PART II. BLOSSOM. CHAPTER VII.

Adolescence. With the majority of human beings

the period of adolescence is the most uninteresting portion of life. The pretty ways of childhood have run their tender and fascinating

course, and there is a long wait, as at the fall in the act-drop in the drama. To this rule, howe. r. Little Make-Believe was an exception.

Her life was full of color, and every day that dawned brought with it the

necessity of action. This struggle for the bare necessarles of life, this fight for food, was replete with interest, albeit of a painful

Yet from her inner being, in which lay a well of purest sweetness, she drew a wondrous compensation for anxiety and suffering; her gratitude for trifles was so great that it might, with some semblance of truth, be said that the pleasure of her days was born of the pain thereof, and would have been of a lower quality had her need been less.

She had found a friend, however, but for whom she might have succumbed. the world was so powerful and she so

These last words have nothing of exaggeration in them, for the world was her enemy.

Ruled by social laws which of very necessity might have compelled Little Make-Believe to drift into wrong doing, in the eyes of the world she was a sore blemish, for which none but the narrow-minded could have condemned

Happily for her, of this exceedingly numerous order of beings Thomas Dexter was not a member.

From that night upon which he was a spectator of his own funeral in Paradise Buildings he became her friend.

In a small way certainly. To the extent, probably, of three or four pennies in the course of a week, bestowed epon her a penny at a time when he met her in the streets.

It was little enough, but it was a help. The wonderful godsend of three bright shillings from his hand to hers was not repeated, but that was hardly to be expected.

The occasional pennies were a windfall which often sent Little Make-Beheve home rejoicing.

Saranne grew stronger and more beautiful, and, accepting as her right the cheerful willingness to provide for her which was Little Make-Believe's chief rule of life, did no work herself even when she was old enough for it.

But it is hard to say what she could have done had sad fortune deprived

She knew nothing, had learned nothing, and was easily discouraged, whereas Little Make-Believe fought doggedly against the heavy odds, and sometimes exclaimed (sometimes in the midst of bitter tears), "Never say die."

During the years that intervened between childhood and womanhood the sisters became acquainted with three persons who were destined to play important parts in their histories.

Two were gentlemen, one a boy of the people.

Where this latter came from no one In Clare Market knew.

Some said he had dropped from the clouds-an euphemism, for he more likely sprang from the gutters. He was utterly wild, ungovernable

and untamable and seemed to have gypsy blood in him. Questioned about his parents, his re-

ply was that he "didn't know nothink about 'em." He had lived anyhow, from hand to

mouth, as the saving is, Where he slept, how he managed to

live, where he came from, and if there existed a human being in the world with whom he could claim the smallest tie of kinship-these were questions which none could answer.

In some odd way he became ac quainted with Little Make-Believe and Saranne, and would sometimes sit in the cellar with the one and stroll through the streets with the other.

A bad companion in every way, but they were not in a position to choose their associates.

Whatever fell to their share, they were compelled to accept, whether for good or ill.

From the policeman, Thomas Dexter -who had seen the lad with Little Make-Believe, and was curious about him-received his character.

"A bad lot, sir. Been locked up a dozen times, at least. When he's charged no one comes for ard to speak up for him. When he's asked in court whether he doesn't belong to somebody or whether somebody don't belong to him he sarces the magistrate and tells him to mind his own. A regular bad lot, sir, is Foxey."

This was the name by which he was

A personal experience of Thomas Dexter's was confirmatory of the character given to Foxey by the policeman.

He had bought some odds and ends at auction, which he engaged a man to wheel home in a barrow.

Foxey, coming on the scene while the goods were being conveyed into the shop, appropriated an old-fash-

ioned mirror and made off with it. Thomas Dexter, whose back for the moment was turned, detected Foxey in laughter, in which the hardened young the act of running away, and he in-

stantly ran after him. Without assistance Thomas Dexter might have run to the land's end without catching Foxey, but a woman caught and held the lad till Dexter

ror to the ground, shivering it to face to face with her.

pieces, and dodging between Dexter's

legs, made his escape. Thomas Dexter picked himself up,

and gazing ruefully at his destroyed property, returned to his shop. He declined to charge Foxey with the theft, having a horror of police courts, but when he met the lad and Little Make-Believe in the street, he laid his

hand upon the girl's shoulder and de-

tained her. "You shouldn't be seen," he said, with that young thief. He'll make yer as bad as he is himself."

