

PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK

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THE SISTERS.

THIS is a pretty picture in itself, is it not? But it is still more pretty in that which it suggests—the love of two sisters for each other. For I think it must be that these two girls are very fond of each other. Their love for one another makes them happy, more happy than they could be alone.

It is very delightful when children are happy together. It is very sad when a family, where peace and love ought to reign, is made unhappy by quarrels and unkindness.

Awhile ago I spent a Sabbath at a friend's house where there was quite a family of children. What pleased me very much was that during all the time that I was there I did not hear any cross tones or any disputes between these brothers and sisters. They enjoyed each other's company, but there was not the suspicion of a quarrel. Perhaps you say there ought not to have been anything like disputing on Sunday anyway. That is true enough. The Sabbath ought to be a day of peace. But I judged from the manner of these children towards each other that they were never quarrelsome.

That is as it should be in families. There is no reason in the world why brothers and sisters should not live together in harmony and peace. But sometimes we do not find this to be the case. In some homes there seems to be nothing but contention from morning to night. There is perpetual quarrelling. John will not let Jane look at his new geography, and so Jane tries to snatch the book. It is as likely as not that the book will be torn before they are through. That is no way for a brother and sister to act towards each other. By-and-bye John wants some stitching done on the sails of a boat he is making. But he was disobliging about his geography, and so Jane retaliates by refusing to do anything to "his old sails." Of course both are unhappy.

Having our own way and being disobliging does not make us happy. Any boy or girl guilty of such conduct feels at heart the wrongfulness of it. When we know in our conscience that we are wrong we cannot be happy.

Now the way to correct this evil when it exists in any family is for each one to firmly resolve to do all that he can to keep the peace. It

In the same way, Jane, if John teases you—and you know that boys are, as you girls say, "horrid teases"—the best way for you is not to mind it. Take the teasing good-naturedly. There is nothing that makes teasing fall so flat as to find that it don't tease. No boy will care to keep it up when he finds that you don't mind him. He will vote you "real jolly"

rate, you will be far more happy than if you yielded to the impulse to quarrel. Perhaps your example will work through the whole family, just as leaven works through the dough when bread is being made. The experiment is worth trying.

And that you may not fail, you need the strength that God only can give. Ask him for that strength every day; yes, ask him for it whenever the temptation comes to be disobliging or quarrelsome or unloving.

SOLD HIMSELF.

A CORRECTIONVILLE farmer sold a load of corn in that town one day. When it was weighed he slyly stepped on the scales, and then drove off to unload. When the empty waggon was weighed he took good care not to be in it, and congratulated himself that he had cheated the buyer in good shape. The grain-dealer called him in, and after figuring up the load paid him in full.

As the farmer buttoned up his coat to go out, the buyer kindly asked him to smoke with him, and then talked over the crops and the price of hogs, and the likelihood of the Maple Valley railroad building up that way, until the farmer fairly squirmed in his chair with uneasiness about his chores at home. At last he could stand it no longer, and said he must go. The dealer quietly said that it was not to be thought of, that he had bought the farmer at full weight, and paid him his own price, and that he would insist on doing as he pleased with his own property. The raiser of corn

saw that he had indeed sold himself, in one sense at least. He acknowledged his cheat and compromised the affair.

A good many boys sell themselves at a still cheaper rate. The boy who lies, cheats, swears, or steals, sells himself to sin and Satan; and though he may not get his pay, the buyer is likely to hold on to his purchase.



THE SISTERS.

always takes two persons to quarrel. So, John, you can make up your mind that no matter how disobliging Jane may be inclined to be, you will not retaliate by being ugly in return. You may be sure that when she comes to think of it she will be uncomfortable over it, and she will be all the more uncomfortable if you are not cross and resentful because of her conduct.

and let you alone. So you see, boys and girls, that you have this matter in your own hands. So far as each one of you is concerned yours may be a happy and harmonious family. You can be kind and loving towards the others, no matter how they may be towards you. If you are found to be thus kind it will help to make the others kind too. At any