

not state as an objection that there was not bread enough to suffice for a hundredth part of the multitude. They did not stop to consider the reasonableness of the command. They promptly obeyed it, and were satisfied with the result. Their example should be followed by disciples now. They should not suspend their obedience till they can see the result. To do so is to be guilty of as great folly as would attach to the conduct of one who should refuse to set out on a journey till he was sure of reaching the end of the journey.

Christ told the man with a withered hand to stretch it forth. He did so, and was healed. He did at once what Christ told him to do, and the result was joyous. Suppose he had said, "I cannot stretch forth my hand; it is withered," would his hand have been made whole? But he did not hesitate to obey. God gave him the requisite strength.

It is never wise to discuss questions relating to the propriety or the possibility of obeying God's commands. A great deal of time is thus spent, and a great deal of evil is the result. Obedience is postponed, and the rewards of obedience are lost.

It is always safe to take God at his word. If he tells us to walk on the water, we should not hesitate. He will uphold us if we trust in him. We should enter at once on whatever work he commands us to do. He who does so, will find God working within him both to will and to do.—*N. Y. Observer.*

Everyday Religion.

Religion is good for nothing one day in the week, unless it is also good for all of the seven days. Character, to amount to anything, must be shown alike in all things. There is no true manliness possible in one relation of life on the part of him who is not true and manly in every relation of life. No boy can be a good son to his parents, unless he is a good pupil to his teacher, and a good playfellow to his companions. No man can be a good friend, unless he is a good husband and a good father. No minister can be a good pastor and a good preacher, unless he is a good neighbor and a good man. Among the very many wise and timely words to boys spoken by Mr. Thomas Hughes, none are more important than those in which he has told of the teachings on this very subject

by Dr. Thomas Arnold, his old teacher at Rugby. He says, "He certainly did teach us—thank God for it!—that we could not cut our lives into slices, and say, 'In this slice, your actions are indifferent, and you needn't trouble your head about them one way or the other; but, in this slice, mind what you are about, for they are important'—a pretty muddle we should have been in had he done so. He taught us that in this wonderful world no boy or man can tell which of his actions is indifferent and which not; that by a thoughtless word or look we may lead astray a brother for whom Christ died. He taught us that life is a whole, made up of actions and thoughts and longings, great and small, mean and ignoble; therefore the only true wisdom for boy or man is to bring the whole life into obedience to him whose world we live in, and who has purchased us with his blood." Or as Dr. Bushnell has said of the putting on of Christ as the garment of the needy soul: "There can be no choosing out here of shreds and patches from his divine beauty; you must take the whole suit, else you cannot put him on. The garment is seamless, and cannot be divided." It is this great truth—rather than the duty of sinlessness—that our Lord teach in his injunction, "Be ye therefore perfect"—complete, entire, not one-sided or partial in your Christian life and character—"even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."—*S. S. Times.*

Temperance.

The village board of Hillsdale, Mich., has raised liquor sellers' bonds to \$6,000, and license to \$600, whereupon the *Public Leader* cries "outrage" and says "there are no better conducted saloons in the State and no more honorable men who conduct them." Correct; they are all of a pot.

The Maryland State Temperance Alliance has been holding its annual session in Baltimore, and shows that under the local option plan prohibition prevailed, on the first of May, in thirteen counties of the State, excepting three or four election districts, and also in localities of several other counties. Mr. Daniel, president of the Alliance, in his report recommends adherence to the methods of the past for securing prohibition in all the remaining counties and districts, and to secure

a vote on the constitutional amendment question.

The prohibition movement in Georgia has taken on such a shape that the Bourbons of that State are in a panic. At the last session of the legislature a law was passed allowing every county on certain conditions, to vote no license; and if the majority so vote the governor shall proclaim prohibition in that county for two years when the vote is to be taken again. Under this law the most lively canvass ever known in Georgia is now progressing in several counties, and a large number of counties have already adopted prohibition by unheard-of majorities.

The defeat of the Prohibitory Amendment in Pennsylvania is severely deprecated by the religious press, and other journals as well. The *United Presbyterian* says that "the people are bound to give prohibition a trial, some of them having faith in it, and others only hoping that it may succeed, but all recognizing—all of this class, that is—that it ought to be put to experiment." We should like to see the experiment tried in New York.

The Californians are almost burying Miss Willard in flowers. Crosses, harps, baskets, lyres, and pyramids make her platform a perfect bower of beauty at every meeting. On one occasion a tiny maiden sent an immense bouquet and her own picture taken with the bouquet in hand, to the platform with this little verse accompanying:

Our little Band of Hope though few
To principles of temperance true:
Welcome a leader tried and true
And give these flowers to you.

Yours in dear remembrance,

JOSEPHINE ALICE SHAW.

*Representative of the Straight-Line Band
of Hope of San Francisco.*

It is needless to say that the National president finds her "bed of roses" very delightful. She is full of hard work however, and much overborne by the pressure of business and social engagements.

The good English reformers are not alone in their efforts at railway temperance work. The tide has risen in our own country to the altitude of highly prohibitive measures, on the part of railway officials regarding the use of intoxicating liquors. And quite the latest bit of good news comes from two great Western roads, one of which, the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, one

of the longest lines in the country, has rented pews in the leading churches of Des Moines, Council Bluffs, Burlington, Omaha, and other points where road divisions terminate, for their employes in Sunday services. Still another, the Louisville & New Albany road has issued an order declaring that hereafter no freight, passenger or excursion trains shall be run on Sundays. When it is remembered that this road is famous for its excursions to prominent fishing and hunting grounds, it will be seen that this order is a large sacrifice of money considerations to the interests of Sunday order and observance. It gives us great pleasure to chronicle all such "new departures" by our great "trunk lines." As they rule so will go the lesser lights of railroading, and the country is the gainer by these two substantial advances.—*Union Signal.*

Temperance and Missions.

The time has passed when these two can be separated. From every mission field there comes the cry, "Intemperance is a greater obstacle to the spread of the gospel than is heathenism." The evil is two-fold—that resulting from the influence of drinking sailors and tourists from Christian nations, and the direct influence of intemperance upon the natives. And the evil is growing; in the early history of missions, India suffered comparatively little from this source; now, owing in large measure, to distilleries of cheap whisky made from beets, licensed and encouraged by Christian Britain, intemperance is so largely on the increase as to appall the missionaries. They write that even the children in the mission schools are falling victims. During the late missionary conference in Calcutta, the largest gathering of missionaries ever convened on that field, an entire day was devoted to this topic, so deeply impressed were they with its magnitude.

The deleterious influence of intemperance upon missions in Africa, Japan, China, and indeed all mission fields, is indisputable and alarming. The Christian world is fast being brought face to face with the great problem: "How can souls be saved from the combined influence of heathenism and intemperance? Christians have sometimes felt that work for missions was more distinctively work for Christ than was temperance work; God seems teaching us that temperance