two Singers.

A beautiful little incident is told concerning Jenny Lind and Grisi when they were rivals for popular favor in London. Both were invited to sing the same night at a court concert before the Queen. Jenny Lind, being the younger, sang first, and was so disturbed by the fierce, scornful look of Grisi, that she was at a point of failure, when, suddenly an inspiration came to her. The accompanist was striking his final chords. She asked him to rise, and she took the vacant seat. Her fingers wandered over the keys in a loving prelude, and then she sang a little prayer which she had loved as a child. She hadn't sung it for years. As she sang she was no longer in the presence of royalty, but singing to friends in her fatherland.

Softly at first the plaintive note floated on the air, swelling louder and richer every moment. The singer seemed to throw her whole soul into that weird, thrilling, plaintive 'prayer.' Gradually the song died away and ended in a sob. There was silence—the silence of admiring wonder. The audience sat spell-bound. Jenny Lind lifted her sweet eyes to look in the scornful face that had so disconcerted her. There was no fierce expression now; instead a tear-drop glistened on the long, black lashes, and after a moment, with the impulsiveness of a child of the tropics, Grisi crossed to Jenny Lind's side, placed her

arm about her and kissed her, utterly regardless of the audience.—'Commonwealth.'

Work in Labrador.

A DOCTOR VOLUNTEER.

Dr. Wakefield, who last year, at his own charges, came from England to Newfoundland, and took charge of the work at St. Anthony during Dr. Grenfell's absence, returned this year to undertake the same duties, giving up another season of valuable service to the cause. Before leaving England he attended and addressed the annual meeting of the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen. His account of the work, brief as it is, is full of interest.

Dr. Wakefield said:—Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,—It would be quite absurd for me to attempt to compress even a little corner of Labrador into ten minutes, and you will understand that it is impossible to adequately describe the breadth and scope of the work going on there in the time at my disposal. I will only just mention the Orphanage, with some 20 children, many of whom, I believe, would not have been alive had it not been for that institution, but who are now happy and healthy. The hospital, with which I was more particularly connected; the experimental farm and garden, the importance of which it would take me several minutes to explain; the co-operative store, the second-hand clothes shop, the industrial and technical schools, elementary schools, and more advanced classes. I cannot speak about all these to-night, but I want to tell you something about the hospital, where my work chiefly lay. I will tell you of a little boy who came into the hospital looking more like a skinned rabbit than anything else. He was very bad with consumption; he had consumption in his shoulder, in his hip, and in his leg, and he was jolly bad. After a time he began to improve, and one place after another got well. As he was getting better, he came to me one day—I was awfully rushed at the time, and very pressed for help—he came into the surgery, and said, 'Doctor, can I do anything to help you this morning?' I said, 'Yes, Willie, you can clean out the bottles for me.' He cleaned out the bottles, and he did it well and carefully. The next day he came again—'Doctor, can I do anything to help you?'—and he again cleaned out the bottles well and carefully, and so he came day after day, sometimes two or three times a day, when he might have been out playing with the other boys, and repeated his question, 'Doctor, can I do anything to help you?' and from cleaning the bottles he went on to cleaning some instruments for me, and from one thing to another until he was helping me to make up physic and weigh out powders. Everything he did was done carefully and well, nobody could have done it better. While Willie was at St. Anthony he learnt more than the way to wash out bottles and make up physic, and this was his way of following the Great Example. He tried to help others. I had a letter from Willie about Christmas-time saying that he was quite well and that he would like to be a doctor himself. I could go on for a long time telling you about the patients who come to St. Anthony, some of them from hundreds of miles away, and many of them are utterly unable to see any other doctor; they cannot get any other doctor than the Mission doctor. Many of them come as a last resort, considering themselves invalids for life; I am thankful to say that many of these go home quite cured. But I want to try and bring before you the difficulties under which we have to do this work. The hospital where I was at St. Anthony was supposed to have accommodation for 19 at the greatest possible crush. We used to get batches of 30 coming on one day. Of course, many of these there was no need to keep in the hospital, but many of them could only be treated in the hospital. Put yourself in the position of the doctor in charge, the hospital crammed full, patients coming hundreds of miles, with perhaps only this chance of seeing a doctor—what are you going to do? Send them away? Well, I confess that I do not think a sanitary inspector many times would have passed the crush we had in our hospital. The work has quite outgrown the accommodation. There was one

oven; on that oven we cooked all the food for the servants, patients, and everybody; on that oven the instruments were sterilized for the operations, and we heated all the water that we needed for the dressings and patients; everything was done on one oven. The accommodation for the nursing department was so utterly meagre and bad that it would not have been tolerated for one moment in any little cottage hospital in this country. The nurses were working under the most extreme difficulty, owing to lack of accommodation in ways that I cannot describe—the accommodation is so utterly short of what is needed. Now, I had a letter less than five minutes before I entered this hall from Dr. Grenfell, telling me how urgent he considers the enlargement of this hospital. I think you will agree after what I have told you that it is really needed. The work is there. We are not trying to increase the work, we can hardly cope with the work we have, but the hospital is not there—not such a one as we need. It would take about £2,000, Dr. Grenfell says, to make that hospital such as it should be. If you could only see the need I think everyone would do his best to help.

Religious News.

Charles J. Ewald, of the Young Men's Christian Association, Buenos Ayres, says in 'The Student World,' that the National University at Buenos Ayres has over four thousand young men of the influential classes of the Argentine Republic. At least half of them come from the smaller cities and towns, and the city atmosphere in which these students live is not conducive to moral vigor. There is every encouragement to immorality and gambling, which are the great vices.

Not over ten percent of them are more than nominally identified with Roman Catholicism. Another ten percent take a hostile attitude toward the Roman Church. This hostility does not mean that there is any sympathy with evangelical Christianity. The great mass of students are indifferent, never having given any thought to religious questions. They believe in nothing. These conditions are not to be wondered at, for while the Roman Church has been steadily losing her hold upon these men the evangelical churches have been making no effort to reach them. So far as I know there are no members of Protestant churches in this great student body, yet I have found them open-minded, ready to give thought to this matter.

Through its athletics and language classes the Young Men's Christian Association has been establishing points of contact with the students. At the opening of the present college year we published a student guide which made a very favorable impression. A few of the students have become deeply interested in the study of the Bible. In this group we have some of the most influential men in the university. Three of them are champions in university athletics, all are excellent students. Recently the leading man in the group made a decision for the Christian life. He is perhaps the most popular man in the whole student body, a great athlete, being champion in three events in the university, and also the South American champion in two events, a senior medical student. He is now seriously considering the question of identifying himself with an evangelical church.

The Rev. L. C. Vass, who has just landed in London, informs us that Dr. Morrison and Dr. Sheppard have been summoned to appear before a court of the Kongo Independent State, at Leopoldville, to answer a charge of false accusation of some of the officers of the great Kasai Rubber Company, with reference to their mistreatment of the natives. We are, of course, concerned about this matter, although we do not think it probable that it will have any very serious results. We only feel sure that the Kongo authorities will go just as far as they can safely venture to go in the effort to get rid of the presence of our 'troublesome missionaries' in their country. These missionaries have not been able to hold their peace while they were witnessing the barbarities perpetuated by this great greedy monster which has been preying upon that helpless people in the financial interest of the stockholders of the company.—'Christian Observer.'