

He perched the boy on his arm-chair and bade him sit still and warm his cold toes, while he put his little kettle on the fire and set the tea. 'Take notice o' me, little chap, while I does this job,' he said. 'May be you'll do it for me some evenin's when I'm busy. I want ye to make yerself at home, ye know.'

How pleasant the words sounded to the orphan boy! He smiled faintly, and took particular notice of Matthew's movements to the cupboard and back-kitchen, and of how he set the things upon the table. When the kettle boiled and the tea was put to brew, Matthew said, 'I'm jest goin' to take a run out for somethin'.' Sit you still; I won't be but two minutes.

He went out the front way, closing the shop door behind him, and, true to his word, returned in about two minutes with a small parcel in his hand. This he set upon the table, looking at Hughie with a pleasant smile while he slowly unwrapped it, and brought to view a round plum-cake with sugar on the top, very tempting to behold.

'There, what d'ye think o' that? Ain't that nobby?'

'Yes, it looks very nice,' answered Hughie, but without smiling. He was wondering to himself whether Matthew had been to buy it, and if so, whether he ought to eat any: his mother had always been so particular that nothing should be bought on a Sunday, and that the day should be decently observed. But he did not like to ask any questions about it; so when Matthew had poured out the tea and set a large piece of cake before Hughie, he ate it with thankfulness and pleasure, asking no questions for conscience' sake.

They spent nearly an hour at the table, chatting, and enjoying the warmth of a splendid fire as much as black Tom did, purring in the most comfortable fashion on the hearth-rug.

'Now, lookee,' said Matthew, when at length he rose from the table, 'I'm goin' to learn ye how to wash-up, cos this is a little job you can also do for me sometimes when you gets used to the place. You see I ha'n't got no 'oman about the place, and I'm 'bliged to know how to do all for myself. I don't know how you'll like bein' alone with me, without anybody like yer good mother as you've bin used to so long; but, at any rate, it's better than the work-us, ye know.'

'Oh, yes!' exclaimed Hughie. 'I'm sure I shall like being with you, you are so kind.'

Matthew looked pleased, as he responded, 'Well, it ain't everybody as thinks so. There's folks about here as calls me 'anything but what I ought to be, which same I am, no doubt: there's precious few in this world as is much better than they should be. But there's some as thinks me 'down-right unkind. Why, only the other day a little miss runs bang into my shop, and lets loose at me like fury for not standin' afore my bird-eages, from mornin' till night, to see as the small fry was most partickler comfortable all the day long! And with a merry twinkle in his eye Matthew proceeded to tell about Lisa Maurice's mission to him, making as much fun of it as possible, in order to divert Hughie, and make him forget his trouble for a moment.'

'Pr'aps you saw this uncommon feelin' young 'oman,' added Matthew. 'She were standin' outside the shop last night when you was there. I jest twiggid her without pretendin' to see, ye know.'

'Was she standing listening to mother? And had she rather long black hair hanging down each side of her face?' asked Hughie, with interest.

'That same,' answered Matthew, bringing his hand down on his knee with a loud slap, to corroborate his words.

'Ah, she's a kind little girl!' exclaimed Hughie, enthusiastically. 'She gave us a halfpenny. Mother was talking about her when we got home, and she said it was beautiful of the little girl to come and give it to us, when, very likely, it had been given her to spend in sweets, or some other nice things to please herself. It was kind, now wasn't it, sir?'

'Yes; I don't say it wasn't,' replied Matthew. 'And I desay too, that she's reelly kind. But no credit she won't ever give me for bein' kind, I'll bet a penny! She jest thinks me wuss than bad, she do!'

'Well, if ever I see her again I shall tell her different,' said Hughie, thinking

that would be a comforting set-off against the little girl's unkindness. 'And you know,' he added, 'I can help you to attend to your little birds if you'll teach me how, and then they needn't be crying out for water, and hanging by their claws, and all that. Mother was always so fond of little birds, and wanted me to be kind to them. So I shall be very glad to help you.'

'Yes! and I'll learn ye to be a stuffer, too,' said Matthew, looking out into the future with an interest which he had not felt before, since the fond hopes and plans of a lifetime were buried in the grave of his wife and child. 'I'm a clever stuffer, I am, though I says it myself, and I can mount as tasty as anybody in the same line. You shall have a good look round my place to-morrow, and take notice o' my glass-cases of birds, every one of 'em stuffed and mounted by my own dear self. Why they're real splendid some of 'em, and and hartistic, too, as a gen'lman once said as was buyin' a case; though, as I told him at the time, I were never learned hartistics in my life: it jest came nat'ral to me, as singin' does to the birds.'

