

**What Have They Seen In Thy House?**

The twentieth chapter of 2d Kings contains this query; it came from the prophet Isaiah to king Hezekiah. I remember pondering over the contents of this chapter in early life, when I could not discern wherein the good king had erred. There seemed to me than but little harm in showing his possessions to those who had come so far to see him, after a sickness near unto death.

When he said, "O Lord, remember now how I have walked before thee in truth, and with a perfect heart," he was not rebuked for his language; that which he desired was granted, and fifteen years were added to his life. In the midst of his prosperity, perhaps forgetful of the solemn responsibility which lengthened days involved, pride may have entered the heart. Enjoying the glory of earthly possessions, and the special favors received from the Most High, at ease and off the watch, there was a readiness to display, even to Babylon who was great in her iniquity. Trusting, perhaps, too much to himself that he had walked with a perfect heart; he lost the fear that would have given caution, and neglected the guidance that would have preserved him from danger to the end.

These things were written for our instruction. How desirable it is that all should earnestly plead, and strive for strength to be kept on the watchtower! and they who are overseers of others need perhaps a double watch.

What have they seen in thy house? The query came forcibly to mind not long since, when stepping out of the dwelling of one in that station in the church. In the library-room the extensive shelves were filled with books. While waiting for some minutes, one after another of these was taken in hand. Many of them were novels, romances and tales. No curtain or screen was drawn over this display. All desire to take a book from off those shelves seemed to vanish; but to those who have the appetite and no scruple against devouring such reading, how easily reached, and how great the temptation. The answer to the query, "What have they seen in thy house?" may sometimes be, "They belong to the children; I have nothing to do with them. As the holy watch which our Saviour enjoined is maintained, the eye will be anointed to see, and strength given to remove those things which are of evil tendency.—*The Friend.*

Among the noteworthy events in the missionary world during the last year has been the organization of a Chinese church in Honolulu. Ten members of the Bethel Church there were furnished with letters to form it, and it is already in a prosperous working condition. Several of the members were educated in Mr. Dunscomb's English-Chinese school. At the last administration of the Lord's Supper at the Bethel, about thirty Chinese, among those still remaining, partook, and the interest of the occasion was heightened by the presence of the Rev. Dr. Hyde of the American Board, and the Rev. Dr. O. C. Thompson, from Detroit, who is now visiting the islands. The Chinese are making arrangements for building a church this year. A lot costing \$4,500 has been purchased and a charter obtained. The money for the payment of this amount has already been subscribed, and more than one half by Chinese, several persons giving from \$50 to \$500. There are now five efficient colporteurs laboring among the Chinese on the islands, and the good work is steadily going forward. The number of Chinese who have come to the islands during the year is not less than three thousand, making in all about eight thousand. The old Bethel at Honolulu, has been thoroughly repaired and repainted, at a cost of \$1,300, the expense of which has been fully met.

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