

CHILDRENS DEPARTMENT.

A DIALOGUE.

" See brother ! there's cousin Henry coming across the road. He is surely coming to visit us."

George. I believe he is, and I'm glad of it ; I have so many questions to ask him about our new Magazines.

Henry. Good morning, Elizabeth ; good morning, George. I've been out skating, and stopped to see if you had any thing new to show me, or to tell.

G. Nothing new but what you know as well as we. There's the little Magazine, you know—

H. Oh ! yes, I know all about that !

Elizabeth. Well don't you like it, cousin ? One would think it were not worth much, by your way of speaking.

H. Why it's well enough, I suppose : but when you've once read it through, of what consequence is it ?

G. Of what consequence is it, Henry ! why, what do you read it for ?

H. Oh, to pass the time, to be sure, and to find something that's pretty and interesting ; and really I do think it was hard work to do that in the " Children's Magazine."

E. How you talk, Henry ? George and I were very much pleased with ours. We are just talking of it as you came in, and thought you would be pleased to tell us how much of it you'd read, and what parts you like best.

G. Yes I'm sure we've thought and talked a great deal about it. We like almost every thing in it very much.

H. It's all very good, I own ; but after all it's very dull.

E. How different your liking is from ours ! I thought I should never be tired of reading such pretty dialogues and stories, and such good advice given in such a clever way.

H. Aye, that good advice is the very thing I don't like, I have advice enough at home, I'm sure, without having to go to my books for more.

E. Oh, Henry, you talk foolishly ! I do believe you did not mind the rules that that good gentleman gave his children about reading the Magazine.

H. Not I, indeed. I was in too great a hurry to see what was in the rest of the book ; and then, when I had got through, I was too tired of it to go back to those old rules.

G. Cousin Henry, I don't wonder that you are not so pleased with your book as we have been. You did not read it for the sake of profiting by it.

H. Why should I ! what profit do I need ?

G. Why for my part, I think what you have been saying now, is a proof that you need to profit much. And I do think that the very book itself might have taught you better. You seem to me just like Mr. E., who thought he could begin the year so well, and found out that he could do nothing in his own strength. You think you are good enough, and despise the teaching of the little Magazine : but dear cousin, if you were as good as you ought to be, you would not despise anything that offered to help you to be better.

H. Why, George, are you turning minister ? You will make a pretty figure ; a minister eleven years old ! Ha ! ha !

E. Oh, dear Henry, do not laugh at George ! I am sure what he says is right. You know it is, in your own heart, if you would only say so.

H. Well suppose it is ! I might be better than I am, I know, and so might you. But is there not time enough ? Why should we be thinking of these things now ! I had rather skate I'm sure.

G. If you had attended to your Magazine, Henry, you would not say so. Don't you remember the beautiful answer of the young prince, when somebody talked in that way to him ? He knew, from the little graves, that he might die, young as he was ; and then what would become of his immortal soul ?

E. Yes, and in another place, too, the teacher told the boy that "time is given us to make ready for eternity ;" and that we must be busy now, if we want to be ready when death comes. I know what that means, Henry, and I'm sure its true. I was thinking about this the other night, when I woke up in the middle of the night, and it came into my mind, how I would feel if the great trumpet should sound just then ; and I felt very, very sorry that I had used the time that God give me so badly. You would not like to die when you were out skating ; would you Henry.

H. No, indeed ; that I should not. But then that does not make it wrong to skate, does it ? Father says I may, when I've come from school and got my task.

G. Oh, yes ! I'm sure I love to skate, and I do not think it's wrong at all. But then you said you'd rather skate than think about religion !

H. Oh, I was wrong, then, I own. But there's a time for both, isn't there ? must we be moping about religion all the time ?

G. Not moping about it, cousin ; or else I don't