

THE GOOD EARL.

Few know of the unhappy childhood of the good Lord Shaftesbury, and the teaching of his faithful old nurse, of whom he came to speak as "the best friend he ever had in the world." His home was such as to discourage true piety. His father was an able man, but engrossed in public life; his mother, a daughter of the fourth Duke of Marlborough, was a fascinating woman, and attached, after a certain manner, to her children, but too much occupied with fashion and pleasure to be very mindful of religious training.

But there was in the household a simple-hearted, loving, Christian woman named Maria Mills, who had been maid to young Ashley's mother when at Blenheim. She loved this gentle, serious, little boy, and was wont to take him on her knee and tell him stories from the Scriptures. Throughout his life, it seems to us, can be traced the effects of these teachings, which, growing with his strength, ripened into a firm and intelligent but a childlike faith. She taught him the first prayer he ever uttered, and which even in old age he repeated.

When seven years of age a great trial befel him in being sent to one of those schools for children of the wealthier classes which at the beginning of the present century were, in Mr. Hodder's expressive words, "hot-beds of every kind of evil and mischief." Here young Ashley lived in a state of constant terror from the cruelty of the elder boys, and suffered misery for years. Even in old age he would say, "The memory of that place makes me shudder; it is repulsive to me even now." The terrible trials he there endured caused him to sympathize with suffering in every form so keenly throughout his life, and to express his sympathy so practically.

He had not been long at school before the death occurred of his old nurse. To the poor, little, lonely, friendless lad, the loss was severe indeed; and now, without a friend in the world to whom he could turn for comfort, the sensitive little heart, believing implicitly what his one friend had taught him, turned to the Bible she had loved, and spread out his sorrows before his heavenly Father, whom she had taught him to regard as full of pity and tenderness.

To the last Lord Shaftesbury wore his old friend's watch, a handsome gold one, which she had bequeathed to him, and he was fond of showing it, and would say, "That was given to me by the best friend I ever had in the world."

WORTH REMEMBERING.—Mrs. T. Doan, of Harrietsville, Ont., was for a long time troubled with neuralgia of the stomach. Failing to find benefit from physicians, she tried Burdock Blood Bitters, from which she found speedy relief, to which she testifies, hoping it may prove beneficial to others. Many physicians recommend B.B.B.

THE ART OF CONVERSATION.

Among many admirable suggestions given by Annie H. Ryder in her recent book, entitled "Hold Up Your Heads, Girls!" we find the following, in a chapter on conversation:—

"Conversation does not demand

that we should always be vivacious, sparkling, witty, fanciful, or even that we should use beautiful language; but good talk does ask for heart and interest. Put your heart into what you have to say; put your interest into it, and your conscience will be awakened, your zeal will be aroused; then you will compel attention, and set others thinking also. These things being true, it seems to me that character is the first requirement in the art of conversation. I take it for granted that every girl can, with perseverance, acquire a fluent use of words; for this depends mainly on practice; so I shall try to indicate those qualities which lie back of the words, and which give life to them. Even the nature of a talk will have its source in character, and to character it will return. Whatever chance or circumstance brings about a conversation, it will generally lead to such expressions of ideas as will show the dispositions of the conversers. Just here, girls, let me remark, that, if by any slang or catch words you thoughtlessly express yourselves, the danger is, your character will be misunderstood, and your pure hearts, but merry minds, will be censured for what is not in them. Depend upon it, your own personality will be inferred from what you say; hence the value of utter sincerity in what you talk. Naturally, we are led to think about courtesy and good manners as requirements in the art of talking. Have you not met certain men and women who, when they opened their mouths to speak to you, conferred a favor on you? and when they spoke, have you not felt the benediction descending on your heads? I have. They were not always scholars, nor were they great people, nor rich people, but mannered people."

WEATHER PROBABILITIES.—It is probable that in the breaking up of winter we shall have much damp sloppy weather, when rheumatism, neuralgia, sore throat and other painful complaints will prevail. Hagyard's Yellow Oil is the popular household remedy for external and internal use. Its curative power is truly wonderful.

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