

HE'S SO OBLIGING.

"I CAN'T make it out how it is that Jim Johnson always gets such good places," said Harry Smith, the carpenter's son, to another boy, as they were returning home one afternoon.

And Harry was not the only one who thought thus, for "Jim's luck" was the talk of the neighborhood. Jim was certainly no pattern of cleverness, of beauty, or strength; he could not do more than others, nor could he do it so well as many, but, for all that, it was quite true he always had good places, good wages, and a good character.

When he left one employer to go to another, it was generally said, "I would not part with him, if I could help it; he is a good boy, and so obliging."

This was the secret of his good luck—he was "so obliging." Did the merchant or the wagoner want an errand boy, or did any one want a job done at a moment's notice, it was only to get a sight of Jim, and it was as good as done; for Jim would hurry through his own business in order to help.

When he was at home he kept the woodbox full of wood, and his mother never had to ask him to bring a bucket of water, and many other little things did he do in a cheerful manner, so that he was a great favorite. And if he saw younger boys in trouble, he would try to help them out; and he put on his shoes, after having taken them off one pouring, rainy night, to walk two miles to the town for a parcel containing a new gown the carrier had neglected to bring the kitchen girl, who was crying her eyes out because she could not have it to wear next morning at her sister's wedding. But it was not so much what Jim did, as how he did it, that was so agreeable.—*American Agriculturist.*

TEMPTATION.

A STORY is told of a man who once asked an Eastern king if he could tell him how to avoid temptation.

The king told the man to take a vessel brimful of oil, and carry it through the streets of the city without spilling one drop.

"If one drop is spilt," said the king, "your head shall be cut off." And he ordered two executioners, with drawn swords, to walk behind the man, and to carry out his orders.

There happened to be a fair going on in the town, and the streets were crowded

with people. However, the man was very careful, and he returned to the king without having spilled one drop of the oil. Then the king asked:

"Did you see any one whilst you were walking through the streets?"

"No," said the man; "I was thinking only of the oil; I noticed nothing else."

"Then," said the king, "you notice how to avoid temptation. Fix your mind as firmly on God as you fixed it on the vessel of oil. You will not then be tempted to sin."

LOST.

"LOST! in a game of play, a little girl's temper." Other sad losses are involved. Her mother's pride in her little girl is lost. Her companions have lost all their pleasure in the game. The little girl herself has lost all the bright smiles which made her face so pretty. And she has also lost the society, the affection, and the good opinion of her companions. All these things were wrapped up and lost with the little girl's temper. No one can find the lost temper but herself. The place to look for it is called "Repentance," and the door into that place is called "Shame," and that door is only open to her.

Strange that she will not enter the door, which conscience points out so plainly, and seek for her lost treasure, seeing how easily she could find it, and how unhappy and uncomfortable the loss of it is making herself and all around her!

And not only can she find it if she chooses to seek, but a rich reward is offered her for its recovery.

The reward is—an approving conscience, a happy mind, her mother's pride, her companions' affection and society, the true beauty of a pleasant, smiling face, and a light heart cleared from the heavy weight of her sad loss.

What a silly little girl she must be! First, willingly to lose so valuable a thing. And, next, willingly to delay even a moment before setting about finding it again.—*Great Thoughts.*

A VALE RECORD.

A CAREFUL record kept at Yale for eight years shows that non-smokers are twenty per cent. taller, twenty-five per cent. heavier, and have sixty per cent. more lung capacity than smokers. A recent graduating class at Amherst presented a

similar difference in favor of non-smokers, who had gained in weight twenty-four per cent. over the smokers, and in height thirty-seven per cent., and also exceeded them in lung capacity.—*Selected.*

A LESSON STORY.

EVA and May carried their sewing to mamma to look at.

"Your stitches are very nice and even, May," said mamma; "but Eva's are crooked and bad. Did you look at the pattern, Eva?"

"Yes, mamma, I looked at it two or three times."

"How many times did you look at it, May?" asked mamma.

"I just kept looking at it all the time," said May.

So we must all keep on looking at Jesus if we want to be like Him.—*Selected.*

There is but one failure, and that is, not to be true to the best one knows.—*Canon Farrar.*

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