

SPINES WANTED.

A Composer in a printing-office was setting type at this verse of Scripture: "And Daniel had an excellent spirit in him." But he made it read: "And Daniel had an excellent spine in him." Mr. Spurgeon said it was not much of a mistake. All good men now-a-days need an "excellent spine." They require to hold the truth in its integrity, to believe it upon the word of its divine Author, and then stand erect and unflinching whatever opposition befalls them. This was the case with Daniel. His excellent spirit revealed itself in the texture of his backbone. The lion's den confronted him, but he did not yield an inch. And he went into it with far more composure than the king went to his sleepless bed. *Selected.*

TO THE YOUNG.

To the young who are within hearing of my voice let me say: Repel as your deadliest enemy that one, be he companion, friend or aught else, who offers you anything that you must conceal from those about you anything that he lays you under obligation to read or examine in secret. In many cases it would be a kindlier act were that one to administer to you instead a dose of the subtlest poison concealed in tempting confectionery. As you flee from the hissing serpent, flee from those who offer you what you cannot show your mother, or read and exhibit freely in the midst of the family circle.

WHITE LIES.

There are other forms of untruthfulness besides the direct lie. There are those who would not speak an untrue word, who yet color their statements so as to make them really false in the impression they leave; or they would not speak a lie, but they will act one. Their lives are full of small deceptions, concealments, pretences, insincerities, dissimulations, dishonesties. You know how many of these there in society. Oh, be true in your inmost soul—true in every word, act, look, tone and feeling. Never deceive. There are no white lies in God's sight; it is a miserable fiction that thinks there are.—*J. R. Miller.*

A WORD TO THE BOYS.

My boy, if you are poor, thank God and take courage, for he intends to give you a chance to make something of yourself. If you had plenty of money, ten chances to one it would spoil you for all useful purposes. Do you lack education? Have you been cut short in the text-books? Remember that education, like some other things, does not consist in the multitude of things a man possesses. *What* can you do? That is the question that settles the business for you.—*Dr. J. G. Holland.*

FAITHFUL IN LITTLE THINGS.

Faithfulness is faithfulness, and unfaithfulness is unfaithfulness, whether in small things or great. "It is only a trifle," men and women are forever saying as an excuse for doing or not doing some little thing. They are scrupulously faithful in all great matters and miserably negligent in small things. It is thus that many lives are full of little sins, all honeycombed with minute faults, and people think it makes no difference because they are good in all great things.

"Aaron's boy would do tip-top if he had a string long enough," said one neighbor.

"I don't see what use he could make of a string," said neighbor number two.

"Well, if he could tie up all the loose ends that he leaves dangling, tie himself down to his work, tie his pocket-book together, and then tie his tongue so it wouldn't wag so busily, he would be as useful a fellow as we have got in town. But it would take considerable string."

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