

THE LITTLE FOLK.

The Elephant and the Giraffe.

Said the elephant to the giraffe,
 "Your neck is too long by one-half."
 He replied, "Since your nose
 Reaches down to your toes,
 At others you'd better not laugh."

Bennie's Bill.

Bennie got the idea from his father, who was a business man. He often went down-town to his father's office, and noticed how the clerk made out bills. When his new idea struck him he was looking over a bill something like this:

| | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| To 1 writing desk..... | \$10 00 |
| To 3 bookshelves..... | 12 00 |
| To 1 revolving bookcase..... | 9 00 |
| To four chairs..... | 25 00 |

Total..... \$56 00

It was such a bright idea that flashed into Bennie's mind that he actually burst out into a loud laugh, causing the clerk to look up at him in surprise.

"What's so funny?" asked the clerk.

"Oh, it's a secret," replied Bennie, drawing himself up as if to hold the secret tightly in his bosom.

In the evening when he got home he went to the library with his brother, and they were busy writing for some time. It took them a good while to get the document into proper form, but at last it was done, and he folded it and carried it down stairs to his mother. On opening it she read the following with some surprise:

IN ACCOUNT WITH BENNIE TRAVERS.

Mrs. Mary S. Travers, Schooldale, O. May 15, 1895.

| | |
|--|--------|
| Dr. | |
| To going down town for groceries..... | \$0 10 |
| To sweeping kitchen..... | 65 |
| To raking yard..... | 25 |
| To dusting carpet..... | 30 |
| To running errands to Mr. Good's..... | 15 |
| To 3 three times going to papa's office..... | 45 |
| To 4 washing dishes..... | 40 |
| To sundries, etc..... | 1 00 |

Total.....\$2 70

Kindly remit.

When his mamma had read the bill she looked at Bennie with laughing eyes. "So you have presented your bill, have you?" she said. "Well, I can't settle it this evening, but to-morrow I will make it all right."

"That will do, mamma," answered the lad, "business men want prompt settlement, you know."

"Yes, Bennie, I know that is the only proper way to do business. Never let debts run on."

After breakfast next morning Bennie glanced at his mother with an expectant look. She took a slip of paper from her purse, and without saying a word, handed it to him. What did this mean? This was no money; it was only a piece of neatly folded paper. There was a lump in his throat. He hurried into the sitting room where he could be alone while he examined the paper. His face grew red as a cherry when he opened it and saw that it was not money, but another bill which ran as follows:

IN ACCOUNT WITH PAPA AND MAMMA.

Master Bennie Travers, Schooldale, O. May 16, 1895.

| | |
|---|--------|
| Dr. | |
| To board for 1 week, 21 meals..... | \$2 10 |
| To mending frock and stockings..... | 50 |
| To school books, slates, etc..... | 1 40 |
| To brushing hair seven mornings..... | 21 |
| To new hat and coat..... | 6 00 |
| To waiting on Bennie one night when sick..... | 50 |
| To doctor's bill for Bennie..... | 2 00 |
| To 1 concert ticket..... | 50 |
| To 1 supper at church..... | 25 |

Total.....\$13 21

By bill of May 15.....2 70

Balance due.....\$10 51

Kindly remit.

You should have seen Bennie's face after he had read this bill. Some tears welled up in his eyes and then stole down his hot cheeks. It was half an hour before he could trust himself to go out to the dining-room and speak to his mother; but when he did go, there was a new light in his bright blue eyes. "Mamma," he cried, "I can't pay this bill now. I—I—"

"Isn't 'prompt settlement' the motto of business men?" asked his mamma, smiling.

"Yes, it is; but they can't pay when they haven't anything to pay with. Mamma, I'm bankrupt," he broke out. "Ain't that what they call it when a man can't pay? I can never settle for

what I owe you; and—and the debt'll just keep on getting larger and larger all the time. What shall I do?" Bennie was almost sobbing.

"No, no, Bennie, dear," soothed his mamma; "you don't owe me anything. You are a kind obedient boy, and that settles the whole account."

"Well, then, you don't owe me anything, either. I'll receipt my bill if you'll receipt yours."

To this his mamma agreed heartily, and on each bill "Received payment in full," was written.

"Now we won't make out any more bills against each other, will we mamma?" suggested Bennie. "We don't want business ways in the family."

"That's right, Bennie. But here is a dollar all your own—"

"Oh, mamma, I can't take it if it's meant for pay."

"No, it is a gift of love."

"Then I'll take it. Thank you, mamma."

Three Followers.

The wise old Hassan sat in his door, when three young men pressed eagerly by.

"Are ye following after any one, my sons?" he said.

"I follow after Pleasure," said the oldest.

"And I after Riches," said the second. "Pleasure is only to be found with riches."

"And you, my little one?" he asked of the third.

"I follow after Duty," he modestly said.

And each went his way.

The aged Hassan, in his journey, came upon three men.

"My son," he said to the oldest, "methinks thou wert the youth who was following after Pleasure. Did'st thou overtake her?"

"No, father," answered the man. "Pleasure is but a phantom that flies as one approaches."

"Thou did'st not follow the right way, my son."

"How did'st thou fare?" he asked of the second.

"Pleasure is not with Riches," he answered.

"And thou?" continued Hassan, addressing the youngest.

"As I walked with Duty," he replied, "Pleasure walked ever by my side."

"It is always thus," said the old man. "Pleasure pursued is not overtaken. Only her shadow is caught by him who pursues. She herself goes hand in hand with Duty, and they who make Duty their companion, have also the companionship of Pleasure."

Two Boyish Warriors.

DAVID AND NAPOLEON DID MEMORABLE DEEDS IN THEIR YOUTH.

It was only a little shepherd boy, you will remember, who delivered the Israelites from the hands of the Philistines, and saved his nation in a time of serious peril. The youth David went out alone and almost empty handed, when all the warriors of the army were afraid, and he slew the great giant Goliath of Gath, whose height, the Bible tells us, was six cubits and a span. This boy was a born fighter, for, before he slew the giant, he had killed a bear and a lion, when they tried to steal his father's sheep.

But in later times, as well, there have been several young warriors who made great names for themselves, such, for instance, as Alexander, who won the battle of the Granicus at twenty-two years of age. The great Napoleon was a lieutenant of artillery before he was eighteen, and a young man when he commanded the armies of Italy. Think of it!—at the age when our West Point cadets are graduated, this young Corsican had held an important command in the French armies, winning victories and laying the foundation of the most famous military career the world has ever seen.

Make new friends, but keep the old:

Those are silver, these are gold.

New-made friendships, like new wine,

Age will mellow and refine.

Friendships that have stood the test—

Time and change—are surely best;

Brow may wrinkle, hair grow gray,

Friendship never knows decay.

Ease of manner must be gained early in life if it is to be genuine and not an affectation. Sensitive little ones readily become self-conscious and awkward if they are teased about their appearance and peculiarities. So we should be careful to avoid fixing their mind upon any defect and not criticize them too much. Gracefulness is largely a matter of confidence, and to make a child timid and fearful of giving offence in whatever he says or does is to place him at a disadvantage all his life.