

CHILDREN AND FORBID THEM NOT TO COME

PEACE ON EARTH

GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN

SUPPER · LITTLE

UNT · ME ·

CANADA

SUNDAY SCHOOL

ADVOCATE

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PASSING BAD MONEY.

BY THE CORPORAL.

ANNIE SHAM was one day presented with a bad quarter of a dollar—it was before the days of paper currency. She showed it to her mother, who, seeing its baseness, said:

“It will do for a plaything, Annie; but be sure you never attempt to pass it.”

“O no, I should never think of such a thing,” replied Annie, who, by the way, was a Sunday-scholar, and appeared to be quite studious and serious.

Perhaps Annie meant what she said at the time. If so she did not know what was in her heart; for not many days after she happened to notice that the fishwoman who kept a stall near her home took many pieces of silver without appearing to notice them much. Then her heart said:

“If I was to put my bad quarter into her dirty hands she wouldn’t know it from a good one. Guess

I’ll try it the next time mother sends me to buy fish.”

Now if Annie had been a disciple of Jesus she would have driven that wicked thought out of her heart with the whip of earnest prayer. Instead of that she gave it a home and let it build a nest in her breast, until it made her feel impatient for a chance to cheat the poor fishwoman.

That chance was given her in a few days when she was sent by her mother with a nice bright “quarter” to buy some fish for dinner. This she hid in her pocket, and with a bold face she handed the bad one to the woman. The dealer saw it was bad in an instant, and throwing it on her table angrily said, “That’s counterfeit!”

“Yes, that’s a counterfeit clearly,” added a gentleman who stood by, and who knew both Annie and her mother; “but give the girl the fish, her mother will want it. I will lend her a good quarter.”

Guilty Annie stood trembling and overcome with shame while her mother’s friend was paying for the

fish and restoring the bad quarter to her hands. She was too much confused to take the good money from her pocket, or to offer a word of explanation. Blushing and silent, she held down her head and walked home.

Some of her Sunday-schoolmates had been witnesses of her shame, and had run ahead to tell her mother that she was in trouble about offering bad money. The good woman understood it all, and was pained beyond my power to describe. She felt that her daughter had been guilty of a great sin.

Annie’s self-conceit was crushed by this affair. She now saw that she was a sham. Her mother saw it. Her companions saw it too. What was a still more serious matter, Jesus saw it also. In truth, he had seen it before, for who can hide herself from his searching eye?

Now let me tell you of a boy named George, who had a bad quarter given him for a pocket piece. One day he went into a store which was tended by a boy who looked very much like a greenhorn.