"Here, stash that!" cried Foxey, while Little Make-Believe looked from one to the other in fear and trembling. "Jest you mind yer own business, and let Make-Believe mind her'n."

"You know I'm yer friend," said Thomas Dexter, still addressing Little Make-Believe. "That little villain there stole a mirror from me, and when he was caught shivered it to bits."

Foxey laughed loudly and maliciously, which caused Thomas Dexter to exclaim, "I could have had him locked

up for it." "Well," retorted Foxey, defiantly, 'why didn't yer? I don't care for being locked up. You're too much of a sneak, that's what you are. Yah! I say, gov'ner, how much was that bit of

glass worth?" "It was worth half a sovereign, you rascal."

"It would have paid yer to give me a bob rather than have it broke, wouldn't "Yes, it would."

"Why didn't you say so, then? 'A!ways agreeable, gov'ner, to take anythink that's give to me. So's Make-Believe, ain't yer?"

But between these two stools Little Make-Believe was too frightened to speak.

"I ain't good enough for Make-Believe, ain't I? Oh, no, not a bit of it. There's a bobby. Give me in charge-I don't care! You ain't got the sperrit of a mouse, that's what you ain't got. Look here, Make-Believe, I'll git a silk hat and welwet westcut, and then I shall be good enough to walk alongside yer. Crikey! what a honor!"

And off walked Foxey, imitating the gait of members of fashionable circles. Before another twenty-four hours had passed over his head, Thomas Dexter had a further experience of Foxey. He missed a smal! piece of ivory,

carved into the hideous unlikeness of a human being-one of those Chinese monstrosities which many persons, who should know better, believe belongs to high art. He could not imagine where it had

got to. It was on his counter for a few minutes, during which no suspicious person had been in the shop. While he was hunting about and perplexing himself over his loss, he saw

Foxey grinning in his shop windows. He went to the door to hunt the scamp away, when Foxey, touching his cap with mock respect, said: "I say, guv'nor, does yer want to

buy a reg'lar keuriosimosity?" "Be off with yer, yer vagabond,"

cried Thomas Dexter. "Don't be so uppy; I ain't gammoning, s'help me tater. It's the rummest bit of ivory you ever sor"-Thomas Dexter pricked up his ears-"with a face a good deal uglier nor mine, and ears as large as his head. Come, now.

what'll yer give for it?" "Have yer got it about yer?" "Not me! A particular friend of mine found it in a dust cart. Honor bright and shining! Will yer give half

a dollar for it?" "I'll give yer a shilling," said Thomas Dexter, not doubting that the article

was his own. "A bob! Well, you are a mean cuss! But you shall have it. I say, bonor

among thieves, you know." "Bring it to me, and you shall have your shi!ling."

Foxey departed, and in the course of an hour returned with the ivory carving, for which, in a state of great indignation, Thomas Dexter gave him a

shilling. This kind of persecution might have developed into something serious for Dexter, had not a stop been put to it by Foxey being taken into custody, and put upon his trial for an unblushing theft committed on a tradesman, who was less tender of police courts

than the old curiosity dealer. Foxey's proceedings at his trial were the cause of a great many leading articles in the newspapers.

He conducted his own defense with extraordinary impudence and shrewdness, and pleaded that he stole the goods for the simple purpose of purchasing "a silk hat and a welwet westcut," so that he might "cut a reg'lar swe!1."

As a further proof of his effrontery and absolute recklessness, he called Thomas Dexter as a witness of char-

Loath as he was, Thomas Dexter was compelled to appear in the witness box and tell all he knew of Foxey, his evidence being enlivened by the prisoner's running commentaries, to some such effect as the following: "Oh, what a whopper!" "Where do you expect to go for running down a innocent chap like that?" "Do yer know the meaning of a oath?" "Oh, you outand-out old sinner."

The trial was one of those which are occasionally made the medium of an interchange of much small wit between bar and bench, and Foxey's remarks were provocative of convulsive criminal joined.

