

I tried to control my ill-humor. But, I thought, why should I not be ill-humored if I chose? I was alone; it could harm nobody.

"A man stood near me, leaning against a tree. He attracted my attention, because his clothes were of fine quality, though worn and ragged. There was something about his air and manner, too, which betokened gentle breeding. He turned and saw me looking at him, and apparently following a sudden impulse, came up and asked me for work.

"I was not frightened, for his manner was perfectly respectful, but I was angry at being annoyed by a stranger.

"What work could I have for you?" I said.

"That is true." He bowed and turned away. I sat by the river for a while, and then went to meet the carriage, which was returning.

"The man again stopped me. 'You are young,' he said. 'You ought to have more mercy than the world. I am a very wretched man. If you would use your influence, could you not get me work?'"

"His voice was so hoarse, I thought he had been drinking. I hurried on, without speaking. The coachman threatened him with his whip, seeing that I was annoyed. I went home, but the man's pale face haunted me all that night.

"The next morning, my father read from the paper, 'The body of a man was found last night in the river above the dam. It proved to be that of a Virginian, named Hall, who had been struggling with poverty and ill-health in the city for months.'

"He had been starving the day before, had applied for work to every man he met. His last appeal was to me. A kind word from me would have saved him.

"It was a terrible lesson. Fifty years have passed since then, but even now I wake at night with that man's face before me."

The consequences of our careless neglect of the poor are not often brought home to us in such a way. Yet we may be certain every time we turn away from a needy brother, we leave him to evil influences which we might have changed into good ones.

Every beggar, every creature hurt or hungry in body or soul that comes in our path, is an opportunity given to us by God to make ourselves like the Master in his

compassion and kindness.

"Inasmuch," the Saviour tells us, "as ye did it not to one of the least of these ye did it not to me."—*Youth's Companion*.

### VICES HUNT IN PACKS.

Whoever forms the habit of using strong drink, will be likely to be getting other bad habits along with it. He may lose time in frequenting the places where liquors are sold and drunk, and may learn thus to be idle. He may come to love these places better than his home; which is in all ways one of the worst of bad habits. He will be very likely to fall into bad company, and may lose the relish for that which is good. He will almost necessarily hear much profane and vulgar speech and may learn to use it himself. Altogether, this liability to fall into injurious habits, and into vile companionship, is one of the most serious evils to be apprehended from the use of intoxicating drinks. A man may escape from the shame of absolute drunkenness and from premature death, and perhaps from poverty brought on by his indulgence; but this mischief by exposure to contagion of other evils, is one that few, even of moderate drinkers, go entirely clear of. And it ought to receive more attention than is usually given to it.—*Congregationalist*.

### HEAVEN.

In the twilight of a summer's evening, a pastor called at the residence of one of his parishioners, and found, seated in the doorway, a little boy with both hands extended, holding a line. "What are you doing here my little friend?" inquired the minister.

"Flying my kite, sir," was the reply.

"Flying your kite!" exclaimed the pastor; "I can see no kite; you can see none."

"I know it, sir," responded the lad; "I cannot see it; but I know it is there, for I feel it pull."

If our affections are set upon things above, we shall have a sense of it which cannot be mistaken.

The principal part of family religion is prayer, every morning and evening, and reading some portion of Scripture; and this is so necessary to keep alive a sense of God and religion in the minds of men, that when it is neglected I do not see how any family can in reason be esteemed a family of Christians, or indeed have any religion at all.