

beam of temperance in my building. Mother says that's a Gospel beam, and keeps the frame steady.

"Be courteous; there's a brick," said John.

"And don't swear; there's another."

"And don't speak against anybody, and don't say any dirty words," interrupted Jemmy.

"And we shall go on building as long as we live, mother says; every single day we add somewhat to our house.

The gentleman who owned the new building stood close beside the boys, hidden from sight by a high wall. He listened to their talk intently, and then he stepped around beside them and said—"Pretty good work, my boys, only build on a sure foundation."

The boys looked a little frightened, but he smiled so pleasantly upon them that they soon felt at ease, and listened while he said—

"Give your young hearts to God, my boys; He is the great Master-builder. He will teach you to build so that He will say, 'Well done.' 'Seek first the kingdom of God, and all things else shall be added unto you.'" Then he added—"I wish everybody would build as wisely as you plan, dear boys. May God help you to keep them ever!"

THE THREE SIEVES.

"Mamma!" cried little Blanche Philpott, "I heard such a tale about Edith Howard. I did not think she could be so very naughty. One —"

"My dear," interrupted Mrs. Philpott, "before you continue, we will see if your story will pass the three sieves."

"What does that mean, mamma," inquired Blanche.

"I will explain it. In the first place, is it true?"

"I suppose so; I got it from Miss White, and she is a great friend of Edith's."

"And does she show her friendship by telling tales of her? In the next place, though you can prove it to be true, is it kind?"

"I did not mean to be unkind, but I am afraid it was. I would not like Edith to speak of me as I have of her."

"And, is it necessary?"

"No, of course, mamma; there was no need for me to mention it at all."

"Then put a bridle on your tongue. If we can't speak well, speak not at all."