

with me. He said the thing I should seek first and most is money, which will procure fine clothes, and plenty of the best to eat and drink. By all means, said he, see that you make money; and money will do all the rest for your happiness. Now, what do you think of that, George?"

George said he thought it was anything but good advice. "The way uncle advises us to take is not the surest way to get such good things as money, clothes, and food, and it is a sure way to ruin our precious souls. If we follow his advice, we are not certain of doing well in this life, and are certain that it will be ill with us hereafter."

This rather huffed John, who pettishly said, "Uncle has long been a man, and knows far better about this than you do."

"Yes," answered George, mildly; "but uncle is a *man of the world*."

"What do you mean by a man of the world?"

"Dear John, there are two kinds of people. Some love God more than the world—others, the world more than God. The one class are called men of God—the other, men of the world. The latter do not understand the subject we are speaking of."

"But," said John, interrupting his cousin, "what does your wise man recommend? And, by the bye, who is he?"

"Excuse me still," replied George, "from telling you his name; but I will tell you his history, that you may know what weight belongs to his judgment. His father was a holy man, and for his holiness was called the 'man after God's own heart!' The son grew up under his eye; but the godly parent died when his child was barely sixteen. One night, soon after, God appeared to him in a dream, and offered to give him any one thing that he chiefly wished. Young as he was—scarcely sixteen—he asked neither money, nor long life, nor prosperity, but only wisdom. His

reply to God was not, Let me be rich, nor, Let my foes be destroyed, or made to live at peace with me, nor, Let me live to the age of Methuselah; but it was, Let me be very wise and good! And God gave him the other good things he had not set his heart on, along with the chief good he had prayed for. He became the richest as well as the wisest of men. Now, the wisest man should know how to advise us better than an ordinary man like dear Uncle Richard.

"And, besides," continued the intelligent boy, "he looked into everything that men are taken up with. He studied many trades, tried various kinds of life, and knew most of the ways of doing in the world. He saw all the varieties of work done under the sun. He gave himself to whatever men seek to be happy by—mirth, music, wine, wealth, plants, books, or friends. King Solomon (for I dare say, John, you have guessed his name) has written down the result of all his knowledge and experience in the *Book of Ecclesiastes*. And his opinion is, that only one thing is needful, and that is the saving knowledge of God—that other things are vanities, and will not do for us, because, without God, they do not make any person happy."

Dear young readers! hear the words of the wisest of men:—*Surely I knew that it shall be well with them that fear God, but it shall not be well with the wicked.* They are the words, too, of a wiser than the wisest of men, even of the All-Wise God, who inspired Solomon to write them in the Divine Book.

"This is life eternal, that they might know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent." "ONE THING is needful."

The right thing is true happiness and the right way is the knowledge and fear of God.—*Free Church Children's Miss. Record.*