

be the end?" I went swiftly to him, and whispered in his ear "Boy, will you sell your soul for a paltry twenty-five cents? Don't you know perfectly well that the money is under your foot? Restore it, and never, never do such a thing again!"

The boy turned deadly pale, stooped and picked up the money "Lady," he gasped, "don't tell on me, I pray—I beg!—and I will never do so any more. Think of my mother!"

I presume he thought I knew him. I did not then, but afterwards found out who he was; and from the fact that he stayed with his employers several years, and was trusted with a high position, I think the offence was never repeated. God had used me to save him from sin.

Boys, the first theft is the longest step you take towards prison; the first glass of liquor takes you nearer a drunkard's grave than all you swallow after: often the first oath clinches the habit of profanity. A stained soul is hard to purify. There are virtues you can lose; but once lost, they are forever gone.

#### BOYS AND TOBACCO.

The utter folly of a boy learning to smoke cigarettes, or tobacco in any form, is only equalled by the reckless sinfulness of the boy who teaches another, younger than he, to smoke. This vice does more harm to the boys in one day than they can recover from in a year. Little boys scarcely into pants, and others who are old enough to know better, are seen walking the streets at one end of a cigarette, ruining the image of God in which He has created them, and destroying the will-power that was given them for the very purpose of resisting the onward and stealthy advance of the habit-fiend. Their ambition is to be "manly," but the devil never invented a more specious sophistry than the idea that it can be manly to smoke all the manhood out and all the vice and degradation in. When men can be God-like by being devilish, then boys can show manliness by destroying their capacity for true manhood. Sometimes when I see

boys learning to smoke I think they must be so absolutely devoid of sense that it becomes the duty of those who have more sense to stop them by force. Statistics show that five years ago the average at which users of tobacco learned the habit was about twenty years. To-day the average is from five to twelve years. Boys, little boys, are ruining their constitutions by the exercise of their faculty of imitation. As these boys will one day have the control of the Government, it will not be long, if things go on from bad to worse, before we have a "Great and Glorious Republic" made up of idiots! It is time to call a halt. It is time that the legislators of the State of New York should begin to do something else besides drawing their salaries and keeping on the lookout to secure the favor of this "vote" and that "vote," including the cigarette-maker's vote. If any man have a business among the youth of the land that tends to undermine the future of the country, that business must be sacrificed for the good of the whole people. What we New Yorkers want at our capital is a few men with the backbone of the Ohio legislators who have enacted a law which provides that:

"Whoever sells, gives or furnishes to any minor under fifteen years of age, cigarette, cigar, or tobacco, shall be fined not less than five dollars nor more than twenty-five dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days, or both.—*Sec.*

Sunday Labor has been greatly increasing during the last few years. In the city of New York alone there are fully 100,000 men and women who work every Sunday at their trades or vocations. A religious organization there is trying to prevent the growth of this encroachment upon the day of rest, and it has already begun its work with the cigarmakers.

Forty years ago there were but twenty native converts in all China, and now there are 32,000 connected with various branches of the evangelical church.