

oak coffin. Portions of the woollen garments and the beast-skins in which the bodies were dressed, are well preserved. A bronze sword, also found there, has suffered much from oxidation; but its wooden sheath, covered with leather, is in excellent preservation. The writer spoke of it as 2500 years (?) old. The discovery is important in two respects—first,

only once before in Sweden (in the province of Halland) has any woven material been found belonging to the bronze age, while no oak coffin of that period in such a perfect condition has hitherto come to light; next it is certainly unique to find in one and the same grave, and of the same period, examples of two different species of burial.—*Athenæum*.

## WHAT TO DO WITH ONE'S FAILURES.

THERE is more than one way of dealing with one's failures. We may, for instance, simply forget all about them as quickly as possible, and go on to do the work that remains to be done; or we may accept the fact of failure as final, and quietly cease striving; or we may even make a single failure the excuse for a course of reckless license which can only end in irretrievable disaster. But none of these is the true way in which we should deal with our failures.

When the physicist in his laboratory makes an experiment, and fails to obtain the result which he expected, he does not, therefore, conclude that the experiment has been fruitless. He recognizes, on the contrary, that he may, perhaps, learn more from his unexpected failure than if the experiment had been successful. For the failure had its cause; some unrecognized factor has been at work in the chain of cause and effect set in motion by the experiment; and to find and to define that unrecognized factor may be to lay hold of a clue which will lead to a great discovery. The day has gone past when men could attribute their mischances to ill luck or to the wandering spirits of the air, and we moderns have learned at last that if our milk sours, or our stable-door is found unlocked in the morning, it is not Puck who is to blame.

And to find out who is to blame, or what is to blame, is a great step taken to prevent such occurrences in the future.

An excellent example of how much may be won from a failure is seen in the case of Römer, the astronomer. At one time he was engaged in a series of observations to determine the period of the revolution of one of Jupiter's moons. To do this, he noted the interval between the successive disappearances of the moon in the shadow of its planet; and, having found this, he proceeded to verify it by constructing tables of the satellite's motions, and by comparing these tables with the actual motion as observed through the telescope. But, to Römer's astonishment, he found that his tables were all wrong. Somehow or other, the moon failed to appear at its predicted time. At first it always came late, and with a lateness which gradually increased until it reached the amount of twenty-two minutes; then a change came, and it began to show the same regular increase in the earliness of its appearances. Here, apparently, was a total failure of the result which Römer had aimed at. But Römer knew that if he had failed, his failure had a cause, and he set himself to find it. He had noticed that the variations in the apparent motion of the moon which