The unshot was that Foxey was sentenced to three years' imprisonment Japanese do not like to spare the with hard labor, and two years' police square feet a fence would take up. If supervision at the end of that time. It disturbed Thomas Dexter somewhat to see Polly Cleaver in the body of which are good for silk-worms. It Then the lad, twisting himself out of the court during the trial, and when is said that 190,000 acres that would of the woman's grasp, dashed the mir- it was over he found himself once more otherwise be taken up with fences are

## "A good day's work, Tommy," she Her face was flushed, and there were "Yer miserable old skinflint, yer'll

To Open a Jar of Fruit.

If the cover of a fruit jar sticks, do not attempt to wrench it off; simply invert the jar and place the top in bot water for a minute. Then try it, and you will find it turns easily.

Candelabra Out of Style.

The gentlemen who were destined to play an important part in the lives of Little Make-Believe and Saranne were Mr. Deepdale and his son Walter. The father was a gentleman of independent means, and one of Thomas Dexter's best customers; Walter was a handsome lad of sixteen.

They lived alone—the father being a widower and having no other children and were inseparable. Mr. Deepdale had one love and one

He hurried from her, but her words

rang in his ears for many a day after-

He was both angry and pleased-

angry that he had been innocently in-

strumental in the boy's conviction, and

pleased that he was rid of the pest,

and that Little Make-Believe now stood

in no fear of contamination from the

society of the young thief.

said, glaring at him.

tears in her eyes.

live to repent it!"

ward.

hobby-his love was Walter, his hobby was the antique. An easy, credulous man, whose lines of life had been cast in pleasant places.

one great grief had afflicted himthe loss of his wife. One great compensation for a sorrow, which otherwise would have been un-

bearable was given him. His boy was all in all to him, veritably the apple of his eye and the heart of his heart, his solace, his comfort,

his joy. And when to this was added the means and opportunity of indulging in a passion for old china, old carvings, old enamels, old anything, it will be easy of belief that his life was one to be envied by the toilers and moilers

of the world. The truth must be told. He had about as much knowledge of art as the man in the moon, but whether an article belongs to the fourteenth or the nineteenth century is really of small consequence to the possessor if he derive pleasure in the possession and if his

faith be not disturbed. Thus, Mr. Deepdale was an easy prey to the dealers, who fooled him to the top of his bent, to their profit and his

gratification. Having received a letter from Thomas Dexter informing him that he had a service of Old Derby for sale, he and Walter hastened one night to

Clare Market to secure it. The month was August, and oysters

were in; also grottoes. On their way they were attracted to three children, who had formed themselves into a company and had launched into a speculation. Their stock in trade, the value of

ter shells, but they had an available asset (which, however, was consuming itself and eating itself up, as it were), in the shape of a penny candle. The firm consisted of Little Make-Believe, Saranne and another child, whose visions of wealth-conjured

which was nil, was represented by oys-

chiefly by Make-Believe-were of an entrancing nature, the crowning glory, of which was to be an eel-pie supper. The grotto they had built was more artistic and ambitious than most; the

candle was alight and the children

were ready for business. But whether it was owing to the strikes in the north, or the scarcity of meat, or the high prices of coals, or over-population, or the disturbed state of Ireland, or the rise of a half-penny in the four-pound loaf, certain it was that trade did not flourish with Little Make-Believe's firm, one of the members, at least, of which worked hard for nearly a couple of hours without

obtaining a copper. "Please remember the grotter!" was first launched merrily and saucily at the passers-by; at the end of the first half-hour there was no light-heartedness in the appeal; at the end of the second it became pathetic; at the end of the third, mournful; at the end of

the fourth, despairing. Saranne was the first to give way; cold looks chilled her, and she left the battle to her two partners, of whom Little Make-Believe was the active worker.

Two-thirds of their only asset, the candle, were consumed, and the eel-pie supper was an airy imagining, not at all likely to be eralized.

Saranne was crouching sullenly on the ground, the light of the candle shining on her face; she was an impatient sufferer—the very reverse of Little Make-Believe, who was, mercifully, endowed with a fortitude rarely excelled even in men engaged in the highest struggles for humanity's sake. To be continued.