'What is hartistics, sir?' Hughie ventured to ask, repeating the word as Matthew pronounced it with a strong aspirate.

'Hartistics?' said Matthew, pulling down his waistcoat and pluming himself for an effort; 'well, I've never swallowed the dictionary, little chap, but, to my private thinkin', hartistics is jest the happy knack of making everything you puts yer hand to look real nobby: now that's my private opinion of the word; and that's what I does when I sets to stuffin' and mountin', as you'll have a opportunity of observin' afore you're many days older.'

In a few moments he added, 'Now, what would ye like to do when this bit o' clearin'-up is finished? Would ye like to go out?'

'No, thank you sir,' replied Hughie, turning appreciatively towards the fire. 'I'd like to stay at home with you.'

The boy had had rather too much of being out for many months past. Now that there was a cosy resting-place for him he was only too glad to stay in and enjoy it.

They chatted away in desultory fashion for some time, and then Matthew perceived that he was growing drowsy. So he said, 'I think you'd like to be off to bed, little chap. Well, come along, and I'll show ye where ye can sleep to-night, and to-morrow you shall have a tip-top bed of your own.'

They went upstairs together, and Matthew said, as he set the candle on the table, 'Now, quick into bed with ye, or you'll feel perished with cold after being by that good fire.'

Hughie stood hesitating for a moment, and then he said timidly, 'Please, sir, I always say my prayers first.'

Matthew gave a long whistle, and raised his eyebrows. Hughie did not understand what he meant by it; but he looked up in his face, waiting for him to speak.

By the satirical expression of his face it was easy to see that Matthew was on the point of making some sneering remark, but something deterred him; and the unpleasant smile died away from his face, a sober expression taking its place, as he remarked, moving towards the door, 'Very well, little chap; say your prayers like a good boy, and I'll come back presently and fetch the candle.'

(To be Continued.)

Missions to Africa.

We are informed that the societies engaged in the attempt to evangelize Africa from the east have met, by their London representatives, and in a wise and loving spirit have parcelled out the land so as to avoid overlapping each other's operations. This applies to the Episcopal, Presbyterian, Congregational, and Wesleyan missions, we believe. The Baptists will work, from their own base, the Western side, and will doubtless be quite prepared to reciprocate this mutual arrangement of the other societies in regard to "districting" the field. God has given the vast territory, now ascertained to be accessible and fruitful, into our hands. The transaction would make a grand picture, representing the great benevolent men of the day poring over the map of Africa, allotting it out for Christ, and praying for the success of each other in the noble undertaking.

Mr. Spurgeon on the Stage.

In the current number of the *Sword and Trowel* Mr. Spurgeon has the following remarks on Dr. Fraser's recent address to certain members of the theatrical profession:—"The Bishop of Manchester, whose manliness compensates for many faults, may nevertheless do a great deal of mischief if he continues to endorse the stage. Surely he cannot be so dazzled by the virtues of one or two eminent performers as to forget the manifest tendency of the whole institution? His grace need not go inside a theatre in order to correct his present opinions; let him only pass by a play-house between the hours of eleven and twelve and see what he shall see. If he should be in need of a house-maid, or a cook, or a butler, would he select a person whose character was endorsed—as a frequent attendant at the theatre? Would the bishop in his heart think any the better of a young man for becoming an *habitué* of the pit? Would he wish his own daughter to become a *prima donna*, or would it gladden his heart for his son to become lessee of a Royal opera? His grace has spoken upon the boards of two theatres—will he now introduce Mrs. Fraser and family to the ladies and gentlemen of the green-room, requesting the latter to feel themselves under no restraint whatever? Has the right reverend father in God found grace and holiness promoted among his flocks by the plays they have seen? If so, would he be so good as to publish the titles of the dramas? Will communion with God and likeness to Christ be most promoted in renewed hearts by tragedies or comedies? Dr. Fraser ought sometimes to think before he speaks; and not only to have the courage of his convictions, but convictions worthy of so much courage."

TEMPERANCE.

Elementary Teachers at Westminster Abbey.

