

death during the war who knew their danger, yet had no thought of the next world. I have seen men die in the hospitals who never uttered a prayer. The habit of devotion had not been formed in the family circle. At home the strong links of habit should be forged.

HABIT USEFUL IN OLD AGE.

The soul of a worldly person suffers from the approach of old age, his memory and reason grow weaker, ill temper and caprice and very often aversion and envy appear. Under these conditions, age generally appears unlovely. Through the habit of religion it is in the power of age to keep the soul ever young and fresh by uniting it always intimately with him who never grows old. A pious old age is as venerable as it is beautiful.

A COMFORT AT LAST,

The habit of devotion formed in youth, and extending to the final hour, thus linking the cradle to the grave, furnishes a powerful support and consolation to the parting soul. We read (James 4, 8), "Draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you." As you turn your fading eyes backward o'er time in the flight, you are overjoyed to think that you did not wait for a death-bed repentance to draw nigh to God. It was your long-continued habit to draw nigh to Him. From rosy dawn to the gray stillness of eve, the first thought and the last floated upward like the benediction of a psalm to Him. You made love to Him in the days ago. For years you have offered the incense of a heart's best affection to your Divine Father. You have seen your love increase until it becomes a habitual delight, and your wish was to be alone with God. He alone filled the measure of your desires, and satisfied your passionate longings. Even now you whisper His beloved name with the

most fervid emotions, and reach out in spirit to clasp your blessed Lover to your breast forever. Death seems but a pleasing ecstasy wherein heaven beams upon the enraptured gaze. How fair is such a parting scene, how blessed is the place where unseen angels hover near and shed a perfume round. "Draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you." Old and young, rich and poor, draw nigh to your God.

THE MISCHIEF-MAKER.

The worst element in home or society is the mischief-maker. He is the friend and enemy of every one. Chameleon like, he can assume the color of every object around him, and is ever ready to promote disagreement and trouble. He possesses the art of drawing out from others their views, by expressions of friendly sympathy, and then of carrying them, properly colored, to the party most interested; or, if confidences of a general nature are received, these are scattered broadcast. As a rule, the mischief-maker uses just enough truth to have a way of escape from absolute falsehood, and yet has so perverted or colored what he did hear as to produce an entirely false impression. If, by the reports carried from one to another, counter expressions can be obtained, these are carried back; and so ill-feeling and false impressions are intensified and deepened. The mischief-maker is the meanest character in society. He is essentially a hypocrite, a liar, a tale-bearer, and a promoter of bad feeling.

Yet the propensity to mischief-making is very strong once it has taken hold. It gives the person a temporary importance, and calls into play the imaginative and inventive faculties. There is a certain exhilaration of feeling attending the exercise of this vocation. Thus, those who embark in