

2. What do you understand by a good character?
3. How is a good character built up?
4. How are good characters sometimes lost?

In response to the first one a nervous little fellow of twelve or thirteen replied: "It is better to lose a good name than a good character: if you lose your good character you are sure to lose your good name." One of the girls said: "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favors rather than silver or gold, but the character is superior to all." And another: "The world gives you a good name, but you give yourself a good character. The character is of more importance because it is what you are, not what you seemed to be."

In answer to the second I cull the following: "A person who has a good character is always doing all the good he can." "A good character is one you can always trust and depend upon, and when you are in trouble you can look to him for help." "A person has a good character who is innocent of any crime, and is a gentleman in appearance and at heart." This last afforded a chance for discussion. In answer to the third came: "We can build up character by daring to do right when all the people around you laugh and make fun of you." "By being a Christian, because if you are, you will have all the things needed for a good character." "By doing right, and helping others to do right." "By being good natured to every one—parents, playmates, and all." "By doing as you would be done by." "A good character is never formed at once but built up like a house from foundation to chimney. You must be upright, honest, cheerful, obedient, and remember the Golden Rule." "By having an ideal and trying to live up to it." In answer to the fourth: "Many good characters are lost by relying on other people." "By keeping bad company." "By getting discouraged." "By breaking your good resolutions."

Another set of questions was based on the old proverb, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Some of the thoughts culled are: "People do not generally this saying true, because many give expecting something better in return." "Because it is easier to receive than it is to give, many try to think it better to do so." "Most people want their money's worth in return for what they give." "Judging from the many benevolent institutions in the city, I should think most people preferred to give." "If you are poor and cannot afford to give presents you can help an old lady across the street, and carry her heavy basket for her even if she is not the same colour as yourself; or after school at night you can chop her kindlings, or shovel her path clear of snow, and sprinkle ashes so she will not slip and hurt herself."

"If you keeping receiving favors and never giving them you may not get anything after a while, and they will not keep up their friendly relations with you." "People who are always receiving and never giving become unhappy, selfish, and very disagreeable in more ways than one."—M. R. O.—*School Journal*.

#### The Colors of Water.

"Is it not true, gran-lpa, that water has no color?"

"Yes, dear child, it is blue, but so little that you cannot see it."

"Can you see that it is blue?"

"No; but still it is blue. Look at this."

I took a little ultramarine on the end of the brush and mixed it with the water. "Does it look blue now?"

"No; I see nothing."

"Nor I. But you saw how I put a little blue color in it with the brush."

"Yes, but there was not enough of it. Put more in."

I silently took the glass and set it on a piece of white waper in the bright sunshine. "Now, look from above down into it."

"It is blue!" said the little one, clapping her hands, "but only a very little."

"Look at it from the other side, where the sun is shining into it. Is it not a little bit red, like the bell-flowers which you picked up yesterday?"

"That is wonderful," said the little one. "It is blue from above, a little bit red in the sun, and when we look at it from this side of the room we see nothing!"

"Think about it a little. The glass is as broad as my finger is long. But it is at least three times as high as my finger. When you look at it from the side, you see only a finger's length of water; but when you look down into it, you see through three fingers' length of water—three times as much. You see it blue from the side, and three times as blue from above, don't you?"

"Is that really true?" said the little one, as she measured with her finger. She nodded that she was satisfied.

"Now, imagine that the water is as deep as the height of the church-steeple, and deeper—that it reaches from here up into Salvan and down to Vernayaz. Then we would see the water from above it all blue."

"Is the lake, then, really so deep?"

"Yes, and deeper."

I will not continue the conversation any longer. It went on with various simple experiments, beginning with differently colored stones, which I let drop into the water, and then placed on the white, then with setting the glass with its weakly bluish contents on differently colored papers, and ended with my trying to make the children perceive how the colors changed when they were seen through the whole depth of the glass. I will not say that the little ones were brought to a full comprehension of the matter; but they stuck fast to the assertion that water is blue, of an infinitely weak blue, and that the blue color can not be seen till one looks into a certain depth of it.—*Carl Vogt, in the Popular Science Monthly for June.*