

I am He that Liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore.—Rev. i. 18.

bor, with not a little angry surprise in his voice.

"I mean this: the engineers, firemen, brakemen, and conductors on the railway have as good a right to their Lord's day as I have to mine; and if I travel on that day, I shall rob them of their Sabbath."

"I call myself as honest as anybody," said the other stammering. "Don't you think you talk a little too strong when you call it robbing?"

"No! it's robbing all ways," said Mr. Birt. "I rob God, and I rob my own soul when I rob a man of his chance to attend public worship; and, you see, it is not doing as I would be done by, and I call it robbery."

There is, alas! a great deal of this robbery committed in our land. It is true that it is a robbery not arraigned at our courts, but it is one we shall have to answer for at a higher bar.

WHY DO YOU SWEAR?

DOES it do you any good? Are you wiser, more brave, more of a gentleman, more to be believed or trusted? or are you more of a man because you swear?

Cowper writes:

"It chills my blood to hear the blest Supreme
Rudely appealed to on each trifling theme:
Maintain your rank: vulgarity despise;
To swear is neither brave, polite nor wise.
You would not swear upon the bed of death:
Reflect your maker now can stop your breath."

"Because of swearing the land mourneth." Jer. xxiii. 10. "Above all things, swear not." "The Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain."

When there is no profit, no honor, no comfort, no use, for any man to swear—*Why will you swear?*

A CALM hour with God is worth a whole lifetime with man.

THE HEN AS A TEACHER.



HAVE you ever watched a hen taking her food? Have you noticed that while she almost greedily devoured the grain, she was at the same time careful to avoid everything calculated to injure her? She did not refuse the grain because there was some grit mixed with it; but she refused to swallow the dirt. God has endowed her with instinct, and using it, she is able to distinguish between that which is good for food, and that which is injurious.

Friends, can you not learn a lesson from the hen? In your journey through life you will meet with both good and bad.

Then, against evil actions or books take great care;

The grain from the dirt and the gravel keep clear.

Thus feed on the food which the Lord both provide,

And cast all the rubbish and refuse aside.

I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.—John x. 9.