Typhoid Fever and Oysters, In the discussion of the oyster as 2 means of communicating the germs of typhoid fever in Europe and in the United States, many inaccurate statements have been put in circulation, so that the Government has deemed it necessary to have the matter investigated by an expert commission in order to avoid any possible damage to the oyster industry. The report of this body states that under normal conditions the oyster is not unwholesome at any time during the year and that its peculiar microbian diseases, which are exceedingly rare, are not transmissible to man. "Wild" oysters, although not always fit for food, are free from contamination and do not endanger publie health, while those raised or fattened in beds are usually free from suspicion. 's te transmission of typhoid by oysters is possible, yet wellauthenticated cases of such action are in the beds where the oysters are kept before transportation, the caring for them during transportation, and finally the shops of the retail dealers. It is believed that the connection between typhoid fever and the eating of oysters is due largely to the fact that indulgence in this form of shell-fish begins at the time when there is a maximum number of typhoid cases, and the matter is one of coincidence rather than cause and effect .- Harper's Weekly.

Fences a Luxury in Japan.

Only the very rich have fences around their farms in Japan. The a border around a field is necessary, it is made of mulberry trees, the leaves thus used .- Philadelphia Ledger.

## **\*\*\*\*\*\*** HOUSEHOLD \* \* \* \* \* \* MATTERS

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Except for formal functions, candelabra have gone out of use for dinners and luncheons and are replaced by single, slender sticks of brass, silver, glass or fancy china. A bride not long ago received as a wedding present four cut glass candlesticks with white silk shades edged with crystal bead fringe. Nothing among all her presents has given her greater satisfaction than this gift.

A Good Starch Recipe. A good old-time housewife offers the following rule for starch: Mix one tablespoonful of starch with four tablespoonfuls of cold water and pour on this three quarts of boiling water. Boil for twenty minutes. Then add one teaspoonful of salt and a piece of paraffine wax half the size of a nutmeg. Sir until the wax is dissolved, then cool and strain through cheesecloth. To add lustre, soak the articles in this (reparation for six hours.

To Kill Cockroaches. The persistent use of borax will destroy cockroaches. Once a week cover the pantry shelves with powdered borax. Sprinkle it plentifully in the closets and about the kitchen, especially about the sink and all pipes. When renewing, sweep up the old systematically, clean every nook and cranny, dry thoroughly, then sprinkle fresh borax over the shelves and line with clean paper. Persist in this and the bugs

A Chat With Housekeepers. Burn pine tar occasionally in a sick room. It is an excellent disinfectant,

and it also induces sleep. A good furniture polish consists of two parts of raw linseed oil and one of turpentine. Apply a thin coat with a flannel cloth and then rub thoroughly

and briskly with a dry cloth. Some housekeepers always make a point of buying their soap in large quantities, as they say it improves with

When blankets are to be washed for the first time they should first be soaked over night in cold water and then rinsed. This is to remove the sulphur used in the bleaching. After this they should be soused until clear in a lukewarm lather made with boiled soap and water and then rinsed well in

clear water. It is literally true that a new broom sweeps clean. If a new broom is examined, the ends of the straws will be found to be straight and the brush square. After it has been used a while the ends split and become sharp, and the shape of the brush becomes irregular. To renew the youth of the broom dip in hot soapsuds and trim the softened straws to the proper shape.

Hard Bed and Small Pillow.

"No matter how comfortable a soft bed and large, soft pillows may be," said Dr. A. S. Barnes, Jr., "they are not healthy, and women especially assist materially in injuring her physical appearance. When the body sinks down in a soft bed a considerable portion of the skin is robbed of its proper ventilation, and the circulation is in-. terfered with. It also helps to make the flesh firmer and the form must, therefore, appear somewhat better as a result. The large pillows are not good to sleep on because the head is too high when it rests on them, and this prevents that . deep. regular breathing which gives good lungs and in consequence a better appearance to

the bust and shoulders. One ought always to sleep on the left side, and preferably with the arms at the back. This may be a little awkward at first, but as soon as one becomes accustomed to it he will find it not only the most restful and easy, but the position in which sleep is more easily conduced. The pillow ought to, of course, be small and the bed hard. or at least firm. The body is then in the correct position for sleeping and for helping the physical appearance of the person while at rest. The arms at the back throw the chest forward, make the shoulders broader and the back straighter, so that material assistance toward a good carriage is thus obtained. When one lies on his back, even though the pillow is small, it has a tendency to crook the shoulders, and many cases of stooped shoulders have probably originated in this way .-- St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Recipes For Invalids. Orange Soup-One quart orange juice (strained); half cup sugar. Place over the fire; moisten two tablespoons of arrowroot with cold water and add to juice when just scalding hot: stir till clear and thickened; remove and cool; add flavoring and serve in punch glasses with lump of ice (size of large walnut) in each glass.

