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Miscellany.

PRAYER.

IT frequently happens that when a young person is asked to embrace Christianity, they hold back, for the reason that they do not believe prayer to be directly answered. It is a principle in human nature to depend upon some higher power. In times of need and distress to seek aid outside of themselves. One thing is assuredly true, even though the prayer were never answered, it would strengthen the one praying. It could at least do him no possible harm. The idea of praying to God to remove a scourge or plague, such as that of the grasshoppers, is frequently ridiculed. Scoffers ask, "Why does He not answer your prayer?" The relation of humanity to God is the same as that of the child to the father. When the father punishes the child for some misdeed, this is the same as a scourge, from God, upon His children. Notwithstanding the protestations and prayers of the child, the father does not remove the punishment until he believes the child fully penitent.

One of the most remarkable examples on record of faith in prayer and God was of the man in London, at the head of the Orphan's Home. He relied entirely upon the goodness of God for feeding his little ones. God never forsook them. One reason why no more prayers are visibly answered, is either because the demand is not made in the right spirit, or that it is a wish which they do not expect to be fulfilled. This is a point in which too many ministers give cause for such remarks. They make demands of God which no one expects to be answered. In fact, would be surprised if they were answered. Even the scoffer, when he listens to fervent, heart-felt prayer, must acknowledge its wonderful power over the one praying. In great distress and need a prayer is ever formed on lips of scoffer, sinner, all alike. Although hard to pray at first, it soon not only becomes easy, but the Christian's greatest pleasure and solace. Are the prayers of the Christians for the young men unavailing? The Y. M. C. A. is becoming a power in the land. Directly through prayer and earnest work is all this being accomplished. Let the scoffer

once try prayer. He who has truly believed in and enjoyed prayer, never discards it from pure reason alone. Prayer is the cry from the weak to the strong. Prayer is the result of the struggle between darkness and light. It strengthens the feeble, makes more steadfast the strong. Is an innate principle in humanity.

Y. M. C. A.

THE SCARED PROFESSOR.

THERE is no use of disguising the fact that the boys who attend our colleges are pretty tough cases on general principles. Not that they would commit crimes, or do things that are particularly dishonorable, but they are as full of the old Nick as they can hold. You take the best boy you can find in the public schools, one who has had a religious training, and seems to have a pious turn of mind, and who is so good that all the other boys think he is booked for heaven, and send him off to college, and you want to watch him. The chances are that he will come back with a knowledge of draw poker that will paralyze an old gambler, and he will be sure to be leader in all the deviltry that is going on. An illustration of this was furnished a short time ago in one of our state colleges devoted to turning out pious young men. The class in elocution was furnished with a professor from a distant city, who was very thorough in his methods, but didn't amount to anything at handling boys. He seemed to look at them appealingly, as much as to beg them not to play any monkey work on him. The boys saw he was afraid of them, and they laid for him. They got into a discussion over the proper way to render a passage from the poem, "The Boy Stood on the Burning Deck," when one of the students called the other a liar. The professor held up his hands in horror, and begged them to be seated, when the young man who had been called a liar drew a revolver and shot at the other student, who fell to the floor an alleged corpse. The professor was wild and at this point the lights went out and every student drew a revolver and began firing blank cartridges in the air. Some were armed with putty balls and eggs, and at each discharge something would strike the professor, and he thought he

was full of holes. A window was raised, and by the light made by the exploding cartridges a pair of coat tails and feet could be seen going out, and the professor landed head first on some lilac bushes. They rushed to the window and the poor man, bruised and bleeding, and as scared as it was possible for a man to be, was running for dear life. The next morning he took the train for home, with a black eye, and clothes that looked as though something had been scraped off of them, and the faculty of the college will not know what has become of their professor of elocution till they read this. The boys go about their studies as though nothing had happened, but they are trying to think up some new deviltry. Boys will be boys, and there is no way you can prevent it unless you break their backs.—*Peck's Sun.*

QUOTATIONS.

Josh Billings: Truth is mighty—mighty scarce.

Pyrus: Wine has drowned more than the sea.

Fred Douglass: One and God make a majority.

A fan is indispensable to a woman who can no longer blush.

If you would make a good pair of shoes, take for the sole the tongue of a woman: it never wears out.

Sidney Smith: Never try to reason the prejudice out of a man. It wasn't reasoned into him, and it can not be reasoned out of him.

Society is composed of two great classes; those who have more dinners than appetite, and those who have more appetite than dinners.

George Eliot: If we had lost our own chief good, other people's good would remain, and that is worth trying for. Some can be happy.

Lowell: Among all animals man is the only one who tries to pass for more than he is, and so involves himself in the condemnation of seeming less.

Many a man thinks it is principle that keeps him from turning rascal, when it is only a full stomach. Be grateful, and do not mistake potatoes for principle.