After the break up of the Easter Conference of Elementary Teachers, the National Temperance League, with the sanction and cordial co-operation of Dean Stanley, availed itself of the opportunity to gather at Westminster Abbey as many of the members resident or lingering in town as chose in a sort of *convivialium*, or supplementary convention, for the promotion of its great object. The plan combined the attractions of a perambulation of the grand historical pile under the erudite and enthusiastic guidance of its chief custodian, the Dean himself, tea in the Jerusalem Chamber, and an open council for the discussion of the temperance question, with Dr. Stanley in the chair, and Dr. Richardson, F. R. S., to open the case of the league in its medical aspects, while Canon Farrar presented it in a moral point of view.

The Chairman hoped the visit of the Teachers to that venerable sanctuary, which pictured before them, as it were, the successive epochs of their national history, would ever be remembered by them with interest and advantage. As an instructive example how the sight could kindle the soul of a great and good man, at a critical moment he cited the case of the eminent Baptist Missionary, Dr. Marshman, who was afterwards known as one of the profoundest Indolgués that ever lived. As a book-seller's apprentice, Mr. Marshman was one day sent by his master to the Duke of Grafton's to carry thither Clarendon's "History of the Great Rebellion," in three heavy folio volumes, which nearly broke the boy's back. He sat down to rest on the way through the Broad Sanctuary, full of the gloomiest thoughts. But the sight of the glorious Abbey cheered him, and, as he looked at the tombs of the great dead within, hope immortal sprung up within his breast to flounder out of the Slough of Despond. The electric spark was flashed into him by what they had been looking at that day.

Dr. Richardson discoursed familiarly on drinks and the ailments of drinkers, which he described with much humour, and the inseparable connexion between the two, denying that alcohol could be beneficial to man, save in a very few and quite exceptional cases.

Canon Farrar plied his audience with the usual ethical considerations on the same side, with illustrations of cases he had himself met with of the evils of drunkenness, insisting strongly on the importance of setting an example of total abstinence if drunkards were to be reclaimed.

In the course of the discussion which followed Dr. Richardson was catechised on several practical points, and, in answer to pleas for indulgence, stoutly maintained the strong medical opinions he had expressed throughout his opening speech as to the uselessness and mischievousness of alcoholic drinks. Thanks to the Dean of Westminster closed the proceedings.—*London Times*.

Prohibition in the Senate.

The Hon. A. Vidal, the President of the Dominion Temperance Alliance, is the leader of the Prohibitionists in the Senate. A zealous and judicious advocate, he is safe to follow when leading forward temperance workers, or legislating to restrict or prohibit the liquor traffic.

On the 11th inst., Mr. Vidal moved in his place in the Senate, the following Resolution, which he supported with an able speech:

"1st.—That wherever under the authority of laws now in force, or that may hereafter be enacted, in any Province of the Dominion, the electors of any municipality or parish may by-law have prohibited, or may yet prohibit, the issue of licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquors, by retail, within its territorial limits, it is, in the opinion of this House, desirable and expedient that such action should be sustained, and more full effect given to such by-law, by the enactment of a law prohibiting the issue of any license to manufacture such liquors, to take effect within the limits of such municipality or parish, under the authority of the Government of the Dominion.

"2nd.—That whenever the Legislature of any Province shall enact a law to prohibit the retail traffic in intoxicating liquors, or the issue of any license for such sale, within its territorial limits, it is, in the opinion of this House, desirable and expedient that such legislation should be sustained and aided by the Dominion Parliament enacting a law to prohibit the manufacture and the importation of intoxicating liquors within the territorial limits of such Province, except under such regulations and conditions as may be made by its legislature, in providing for the use of such liquors for mechanical and medical purposes.

"3rd.—That legislation on this subject to the extent mentioned in the foregoing resolutions be clearly within the powers of this Parliament, and involving no question of jurisdiction requiring to be decided by the Supreme Court, it is, in the opinion of this House, desirable and expedient that an act should be passed to prohibit the manufacture and importation of intoxicating liquors in the cases specified in the foregoing resolutions."

The subject was discussed with becoming dignity, and the opinions of Senators frankly expressed; on the vote being taken the resolution was declared lost, 25 voting for and 35 against. The Senators from this Province voted as follows: For,—Hon. Messrs. Bourinot and McLellan; Against,—Hon. Messrs. Archibald, Dickey, Grant, Kaulback, Macfarlane, Miller and Power.

PROHIBITION IN THE HOUSE.

