

SWEAR NOT AT ALL.

"Confound this twine, I'll never get it untwisted, by Jove," exclaimed Frank Lorimer, in a fit of irritation.

His mother, who was in the room, looked up sadly from her book. Frank, after his first absence from home, had the day before returned from school for the holidays, and as she fondly trusted, without learning any of the bad habits which boys often acquire at school. She was therefore very much grieved to find her hope disappointed. Frank noticed her sorrowful look, and easily guessed the cause. He coloured deeply for he was conscious that it was not the first time he had vented his passion in such hasty words, too common alas among boys.

"I did not think my son would have so soon forgotten the fourth commandment," said Mrs. Lorimer, gently, after a pause "Why mother I'm sorry I spoke so before you, but that isn't swearing, is it? The boys at school all say 'confound it,' and other like words, and they'd laugh at you if you said it was any harm." "I am afraid boys too often use such expressions," said Mrs. Lorimer, but that doesn't make it right. "Such phrases, my dear boy, are imprecations, if they possess any meaning. They are only another form of a fearful curse which I would shudder to pronounce. And if you do not use them in that sense, surely it is worse than silly thus to give words to your irritation against inanimate objects."

"Well I don't think its any barm to say 'by Jove,' I'm sure we have it often enough in our Greek lessons," replied Frank. "Yes, but the Greeks had not the Bible to tell them what was right. Look at Matt. v. 34, and you will see what Christ says of such words. His command is to '*Swear not at all.*' You said Frank that you were sorry you spoke so before me. Did you ever think that you were always heard by a pure and holy Being in whose sight such language is far more offensive than in mine?"

Frank was silent and thought for some time. At length he said solemnly, "Well mother, I will try to avoid that sin." "And by God's grace you will succeed," said his mother, blessing him.

We present our readers with a Title-page and Index to the 2nd Volume as a cover to this number. Remittances will be acknowledged in next issue.