Prune Soup-One pound prunes; two cups water: rind of one lemon; half cup sugar; one inch stick cinnamon; halfpound barley (rich in potassium salts), one quart water; one cup flavor. Stew prunes with lemon rind, cinnamon and two cups of the water, adding the sugar when prunes are nearly cooked. Stone and press through colander into tureen. Boil barley in water till tender (three or four hours); drain and add to prunes in tureen; add flavor and

Peach Foam-One cup peach pulp, or tiny bits of tender peaches, either the fresh fruit or home preserved, in which case omit the sugar; half cup powdered sugar; white of one egg. Put into a large bowl and beat with a silver fork for thirty minutes. It should then be a thick, perfectly smooth, velvety cream.

Grape Foam -- Put in a sherbet glass two tablespoons of grape juice; add to this the white of one egg, beaten stiff, a little scraped ice and sprinkle with powdered sugar. Serve at once without stirring. Simple, nutritious and delicious.-Harper's Bazar.

Of the \$5,600,000,000 of gold in the

world the United States possesses \$1,

300,000,000, or nearly one-fourth.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

INTERNATIONAL LESSON COMMENTS FOR APRIL 30.

Subject: Jesus Washing the Disciples' Feet, John xiii., 1-14-Golden Text, Gal. v., 13-Memory Verses, 12, 13-Commentary on the Day's Lesson.

I. At the supper table (vs. 1-3). 1. "The Passover." This was one of the This was one of the three great Jewish feasts and was also called the feast of "unleavened bread," because only unleavened bread was allowed. "Hour was come." His approaching agony and death. There was no uncertainty with Him. So perfectly did He work with the Father that He knew when He had come to the close of His earthly labors. "Depart unto the Father." His entire passion and ascension are included in this departure, as taking place in this one hour. "His own." His disciples. 'Which were in the world." Who were to continue longer in its troubles and difficulties. "Loved them unto the end." 1. To the uttermost limit of love (margin of R. V.). 2. With a love without end. 2. "Supper being ended." Rather,

the meal having begun-that is, they had already reclined. It appears from Luke's account that as they took their reclining couches at the table, a strife arose for precedency; and by this is explained the washing of the apostles' feet by Jesus—a reproof and a lesson on humility and peace. "Devil having now put." Judas formed his plot six days before this, on the occasion of what happened at the house of Simon, the leper; see Matt. 26:14. 3. "Jesus knowing." This verse is sublime. An unclouded perception of His relation to the Father, the commission He held from Him, and His approaching return to Him, possessed His soul. By His incarnation Jesus came from God; by His death and resurrection He went to God. Christ came from heaven to bring God to us. He went to heaven to bring us to God. II. Jesus washes the disciples' feet

(vs. 4, 5). 4. "Riseth from supper." Soon after they had taken their places at the

table. The washing should have taken-place before the supper. "Laid aside His garments." His outer mantle, a cloak which would impede His action, leaving the tunic, which was the ordinary dress of a servant. "Girded Himself." The girdle represents a readiness for service. The towel was to complete the full dress of a servant or slave. A bold contract between the Master, who was about to enter into glory, and the aspiring disciples, who were too lofty to wash each others' feet, and were anxious about their stations in life. 5. "Began to wash." We have a very erroneous idea of the meaning of this action if we imagine that it was performed for a mere example of humility, or even as an illustration. It was simply a humble, menial service that ought to have been done by the disciples, but which they refused or neglected to do. Then He arose and performed the menial service Himself. No wonder that the conscience-smitten disciples were amazed, and that Peter felt that Jesus

