

THE CHILDREN'S PORTION.

PRACTICAL THOUGHTS FOR THE CHILDREN.

BY ALPHEUS.

THE TWO WAYS.

Did any of my young readers ever, when travelling, come to a place where the road divided and did not know which to take? Once, with a companion visiting a camp in the woods, Alpheus came to two diverging roads as nearly alike as possible. Which to take we did not know, and there was no finger-board. We had to choose,—took the wrong one, and a weary tramp we had—retracing our steps to the right one, and finally reaching the camp.

This little incident set Alpheus thinking.

In the journey through life we come to two ways unlike those referred to. There is a difference in the appearance of the two ways, there is a finger-board at the cross roads and the company travelling in each is entirely different. One road is broader at its beginning, pleasant in its surroundings, and is of easy descent. The other is narrow at its beginning, its appearance uninviting, and its ascent is steep and rugged. The one commences in brightness and sunshine but the end is obscure in darkness. The other becomes brighter and brighter as the traveller ascends till he finally reaches perpetual sunshine.

The right way would often be mistaken were it not for the finger-board, which, pointing to the least inviting, says: "This is the way walk ye in it."

There is a book that describes both ways and the characters of those who walk in them. In this number of the *Advocate* we will only refer to the characters of the company who travel in these two ways.

Once upon a time a man was travelling and thieves pounced upon him, robbed him, and left him naked and wounded. Travellers on the way, instead of binding up the wounds of the poor man and caring for him, passed by him on the other side.

There are lots of selfish men, caring nothing for the wants of others, envious and quarrelsome people, also many unruly vain talkers and deceivers, people who commit murders, drunkards, and those who are filled with revellings and suchlike. Do you think you would like to walk through the journey of life in such company?

Many lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God put up with the company for what they would call enjoyments.

Some turn back after going a short distance on the way; others, like the Prodigal Son, go to a far country, waste their substance with riotous living and are fain to fill their belly with the husks that the swine do eat before they realize the blessedness of the other way and resolve to arise