

POWER OF KINDNESS.

"Tom, here!" said a father to his boy, speaking in tones of authority.

The lad was at play. He looked towards his father, but did not leave his companions.

"Do you hear me, sir?" spoke the father, more sternly than at first.

With an unhappy face and reluctant step the boy left his play and approached his parent.

"Why do you creep along at a snail's pace?" said the father, angrily. "Come quickly, I want you; when I speak I like to be obeyed instantly. Here, take this note to Mr. Smith, and see that you don't go to sleep, by the way. Now run as fast as you can go."

The boy took the note; there was a cloud upon his brow. He moved onward, but at a slow pace.

"You, Tom! is that doing as I ordered? Is that going quickly?" called the father, when he saw the boy creeping away. "If you are not back in half an hour I will punish you."

But the words had little effect. The boy's feelings were hurt by the unkindness of the parent; he experienced a sense of injustice, a consciousness that wrong had been done him. By nature he was like his father, proud and stubborn; and these qualities of his mind were aroused, and he indulged in them, fearless of consequences.

"I never saw such a boy," said the father, speaking to a friend who had observed the occurrence. "My words scarcely made an impression on him."

"Kind words often prove most powerful," said the friend.

The father looked surprised.

"Kind words," continued the friend, "are like the gentle rain and the refreshing dews; but harsh words bend and break like the angry tempest. The first develop and strengthen good affections, while the others sweep over the heart in devastation, and mar and deform all they touch. Try him with kind words, they will prove a hundred fold more powerful."

The parent seemed hurt by the reproof but it left him thoughtful. An hour passed away ere his boy returned. At times during his absence he was angry at the delay; but the words of remonstrance were in his ears, and he resolved to obey them.

At last the lad came slowly in, with a cloudy countenance, and reported the result of his errand. Having stayed far beyond his time he looked for punishment, and was prepared to receive it with an angry defiance.

To his surprise, after delivering the message he had brought, his father, instead of angry reproof and punishment, said, kindly—"Very well, my son, you can go out to play again."

The boy went out, but was not happy. He had disobeyed, and disobliged his father, and the thought of this troubled him. Harsh words had not clouded his mind nor aroused a spirit of reckless anger. Instead of joining his companions, he went and sat down by himself, grieving over his act of disobedience. While he thus sat he heard his name called.

"Thomas, my son," said his father, kindly.

The boy sprang to his feet, and was soon beside his parent.

"Did you call, father?"

"I did, my son. Will you take this package to Mr. Long for me?"

There was no hesitation in the boy's manner; he looked pleased at the thought of doing his father a service, and reached out his hand for the package. On receiving it he bounded away with a light step.

"There is power in kindness," said the father, as he sat musing after the lad's departure. And even while he sat musing over the incident, the boy came back with a cheerful, happy face, and said—

"Can I do anything else for you, father?"

Yes, there is a power of kindness. The tempest of passion can only subdue, constrain, and break; but in love and gentleness there is the power of the summer rain, the dew, and the sunshine.

HEREDITARY FEATURES.

A peculiar thickness of the upper lip has been hereditary in the Imperial House of Hapsburgh ever since the marriage, some centuries ago, with the Polish family of Jagellen, whence it came. In the British Royal Family a certain fulness of the lower and lateral parts of the face is conspicuous in the portraits of the whole series of Sovereigns from George I. to Victoria, and has been equally marked in other members of the family. The fe-

males of the ducal house of Gordon have long been remarkable for a peculiar, elegant conformation of the neck. The Clackmannanshire Bruces, who are descended from a common stock with the famous Robert Bruce of Scotland, are said to have that strongly marked form of the cheek, bones and jaws, which appears on the coins of that heroic monarch, as it did in his actual face when his bones were disinterred at Dunfermline, about thirty-five years ago. The prevalent tallness of the inhabitants of Potsdam, many of whom are descended from the guards of Frederick I.; the Spanish features observable in the people of the county of Galway, in which, some centuries ago, several Spanish settlements were made; and the hereditary beauty of the women of Prague—are well known facts which have frequently attracted the attention of chronologists. The burghesses of Rome (the most invariable portion of every population) exhibit at the present day precisely the same type of face and form, as their ancestors, whose busts may be seen carved in relief on the ancient sarcophagi; and the Jewish physiognomies, portrayed upon the sepulchral monuments of Egypt are identical with those which may be observed among modern Jews in the streets of large cities.

REMARKABLE LAKES.

On the top of a ridge of mountains in Portugal, called Estralla, are two lakes of great extent and depth, especially one of them, which is said to be unfathomable. What is chiefly remarkable in them is, that they are calm when the sea is so, and rough when that is stormy. It is therefore probable that they have a subterranean communication with ocean; and this seems to be confirmed by the pieces of ships that they throw up, though almost forty miles distant from the sea. There is another extraordinary lake in this country, which, before a storm, is said to make a frightful rumbling noise that may be heard at the distance of several miles. And we are also told of a pool or fountain, called "Fervencias" about twenty-four miles from Coimbra, that absorbs not only wood, but the lightest bodies thrown into it, such as cork, straw, feathers, etc., which sink to the bottom and are never seen more. To these we may add a remarkable spring near Entremos, which petrifies wood, or