must not wash his feet. III. A conversation with Peter (vs 6-11). 6. "Then cometh he." When it was Peter's turn to be washed. Lord, dost Thou." Dost Thou, the Son of God, the Messiah, perform this humble office of a servant toward me? Peter had often seen the humility of his Lord, but never as in this instance, and he recoiled with an unutterable sense of shame and astonishment. The other disciples seem to have allowed Jesus to wash their feet in silence.
7. "Knowest not now." You do not

see that it is a visible expression of My whole mission, in which I laid aside My glory with the Father and took upon Myself the form of a ser-vant. "Shalt know hereafter." A little better understanding was gained in the Master's words in verses 13 and 14; a still clearer understanding after the crucifixion; better still after Pentecost; a full knowledge of all that Jesus did for His own was to be gained

in eternity.
8. "Shalt never." Not to all eternity shalt Thou wash my feet. "Wash Thee not." With the higher washing of which this is only a type. If thou wilt not submit to this thou wilt object to that. "No part with Me." Because, The first condition of discipleship was submission to Christ. 2. This washing was a symbol of spiritual cleansing, and so Peter understood Christ's words (v. 9). 9. "Not my feet only." He goes from one extreme to the other. 10. "He that is washed." Bathed; for it was the custom of the Jews to bathe twice, in preparing themselves for the paschal solemnity. 'Ye are clean." You are upright and sincere. Jesus did not mean that their hearts were cleansed from all sin, for that did not take place-till Pentecost: 'But not all." IV. Christ teaches humility (vs. 12-

which only Judas could understand. 14). 12. "Know ye what I have done." Consider what I have done-"Know ye what I have the meaning and significance of it. That He intended His disciples to get the spiritual meaning of this act is seen from what follows. 13. "Master and Lord." One who has authority, whose example should be followed, and whose commands obeyed. 14. "If I then." The Master lost no dignity, authority or power by His condescending love. He was truly great, in that He stooped to necessary humble work when others refused to do it. The servant is not "Ye also ought." greater than his master, and you will do well to imitate Me. If this lesson has entered your understanding, cease all strife for position, and only surpass in service to each other.

Hospital For Fish.

The Frankfort News states that since the beginning of the winter term a station for research and observation of sick fish has been established at the veterinary high school of Vienna, unler the direction of Professor Doctor Fiebiger. Officials of this institution will intestigate the biology and pathology of fish. One of the main objects the researches will be to study whether certain diseases of fish are transmitted to man, and if so to what

Big Diamond Sent by Mail It has just been learned that the Cul-inan diamond, the 3032 carat stone that was found in the Premier mine at Johannesburg on January 27 last, made the journey from Cape Town, South Africa, to London, England, by orlinary registered post at a cost of seventy-five cents. The postal authorities were ignorant of the fact.

Tea Advertising. Some years ago a company was

formed in London which offered to all women who for a certain time bought half a pound of tea at their stores, a pension of ten shillings a week in the vent of the death of their husbands. The list of widows gradually reached 20,000, and the company had to suspend payment.



THERE'S A PEACE THAT COMETH AFTER SORROW."

"There is a peace that cometh after sor-Of hope surrendered, not of hope ful-filled; A peace that looketh not upon to-morrow, But calmly on a tempest that is stilled.

A peace which lives not now in joy's excesses, Nor in the happy life of love secure; But in the unerring strength the heart pos-

Of conflicts won while learning to endure.

A peace there is, in sacrifice secluded; A life subdued, from will and passion free; Tis not the peace which over Eden brooded,
But that which triumphed in Gethsemane.

-Jessie Ross Gates.

Net To-morrow. God's call is not a call for to-mor-"To-day, if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, when your fathers tempted Me." God's grace always comes with despatch; and if thou are drawn by God, thou wilt run after God, and

not be talking about delays. To-morrow!-it is not written in the almanac of time. To-morrow!-it is in Satan's calendar, and nowhere else. To-morrow!-It is a rock whitened by the bones of mariners who have been wrecked upon it; it is the wrecker's light gleaming on the shore, luring poor ships to destruction. To-morrow!-it is the idiot's cup, which he fableth to lie at the foot of the rainbow, but which none hath ever found. To-morrow!-it is the floating island of Lochlomond, which none hath ever seen. To-morrow!-it is a dream. To-morrow!-it is a delusion. To-morrow, aye, to-morrow you may lift up your

eyes in hell, being in torments.
Yonder clock says, "To-day;" thy
pulse whispereth, "To-day;" I hear my heart speak as it beats, and it says "To-day;" everything cries, "To-day;" and the Holy Ghost is in unison with these things, and says, "To-day, if you will hear His voice, harden not your hearts." Sinner, are you inclined now to seek the Saviour? Are you breathing a prayer now? Are you saying: "Now or never-I must be saved now?" -Charles H. Spurgeon.

