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## DON'T, KATIE!

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Two sisters, strolling in the woods one summer's day, came to the bank of a pond on which the beautiful water-lilies floated like charming dryads, tempting all beholders to pluck them and enjoy their sweet perfume.

"How lovely!" exclaimed the elder girl. "I will hold on to this tree and try to reach one."

"Don't, Katie!" pleaded the younger girl, "the water is very deep, and if you should fall in you would be drowned. Don't, Katie!"

But Katie was self-willed—I wonder if the reader is? Pushing her sister aside with a "Hush, Mary!" she reached over after a tempting lily which was floating, as it seemed, within her grasp. It was, however, farther off than it seemed, and as she strained herself to reach it, her foot slipped, she lost her hold upon the tree, and fell headlong into the water with a fearful splash.

A piercing scream from Mary waked a thousand echoes in the forest, and reached the ears of some charcoal burners whose cabin was not far from the pond. Guided by the voice, they rushed to the pond. One of them plunged in, and soon drew the insensible form of Katie from the slimy water. They bore her as speedily as possible to the nearest cottage, where, in due time, she was restored to consciousness and



WATER-LILIES.

life. It was a very narrow escape from death for our beautiful but self-willed Katie.

I think, as I recall this incident from the realms of memory, that there are, perhaps,

many Katies among the members of my beloved SUNBEAM family—sweet misses in appearance, with tempers soured by self-will. Am I harsh in this judgment? If I am, pronounce me guilty, and drum me out of your SUNBEAM columns. But if my opinion agrees with the facts, and it is true that multitudes of my readers do love to have their own way as dearly as they love bright ribbons or shining silks, then let them be warned, by Katie's ducking in the lily-pond, that self-will is sometimes a very dangerous power in the soul of a young girl. It is so, because it is blind and reckless both of its own duties and the rights of others. It sees but one thing, namely, the object it covets, and rushes straight toward it in spite of dangers and cautions. No wonder self-willed girls—aye, and boys too—get hurt and sometimes so badly that their peace and happiness are ruined forever. Girls and boys, permit an old man to teach you:

1. That when you desire to do or obtain anything, your first question should be, Is it right?

2. If conscience replies, It is right, then ask if it is right under present circumstances. You see that it was right in itself for Katie to pull a lily out of the water, but the circumstance of its being out of her reach and in deep water made it wrong for her to do it