

the wise animal would creep out by some other way, if he were not already killed by the force of the fall.

#### How Quarrels Begin.

Two little girls one day sat reading the same book. They were both sitting on one chair, and appeared to be much interested in what they were reading. It was the story of England's conquest by the Norman duke, William, that so took their fancy. They read how he came over with a large army and fought the English near Hastings; and how poor Harold, the English king, was killed by an arrow, which, entering his eye, pierced his brain.

Presently the door of the room in which they sat was opened, and a gentleman entered hastily.

"Papa," said one of the little girls, looking up from her book, "is it not strange that Christian princes should ever make war upon each other?"

Papa was generally ready enough "to point a moral," but on the present occasion he seemed to be looking for something which he could not find, and went out of the room as quickly as he came in, without answering his little daughter's question.

A short time afterwards, these little girls were playing with their dolls at "ladies coming to see one another," and very happy they were. But at length the spirit of envy took possession of the one who called herself Mrs. Chambers. She thought the bonnet of Mrs. Montague's doll prettier than that of her own, and asked her to change.

"Not likely," said Mrs. Montague (that was what the other little girl called herself). "I made it only last night, and I think it much prettier than yours."

There was an end now of all their pleasure. Annie would not play unless her sister yielded to her wishes, while Ellen was filled with anger at the bare idea. So they said all manner of unkind and cruel things to each other, and at last Annie made a snatch at the envied bonnet. Thereupon a scuffle ensued, during which the two dolls fell to the ground, and suffered grievous harm. This enraged them to such a degree that they lost all control over their tempers, and so far forgot themselves as to strike one another.

They were engaged in this odious act when papa came into the room. They at once stood still with shame. Papa looked at them sorrowfully. At last he said, "Are these the little girls who, but a few days ago, thought it strange that Christian princes should make war upon each other?"

They were both thoroughly ashamed, and, looking back to discover the cause of their quarrel, saw how the desire of possessing what belongs to another, if not curbed, leads to strife, injustice,

and even to the most fearful outrages. And Annie promised her papa that she would henceforward try to be contented with that which was her own.

#### The Traitor.

In our recent war in Afghanistan, as General Roberts was conducting a night-march, intending to attack the enemy before day-break, some English and native regiments were rounding a steep hill under cover of which they hoped their advance might be unnoticed. Secrecy was the great matter. Suddenly a Sepoy started from the British ranks and fired! This was of course to alarm the enemy, with whom were all his sympathies, though he wore the uniform and had received the pay of our Queen.

This man was a traitor, for he was false to his profession, and false to the cause he pretended to serve. He was a hypocrite, for he wore a dress that outwardly declared him to be one thing, while in heart he was another. Was he loyal to our Queen? No; he was watching for an opportunity of weakening her power and overturning her rule.

Dear children, let us beware of calling ourselves Christians until we know the love of Christ in our hearts. We may say and do a great deal that is right; but are we born again? are our souls saved?—that is the all-important question. Wicked Herod heard John the Baptist, and "did many things;" but was he converted to God? Ah, no. We must be under shelter of the blood as the Israelites of old were when the destroying angel passed through the land of Egypt, having our sure trust in Jesus; or be sham Christians only, and not true to Him in heart.

—Do your best loyally and cheerfully, and suffer yourself to feel no anxiety or fear. Your times are in God's hands. He has assigned you your place; He will direct your paths; He will accept your efforts if they be faithful; He will bless your aims if they be for your soul's good.—Frederic W. Farrar.



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