Just Kindle a Fire.

A minister complained to one of his parishioners that he had tried in many ways to draw people to his church services, but with limited success.

And he said, "Can you suggest any better plan?" "Yes," was the reply. "You know that a fire always attracts a crowd. So you just kindle a fire in your pulpit and the house will be full." The minister thought he was joking, and was about to rebuke his rreverence, when he went on to say: 'Haven't you read how Peter drew a crowd in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost? He was not a learned nor an eloquent man, but he went into the street with the fire in his heart, and flashing, no doubt, from his eyes-the fire which had come down from Heaven in the upper room. He was all aglow with the conscious presence and power of the Holy Spirit, and hence it was that the multitude came to-gether, and that 3000 of them were converted. Let it be noised abroad that your pulpit is ablaze with that Pentecostal fire and multitudes will come to hear you and many saved."

Stumbling Blocks.

What shall be his punishment who causes another to sin? Men, themselves evil. often find pleasure in leading a Christian into evil. More than young Christian has been provoked beyond measure in order that his tormentors might see the outbreak of his wrath, and the attempt to lead a convert into gross sins is not unknown. Was it not of such tempters Christ spoke one of His most terrible warnings? "Whoso shall cause one of these little ones which believe on Me to stumble, it is profitable for him that a great millstone should be hanged about his neck, and that he should be sunk in the depth of the

sea." Said He it for the wilful tempter's sake alone? Was it not for our sake also? The blind man carrying a lantern in an ancient city was told, "The lantern will not keep you from stum-bling over anything." "No," retorted "No." retorted the philosopher; "but it will keep people from stumbling over me." in the light," so that no man may be made to stumble.-Pacific Baptist.

The True Faith.

What is a true faith? A true faith s the interpretation of the spiritual universe. And when you have got the true interpretation you have got once more what must be a universal faith. There is not any room for two. One catechism in science, one catechism in faith. For what is true about God and the soul and the deep principle of history and the final issue of thingswhat is true for us is true for all nations, languages and people-Sermon in Weekly Witness.

True Heroism.

The hero fears not that, if he withhold the avowal of a just and brave act, it will go unwitnessed and unloved. One knows it-himself-and is pledged by it to sweetness of peace and to nobleness of aim, which will prove in the end a better proclamation of it than the relating of the incident .- Emerson.

Sufficient.

As I read the Gospels I can see how, little by little. Jesus lifted those disciples past one conception of necessity after another, until at last they knew of nothing that was absolutely necessary except God. They began as fishermen who could do without their nets and boats, and houses, and fishing friends, and sports, and games and gossipings. He carried them up till they were crying, "Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us."-Phil-

A smoker in Halifax, N. Y., scratched a match on the City Hall, and was sued for two cents' damages. He asked the police to point out the particular scratch he made. This was impossible, as there were several scratches on the wall, and the case was therefore dismissed.

Sued For Two Cents.

Fined For Carrying Pig.

For carrying a pig by its ears and tail a Newcastle (England) butcher has been fined for cruelty, though butchers testified that this was the way to carry a pig.

THE GREAT DESTROYER

SOME STARTLING FACTS ABOUT THE VICE OF INTEMPERANCE.

Dry and Prosperous is the Town of Mount Blanchard, Ohio-After a Hard Fight

Temperance Won by Six Votes-Results of the Victory. Mount Blanchard, Ohio, is a dry town, and has been so for two years.