Unlike the Senate, the question came up in the House on a motion made and seconded by anti-temperance members, as follows:

"Dr. Schultz, of Manitoba, seconded by Mr. Farrow, of Huron County, moved the following resolution:

"That in the opinion of this House, a Prohibitory Liquor Law is the only effectual remedy for the evil of intemperance, and that it is the duty of the Government to submit such a measure at the earliest moment practicable."

Mr. G. W. Ross, the acknowledged leader of the Temperance party in the House, stated that the principle of Prohibition had already been acknowledged by the House; what was now required, was to effect a practicable application. He moved the following amendment, which was seconded by Mr. Dymond, of North York:—

"Resolved, that this House has grave doubts as to whether, under the Provisions of the British North America Act, it has power to deal with the sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage, and that the court of Error and Appeal in the Province of Ontario has referred a case to the Supreme Court, whereby the relative jurisdictions of the Provincial and Dominion Legislatures over the liquor traffic will be argued; and resolved, that this House, while not receding from any previous declaration on the importance of a prohibitory liquor law, deems it inexpedient, under the circumstances, at present to express any opinion regarding the action to be taken by the Government in dealing with this question."

The amendment was carried by a vote of 104 to 59, the division assumed a party aspect, the Government supporting the amendment and the opposition opposing.—*Alliance Journal*.

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger. Ignorance of the Bible.

The famous Dr. Johnson once read the book of Ruth to a parlor full of people in the city of London, and his hearers were moved to tears by the affecting story, and asked, very innocently, who was its author. But, unfortunately, ignorance of the Bible is not confined to London. It is a world-wide evil, and a constant reproach to the Christian church; for even Christians, and the children of Christians, are frequently better acquainted with the life and deeds of George Washington than with the history of Jesus Christ.

You can find Christians by the hundred, who have never read the Bible through. There are thousands who have never read every portion of it carefully. And you would not have to search throughout the whole length and breadth of Christendom to find an intelligent Christian who has a very misty and uncertain knowledge of the New Testament.

We have seen people, who had been in the Sabbath School from their youth up, turn over all the books of the Old Testament in search of a letter written by the Apostle Paul. And we know of a prominent member of a church who, upon hearing that a certain passage of Scripture was found in Corinthians, remarked, "I thought it was somewhere in the Old Testament."

Now such ignorance among intelligent people is as inexcusable as it is ridiculous.

The Bible is within our reach, and we may study it if we wish; and unless we do, so it is useless for us to pretend that we love it: such transparent hypocrisy does not deceive anybody.

But there is no reason why we should not love the Bible and prefer it to every other book. Its own merits and attractions will produce this result if opportunity is given. When we read carefully that most wonderful revelation of divine mercy and wisdom, we find a growing desire in our hearts to drink more and more deeply of its refreshing waters. To all who search its pages with unprejudiced eye, the Bible is an increasing surprise, because of the fathomless depths of its teachings, and the melting grandeur of its promises. If we neglect it, we insult God who has performed miracles that it might be preserved for our use; we despise the blood which ancient martyrs shed in its defence; and we rob our own souls by wandering in deserts when we might lie down in green pastures, and drinking the unsavory waters of Marah while the milk and honey of Canaan are within reach.

According to Paul the word of God is the sword of the Spirit. This sword is given us that we may defend ourselves, and slay the enemies of our King. When enwrapped in a handsome covering, it may make a pretty parlor ornament; but it was not written by holy men of old for that purpose.

Rather, the Word should dwell in us richly, that we may be able to teach and admonish one another in psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs; for "all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

April 16th, 1877.

In Memoriam.

CAPT. E. W. MIRIAM.

died at Parrsboro', N. S., on the 24th of March, 1877, aged 59 years. He had been a great sufferer, from a complication of diseases; which had continued several months. This was very trying to one like Capt. Miriam, for he had been a very active business man, always enjoying the best of health, and, so, as he said himself had never imagined that he would ever be brought to such a state of illness and suffering. Capt. M. had always been known as a Churchman, but had entertained very liberal views with regard to other denominations. Several years since he had been led to adopt the doctrine of New Testament baptism; and he deeply regretted that he had not been immersed and united with the Baptist church in Truro, before he removed to Parrsboro'; but expressed a strong desire to submit to the ordinance and unite with the church as soon as health would permit. Having had frequent opportunities of conversing with