

WILLIE'S SUCCESS.

Two youths applied for a clerk's place. The older had had some experience, and was a gentleman's son. The other was the only son of a poor widow. Though the elder lad came well recommended, the merchant decided in favor of the widow's son. Why was that?

The two youths came together at the hour appointed, and the merchant was on his own doorstep at the same time. Just then, a poor shivering child crossed the street, her foot slipped, and she fell into the half-melted snow. The elder boy laughed rudely at her while the water dripped from her thin, ragged clothes. The child began to cry bitterly, and searched for the four pennies she had lost.

Willie, the younger boy, hastened to her side, and helped her to look for them. Three were found in the snow; the other was probably in the little puddle beside the curb-stone. Willie bravely rolled up his coat-sleeve and plunged his hand down to find the missing penny. After groping in the mud some time, he said, "I'm afraid it can't be found, little girl."

"Then I can't get the bread," sobbed the child, "and mother and the children will have no supper."

"There is a penny," said Willie, taking one from a little purse which contained but very few more; and then he washed his hand in the snow, and dried it on his handkerchief. The other youth looked on with contempt, and said aloud, "It's plain enough you are a fool."

The gentleman had observed all, and scarcely asked the rude boy a question; but after some conversation with Willie, he said he would be willing to take him for a time on trial. At the end of his month of trial he had grown so much in favor that the engagement was renewed for a year.

Now, shall I tell you the secret of Willie's success? It was his kindness. The merchant knew that the lad who would be kind to a poor little ragged child must have good principles, and was likely to make a good clerk—and so it proved.—*Children's Magazine.*

THE SPRING.

On a hot summer day, a little boy named William was on a journey. His cheeks were glowing with heat, and he was gasping for thirst, when he came to a spring which burst bright as silver from a rock in the green shade of an oak-tree.

William had often heard that no one should drink when he is hot. But he was self-conceited, and despised these warnings; he followed only his own inclinations—drank of the cold water—and sank in a swoon on the earth. He came home ill, and fell into a dangerous fever.

"Ah!" he groaned upon his sick-bed, "who would have thought it of that spring, that it contained a gift so hurtful?"

But William's father said, "It is not the pure spring which is the cause of your sickness, but your own self-conceit, and your own unrestrained desire."

"God, in the fulness of His love,
Has all in mercy given;
But pride and lust to cures turn
The choicest gifts of heaven."

THE PIOUS GRAND-MOTHER.

During the last war the inhabitants of a house which stood by itself were in great harm. As night came on, the enemy had drawn near the place; the darkened sky was lightened up at intervals with the glare of fires as red as blood; the guns were heard rolling fearfully. Moreover, it was winter, and the weather cold and stormy. The good people were in dread of being plundered, and still more of being turned out of house and home during the roughest season of the year.

Now the pious old grandmother had comfort and courage from her reliance upon God. She read to her children and grandchildren a prayer out of her old Prayer-book, in which occurred the words—"May God build a strong wall, and keep off the enemy from this dwelling!"

Now one of the grandchildren, who had listened devoutly, thought that it was too much to ask of God to build a wall, and they ought not to pray for a thing so impossible. But the grandmother said, "These words are not to be taken so literally. You would say, in plain language, 'May God defend us so securely from the enemy, as if our house were surrounded by a wall!' But if God were really willing to build a wall for our house, do you then think that it would be impossible with Him?"

Meanwhile the night passed away without a single soldier of the enemy reaching their house. All within wondered at it; but when they ventured to the door in the morning, behold! opposite the very spot where the enemy were placed, the snow had been drifted up by the wind as high as a wall, so that it was impossible for any one to come through it.

They all thanked and praised God. But the grandmother said, "See, God has indeed built up a wall, to keep off the enemy from our dwelling! He is wise and merciful, and at last supplies the means to deliver us from each necessity. We should, then, never be discouraged and fearful. I, at least, adhere to the saying,—

"He whose trust in God is sure
Builds on ground that is secure."

AN EVIDENCE OF SECURITY.

A crew of sailors who, to use their own phrase, did "not take any stock in missions to the cannibals," by some what rough experience changed their minds. Cruis-

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ing among one of the Pacific groups their vessel struck a reef and foundered. There was no alternative but to take to the boats and row ashore, although, according to their information, it was a choice between sharks and the natives. The part of the coast where they landed happening to be uninhabited, they hid themselves in a hollow until it became necessary to procure something to eat, even at the risk of being eaten themselves. At length one of the boldest ventured to climb to the top of a hill, where he could look over to the populous valley beyond. All at once his fear-stricken companions saw him spring to his feet and swing his hat, shouting: "Come on, boys, I see a church!"

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