

FEAR OF THE DARK.

ALTHOUGH it is so very dark,
And I am all alone,
Mamma down-stairs, and nurse away,
And no one here to talk or play—
Yet God, I know, to thee the night
Is bright and shining as the light.

And I have promised dear mamma
I will not cry or shout,
But I would try to bear in mind
All we have talked about—
How that to God the darkest night
Is bright and shining as the light.

And so I will not be afraid,
Or start at every noise that's made;
But I will shut my eyes and sleep,
Quite sure thou wilt me safely keep,
Because, O God, to thee the night
Is bright and shining as the light.

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FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER

In a school a big boy was so abusive to the little ones that the teacher took the vote of the school whether he should be expelled. All the small boys voted to expel him except one, who was scarcely five years old; yet he knew very well that the bad boy would probably continue to abuse him.

"Why, then, did you vote for him to stay?" asked the teacher.

"Because said he, 'if he is expelled, perhaps he will not learn any more about God, and so he will be more wicked still.'"

"Do you forgive him, then?"

"Yes. Papa, mamma, you, and God forgive me when I do wrong, and I must do the same."



IN A BAD FIX.

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WHEN Hugh McRae, "just for the fun of the thing," as he said, tied the dogs together, they seemed to enjoy it as much as did their young master. Swift, the greyhound, was especially delighted because it was bound to be a fair race between himself and Pluto, the Newfoundland. Now everybody could see that he was Pluto's superior—in the matter of speed. But when the old black dog grew tired of the sport, and concluded to take a swim in the river, Swift was not slow to express his preference for dry land. Pluto had become master of the situation. In spite of his piteous whinings, Swift was dragged to the brink of the stream. Now came the tug of war, and as Pluto whisked his howling victim into the water and struck out for the other shore, Swift's dog days would have been numbered if Hugh had not rushed up and called Pluto back. So it frequently happens that sinners glory in their evil associations. They boast of their achievements in wickedness, and of their ability to take care of themselves. The real situation is expressed in the picture. Study it.

THE LION AND THE LAMB.

MERCY and Ellen Lawrence were out in the lot one summer afternoon, and, getting tired of playing housekeeping, concluded to "play Hagar and Ishmael."

"We'll put the dollies under the bushes, and make believe dig for water, said Mercy; and forthwith they began with great energy to dig in the sand.

Just then two larger girls came romping by, and spying the dollies they snatched them up and began to run.

"Put 'em down! put 'em down! they're our dollies!" cried little Ellen angrily, and scrambling to her feet to run after the girls.

But Mercy kept still. "Don't, sister, don't let the lion get up; let the lamb count," she said gently.

What do you think she meant by the lion and the lamb? Ellen knew very well. The lion was the angry temper, and the lamb was the meek, quiet spirit. Ellen was very apt to get angry. Her face would flush and her eyes sparkle and the words would come very quickly when things went crosswise. But she was trying to overcome. Mamma taught her to pass every day that the dear Lamb of God would come and live in her heart and keep her still and quiet. Mercy who was older than Ellen and more gentle, did all she could to help her little sister. It was a hard trial when these two big girls rudely snatched away their dollies.

"Let's not move," said Mercy; "they only want to tease us. If they see we are not teased they'll soon bring back our dollies they won't steal them, of course."

And it was just so. Annie and Hagar when they found the little girls didn't mind a fuss, brought back the dolls and put them down where they had found them.

"Thank you," said Mercy. But Ellen could not speak. She said afterwards she was afraid there was "a little bit of lion left in her heart, and she was afraid of him."

"PLEASE, GOD, FORGIVE ME"

BERTIE and Susie, two little four-year-old girls, were playing on the grass together when Susie said something naughty. She right away looked upward and said, "Please God, forgive me."

"What makes you do that?" asked Bertie.

"When we do wrong," said Susie, "we ought at once to ask the Lord to forgive us."

I am glad Susie learned that lesson when she was a very little girl. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."