

Awful Consequences of Lying.

The following inscription is to be found on the Market Cross, at Devizes, in Wiltshire, giving an awful instance of the consequences of lying :—

“The Mayor and corporation of Devizes avail themselves of the stability of this building to transmit to future times, the record of an event, which occurred in this market-place in the year 1753, hoping that such a record may serve as a salutary warning against the danger of impiously invoking the Divine vengeance, or of calling on the holy name of God, to conceal the services of falsehood and fraud.

“On Thursday, 25th January, 1753, Ruth Pierce, of Pottern, in this county, agreed with other women to buy a sack of wheat in the market, each paying her due proportion towards the same. One of these women, in collecting the several quotas of money, discovered a deficiency, and demanded of Ruth Pierce the sum which was wanting to make good the amount. Ruth Pierce protested that she had paid her share, and said she wished she might drop down dead if she had not. She rashly repeated the awful wish, when, to the consternation of the surrounding multitude she instantly fell down and expired having the money concealed in her hand !”

He that would instruct others in the truth, must never deny the truth himself.

“The lip of truth shall be established for ever : but a lying tongue is but for a moment. Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but they that deal truly are his delight.”—Proverbs xii. 19 and 22.

“I Will Not tell a Lie.”

A little boy named Augustus, was sent by his mother for some milk.—Robert wished to go instead of his brother Augustus, and when they got into the street, tried to force the pitcher out of his hand. Augustus held the pitcher fast, till at last the pitcher was broken to pieces in the scuffle, by falling to the ground. Augustus began to cry bitterly. A woman who was in the

street, and saw how it happened, pitied poor Augustus, and being a woman who did not fear God, she told him to say, when he got home, that the woman who sold the milk had broken the pitcher. Augustus wiped his eyes and looking stedfastly at the woman, said, “*That would be telling a lie ; I will tell the truth, then my mother will not scold me ; but if she should, I would rather be scolded than tell a lie.*”

Keep your Promises.

The man in the Bible, who said, “I go, sir,” and went not, has his counterpart, at the present day, in every department of life. Nothing is more common than for persons to make promises or excite expectations which are never realized. It is an easy thing to give one’s word, but a harder thing to keep it. An unwillingness to disoblige, a disposition to keep on good terms with all, a desire to get rid of importunity, together with a carelessness and indifference as to what constitutes an obligation, lead many to say they will do a thousand things which are never done, and which : indeed, if they had looked into their hearts they would have discovered they had no real intention of doing.—Some amiable people seem to lack the nerve and moral courage to say “No,” even when the contrary involves them in an untruth. One is asked to be present at a public meeting where important measures are to be discussed, and his co-operation is regarded as important. He is not cordially in favor of the object, or is pressed with other engagements, or prefers enjoying his evenings with his own family circle, or over his books, and in his heart has no purpose to accede to the proposition. Unwilling, however, to avow his real sentiments, or to appear disobliging, he either gives his word to be present, or so frames his speech as to leave that impression on the mind of his friend. Virtually he has given his promise ; but the occasion comes and passes without his ever harboring a serious thought of cheering it with his presence. A mecha-