

"Mother was singing about the kitchen as I came up the cellar stairs. I hoped to get out of the house without discussing the subject of unsound fruit, but in a twinkling of an eye she had seen and was upon me.

"Ned," said she, in her clear voice, 'what are you going to do with those specked apples?'

"Se—sell them," stammered I, ashamed in advance.

"Then you'll be a cheat, and I shall be ashamed to call you my son," she said promptly. 'O, to think you could dream of such a sneaking thing as that?' Then she cried and I cried, and—I've never been tempted to cheat since. No sir, I haven't anything to say in public about my early struggles, but I wish you'd remind your boys and girls every Sunday that their mothers are doing far more for them than they do for themselves. Tell them, too, to pray that those dear women may live long enough to enjoy some of the prosperity they have won for their children—for mine didn't."—*Youth's Companion*.

PEEVISHNESS.

EACH little trifle puts me out,
And without knowing why,
Instead of laughing at a joke,
I feel inclined to cry.

I feel so very, very cross,
With everyone to-day;
I do not care to do my work,
I do not want to play.

And yet, because I feel so dull,
It surely can't be right,
That I should hinder all the rest
From being glad and bright.

One day I heard our mother say,
"If you are feeling sad,
Then go and do some loving work
To make another glad."

I think I'll call the little ones
To have a game of play;
They wanted me an hour ago,
But then I turned away.

And though I don't feel much inclined,
My brothers will be glad;
And I may find in pleasing them
A cure for being sad.

—*Chi. Ps World*.

LET boys learn that success costs something; that they must determine, in spite of weariness and disappointment to persevere. Teach them to have nothing to do with idlers and spend-thrifts and fast fellows. It is *application* that pays, in the long run. "Catch is a good dog, but *Hold-fast* is a better."
—*A. J. Symington*.

"MY CONFIRMATION DAY."

In July, 1854 Frances Ridley Havergal was confirmed in Worcester Cathedral. Her confirmation was indeed a reality, and is a profitable study for all who are contemplating this act of public decision for God and His service. We give the following extract, found in one of her "Sealed Papers":—

"While the solemn question was being put by the Bishop, never I think did I feel my own weakness and utter helplessness so much. I hardly dared answer; but 'the Lord is my Strength' was graciously suggested to me, and then the words quickly came from (I trust) my very heart: 'Lord, I cannot without Thee, but oh, with Thy Almighty help—I do.'

"I thought a good deal of the words, 'Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling;' and that was my chief comfort. We were the first to go up, and I was the fourth or fifth on whom the Bishop laid his hands. At first, the thought came as to who was kneeling next to me: but then the next moment I felt alone, unconscious of my fellow-candidates, of the many eyes fixed upon us, and the many thoughts of and prayers for me, alone with God and His chief minister. My feelings when his hands were placed on my head (and there was a solemnity and earnestness in the very touch and manner) I cannot describe, they were too confused; but when the words, 'Defend, O Lord, this Thy child with Thy heavenly grace, that she may continue Thine for ever: and daily increase in Thy Holy Spirit more and more, until she come unto Thy everlasting kingdom,' were solemnly pronounced, if evermy heart followed a prayer, it did then; if ever it thrilled with earnest longing not unmixed with joy, it did at the words, 'Thine for ever.' But, as if in *no* feeling I might or could rest satisfied, there was still a longing—'Oh that I desired this yet more earnestly, that I believed it yet more fully!'

The paper was not finished, nor can any account of her first Communion be found. In her manuscript book of poems she wrote:—

"THINE FOR EVER,"

"Oh! 'Thine for ever:' what a blessed thing
To be for ever His who died for me!
My Saviour, all my life Thy praise I'll sing,
Nor cease my song throughout eternity."

In the Cathedral, July 17, 1854.

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