

SUNBEAM

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TRYING THE ICE.

These two little girls and their brother have come out to see if the pond will bear.

There, all across the field, you can see their tracks right up to the fence, which they managed to get over, until they reached the ice. And now the little brother is cautiously trying if the ice will bear his weight, and if it is not strong enough his sisters, no doubt, will hold him tight enough to prevent an accident.

JENNIE'S FUNNY SCRAPES.

Jennie Stanton liked hunting for hen's nests in all the nooks and crannies within climbing distance. One particular quest of hers ended in a ludicrous plight.

In her father's barn was a trap-door; beneath the barn was the stable, and under the trap-door the cow was tied.

Our little girl was skipping along, never noticing the door had been left up, when down she fell, right on the cow's neck! The cow jumped and kicked, and Jennie screamed, but held on to the bossie's horns, until her mother ran and took her away, a very frightened little girl.

She was not hurt, but was very careful after that when she went into the barn.

Last summer she was visiting on a farm, where there were nine little pigs. They had a large lot to run in, but by some way crawled through the wall and went into the swamp. Jennie,

with a friend, went out for barberries. They were picking busily when all at once those nine pigs started up from the nest of leaves where they had been asleep.

she found herself stretched on the ground. She had fallen over a stump, her barberries were scattered, and the pigs making the air ring with their retreating cries. She saw them all running away, and then it was time to laugh at how the pigs frightened her.



TRYING THE ICE.

One squealed, and the others joined in the chorus. Jennie added her voice and tried to run, but she was too frightened to realize the cause of the sudden noise; when lo!

anything wrong or mean, just to gain a few pence or a few shillings, burdens himself with a sin that is worse than all the gain.

UNLAWFUL POSSESSION.

A boy came to the door of a lady's house, and asked if she did not wish for some blackberries, for he had been out all day gathering them.

"Yes," said the lady, "I will take them." So she took the basket and stepped into the house, the boy remaining outside, whistling to some canary birds hanging in their cages on the porch.

"Why don't you come in and see that I measure your berries right?" said the lady, "how do you know but I may cheat you?"

"I am not afraid," said the boy, "for you would get the worst of it."

"Get the worst of it?" said the lady; "what do you mean by that?"

"Why, ma'am," said the boy, "I should only lose my berries, and you would make yourself a thief. Don't you think you would be getting the worst of it?"

The boy was right.

He who steals, or does