The contest which brought prohibition into operation was a very bitter one, in which personal abuse of the tem-perance party was a prominent feat-ure. The results of the change to no license have made themselves manifest in a manner and to an extent that delights its advocates. The situation is well set out in a recent article in a newspay : of that town, which describes it as follows:

Over two years have elapsed since the beautiful village of Mount Blanchard, situated twelve miles from the city of Findlay, in southeastern Han-cock County, decided to dispense with its one saloon. A hard contest was waged for and against the arinking place, but the temperance element succeeded in winning out by the narrow, margin of six votes. The saloon advocates then began to

make predictions in regard to the disastrous results to the local business interests that were to follow the suppressing of the saloon business. A' number of really gold citizens actually were led to believe that the fown would be worse off from a business standpoint. Some even declared that grass would grow in the streets; that our population would fall off; that no large amount of building would be done, and that more or less the same quantity of beer and whisky would be imported by the thirsty and consumed within our corportion limits. The town would need the whisky tax, and that in the absence of said tax the local levy for municipal purposes would have to be raised of the village council, they claimed. The statement was made that since the liquor drinkers would have their drinks that it was a piece of utter foolishness to loss atax when the result for lessening

However, non- of these dire predictions have come to pass. Mount Blanchard began to boom as soon as the clinking of the beer glasses ceased, and to-day we have a better town in any respect you may be able to point out. Drunken fights : re no more in evidence, while men who formerly, drank to the aetriment of their health, pocketbooks and their family welfare, have reformed from the evil habit, and now lead sober and industrious They pay the butcher, the lives. baker, the groceryman, etc., where before their credit was strained to the limit. Peace has spread a mantle of happiness over our town. It has be-

the liquor consumption was not ar-

riv at with the closing of the saloon.

place to the happy shouts of well-clothed and well fed children of those who once led different lives and drained the dregs of the cup that destroys. Business men say that their business is better than when the saloon was in our midst. They say the men who once got trust at their stores, but always paid their bar bills with the cash, now pay up regularly, and are among their best and most desired

come a model village, and the ribald

song of the brawler and the sorrowful

spectacle of staggering men has given

customers. During the past year more building has been done than ever before in the same space of time. Many thousands of dollars have been spent here in the erection of stately edifices, both pri-vate and public, and the streets are far from being covered with green grass. These facts are plain ones to all who live here, and the present prosperous condition of our town proved a bar to any one circulating petition to again vote on the question of saloon or no saloon. No one

trad the nerve to try it. The people are satisfied. Taxes are no higher than when the saloon was here, but property values have risen and men are using their money more freely in upbuilding the

town. She has no use for it. True, once in a while some fellow brings a small amount of liquor here, but it is safe to say that not one per cent, is now drank here as compared with the amount consumed when we had the open saloon. Not an arrest for drunkenness has been made for over a year, and since the saloon left us the number of arrests have fallen off at least seventy or eighty per cent. There is little in a criminal way for the mayor and the marshall to look after in this place.

Before we voted against the saloon we endeavored to learn how other dry towns were aring. Now we have had the experience ourselves, and we recommend the dry town in every way, shape and form. The business here is done by sober men.

Bad Results of a "Liberal" Law. The increase in crime and the di-

minution of public health have become so serious during the past twenty-four years of the present law in France that M. Guerin recently proposed to restrict the public houses to one for every three hundred of the population.

A Reform Halted. The French Senate by a vote of 141 to 116, unfortunately rejected M. Eugene Guerin's proposal to fix a limit to the multiplication of places for the

sale of intoxicants. An Appalling Proportion. Since the law of 1880, which threw open the liquor traffic, these places have multiplied until there is now in France a drink-shop to every eighty-

three of the population.

Temperance Topics. Medical science is more and more disposed to eschew the use of alcohol in the treatment of disease, because other remedies, most of them poisons, are safer and more effective.

Drunkenness is on the increase in Russia. During the past twelve months the quantity of vodka and other spirituous liquors sold at the State establishments was greater than in the previous year by 25 per cent., whlie the quantity sold in hotels and other places showed an increase of 16 per cent.

Following closely on the whisky fatalities in New York and the revela-tions of bad liquor made there, Dr. H. W. Wiley, chief of the Government bureau of chemistry, has expressed the opinion that fully eighty-five per cent of all the whisky sold in this country, in hotel restaurants, clubs and bars, is nothing less than a cheap imitation.

According to a decision of the Supreme Court of Georgia, druggists must not violate the local option laws of the State by selling :nedicine that will produce intoxication. When selling such medicine in violation of the local option statute, the druggist is liable to prosecution.