

Destroying the Pillars.

A coal mine near Wilkes Barre, Pa., had long been suspected of being unsafe, but one morning in early September, the watchman hastened to give the alarm, "The roof is working." All the men must leave without delay. They made haste to obey; not even taking time to get out the poor animals employed in the works. A few minutes later the black ceiling fell with a terrific crash, and the air was expelled with such violence that timbers and ventilating doors were shivered into kindlings, and loaded cars blown from the track like autumn leaves. Over a hundred acres of the surface above was affected, a long strip of half a mile sinking from three to five feet, and the whole was seamed by deep fissures. The men were all saved, but the poor mules were left to their fate. Yet all this danger and destruction was caused by cutting away the great coal pillars which had been left here and there to support the roof. All overhead looked so firm and strong that it seemed foolish to waste so much good coal in those unnecessary supports! So one by one the careless workers picked them away, and ran the risk.

We look with surprise at these foolhardy miners; yet they were wise men compared with those who would take away the Bible pillars which alone make this world a place of safety and comfort.

A company of young men who hated the doctrines of the Bible resolved one evening to burn the book with suitable ceremonies. One of the gayest of the company had the part assigned him of laying it upon the coals. He advanced with an indifferent air and was proceeding leisurely toward the fire when he glanced down at the book. Suddenly a trembling seized him and his whole frame seemed convulsed. He returned it to its place, and said with emphasis, "We will not burn that book till we get a better."

Some English officers spoke disparagingly of mission work among the South Sea Islanders, and said the natives "only repeated like parrots what the missionaries had taught them." They asked a company of them why they believed the Bible was from God.

"See what it has done for us!" was their triumphant reply. What else could have cast down their idols and transformed their land and their once savage nature?

Take the Bible from our land and all our learning and culture will not save us from disaster here and eternal ruin hereafter. —Mrs. J. E. McConaughey, in *Youth's World*.

Won by a Smile.

In London, in 1872, one Sunday morning a minister said to me, "I want you to notice that family there in one of the front seats, and when we get home I want to tell you their story." When we got home I asked him for the story, and he said, "All that family were won by a smile." "Why," said I, "how's that?" "Well," said he, "as I was walking down a street one day I saw a child at a window; it smiled, and I smiled, and we bowed. So it was the second time; I bowed, she bowed. It was not long before there was another child, and I got in the habit of looking and bowing; and pretty soon the group grew, and at last, as I went by, a lady was with them. I didn't know what to do; I didn't want to bow to her, but I knew the children expected it, and so I bowed to them all. And the mother saw that I was a minister, because I carried a Bible every Sunday morning. So the children followed me the next Sunday and found I was a minister. And they thought I was the greatest preacher, and their parents must hear me. A minister ~~was~~ is kind to a child, and gives him a pat on the head, why, the children think he is the greatest preacher in the world. Kindness goes a great way. And, to make a long story short, the mother, and father, and five children were converted, and are going to join our church next Sunday." Won to Christ by a smile. We must get the wrinkles out of our brows and must have smiling faces. —*Moodie's Stories*.

A young Japanese, says the *Christian Union*, had been imprisoned for being too outspoken. In his prison at Tokio he set to work to preach Christ to his fellow sufferers, and the news of these efforts attracted others, till he had three hundred hearers. When released he laid the neglected state of the prisoners before those in office, and he has been appointed governor of a new prison, with the consent of the authorities to pursue his religious work—an evidence of the value of words spoken in season.