

SUNBEAM

Vol. XXVII.

TORONTO, JUNE 9, 1906.

No. 12.

THE RIGHT THING.

To be able to keep our mind about us in times of calamity, and in acting do the thing that is best to be done, often proves of untold worth. Not many years ago a fire broke out in a village of Switzerland, and in a few hours the quaint little houses were entirely destroyed. Among the poor peasants who were weeping and wringing their hands at their loss was one man seemingly in deeper trouble than the rest. Not only were his home and cows gone, but so also was his son, a bright boy of six or seven years. He wept and refused to hear any words of comfort. He spent the night wandering sorrowfully among the ruins, while his acquaintances had taken refuge in the neighboring villages. Just as daylight came, however, he heard a well-known sound, and looking up, he saw his favorite cow leading the herd, and coming directly after them was his bright-eyed little son.

"O my son! my son!" he cried. "Are you really alive?"

"Why, yes, father. When I saw the fire I ran to get our cows away to the pasture lands."

"You are a hero, my boy!" the father exclaimed.

But the little boy said: "Oh, no. A hero is one who does some wonderful deed.

I led the cows away because they were in danger, and I knew it was the right thing to do."

"Ah," cried the father, "he who does the right thing at the right time is a hero."

He that deviseth to do evil shall be called a mischievous person.



A SUMMER SONG.

A SUMMER SONG.

Come, dear children, one and all,
Here the birds are singing,
Here the sound of summer joy
Through the air is ringing!
Butterflies on wings of gold
Kiss the fragrant flowers;
Bees go humming gaily by,
All the sunny hours.

AN UNHAPPY FAMILY.

One day Puss found the door of Jimmy Wren's room open. (You see it wasn't Jenny Wren this time.) Puss liked to get into that room! She was almost sure of finding something for her supper. For Jimmy was very fond of pets. Birds and squirrels and ground-mice and bugs and beetles, all were to be found in his room at some time. Just now Jimmy was training a whole family of black-and-white rats and mice.

Careless boy, to leave the door open! He forgot that mamma said the next time Puss caught any of his pets she would have to say that he could not tame any more in the house. She said this to make Jimmy more careful.

Well, Puss walked in at the open door, and then there was trouble.

The happy family felt very unhappy right away, and so did Jimmy, for he remembered too late what his mother had said.

"I shouldn't think you'd care so much about rats!" said Jimmy.

"Perhaps not," said mamma, very reluctantly; "but I do care about my learning to look after his pets."