

Family Reading.

HONOUR AND HONESTY.*

* From "NORFON HARGRAVE and other sketches," a very entertaining and interesting volume published by the S. S. Union. "Have I not done well?" cried Charles Mordant in an exulting tone to his uncle, as he entered that gentleman's library, and had shaken hands with him. "In what respect?" asked Mr. Mordant. "I have ridden nearly six miles to call upon you without its having cost me a single penny for tolls," replied Charles. "And how comes that?" said Mr. Mordant. "It always costs me fourpence, if not sixpence."

beautiful ribbons, coloured pocket-handkerchiefs, a new-fashioned hat, or the like. In itself this was well enough, since children really ought to have some regard to appearance. But too much fondness for one's self and one's looks, ends in vanity and displaces whilst we desire to please. Such was the case here. Ernestine used every effort of dress to lighten her beauty, and often sat half an hour at a time ogling herself in the glass.

INATTENTION.

Edward Marsden's father was employed as a light-porter in the service of a very respectable firm in the town of Liverpool; he bore a good character as a steady, honest, attentive servant, and his employers regretted his loss greatly, when, by an unfortunate accident, the poor man was thrown under a heavy cart as he was passing it with a large number of parcels he had to deliver, and so severely hurt that he died in a few days. His poor wife was left very badly off, for all her children were too young to work except Edward the eldest son, who was about twelve years old.

One day, however, it happened that a lady bought in their great shop a very handsome shawl, for which she paid a great many guineas. She wished it to be sent home immediately, and one of the young men engaged to have it left at her house in a very short time, although it was at a considerable distance. Just as she had gone away Edward comes in, tired and hot, for it was a warm day.

CHILD-LIFE

How often do we hear a mother say, complainingly, of her child, "She has such exuberant spirits!—she is so full of life!" Hush! lay your finger upon your lips. Thank God for it. He who appointeth our lot knows for what purpose it was given. Have you never observed that the pathway of such an one is sure to be marked by no ordinary trials? It is a wise bestowment from Him who seeth the end from the beginning. Deal tenderly with her; check not her innocent gaiety. Make her childhood and youth happy. Cloud not her sunny brow by drawing unnecessarily dark pictures of life; fill not her confiding heart with distrust towards its fellows.

had lived, and heard every one talking of a collision of steam-packets at sea, which belonged to that port. I read the account in the newspapers, and it was, indeed, most melancholy. It was a fine, fresh day; a steam-packet, with both wind and tide in her favor, was coming cheerfully along, and not very far distant from the harbor, when another packet, with wind and tide against her, was seen coming in the contrary direction, but taking a course which threatened to bring her across that of the other. The captain had been quite off his guard, but as soon as he was aware of the position of the other packet, and knew that he was going with much greater speed and force, he saw the danger, and issued the necessary order to prevent it.

TO MAKE A GOOD WIFE UNHAPPY.

We apprehend there are many husbands who will read the following with a blush: "See your wife as seldom as possible. If she is warm-hearted and cheerful in temper, or if after days or weeks of absence she meets you with a smiling face and in an affectionate manner, be sure to look coolly upon her and answer her with monosyllables. If she frowns back her tears and is resolved to look cheerful, sit down and gaze in her presence till she is fully convinced of your indifference. Never think you have any thing to do to make her happy—but that her happiness is to flow from gratifying your caprices; and when she has done all that a woman can do, be sure you do not appear gratified. Never take an interest in any of her pursuits; and if she ask your advice, make her feel that she is troublesome and impertinent. If she attempts to rally you good humoredly on any of your peculiarities, never join in the laugh, but frown her into silence. If she has faults, (which, without doubt, she will have, and perhaps may be ignorant of,) never attempt with kindness to correct them. By such a course you will not fail to make an unhappy wife, and if you have children, they will not fail to be inoculated with the example which they will show in their respect to their parents."

"Let her read, if she will, love in human faces. Earth is not all a charnel house of decayed hopes and blasted anticipations. 'God is love.' Life is beautiful. Midnight—starry, silent midnight—with its glorious beauty; the silent moon riding in majesty or veiled in fleecy clouds; the cheerful sun walking in brightness; the rainbow-tinted sunset clouds; the sweet gray dawn with its stirring life; the forest-clad hills crowned with the bow of promise; the towering rock, the shining river, the flower-wreathed meadow, the deep blue sea, the grand old woods, with their whispered music; and in and among them all still, hearts that are noble, good, and true, beat with sympathy for a brother's wrongs, and are open-handed to the call of charity. Tell not the young heart, so keenly susceptible, that every cup is drugged with poison; that beneath every flower a serpent coils. Who among us could fearlessly again enter upon life, and cheerfully enjoy it with such a chart of shoals and quicksands before our vision? God in His mercy has hidden the future from our vision. 'Give us this day our daily bread;' is the petition He has taught us. Shall the blessings of to-day be received with a cheerful spirit, because we know not what to-morrow may bring us? That morrow we may never see nor should we impatiently demand to know, whether for us it come freighted with joy or sorrow.—Fanny's Portfolio.

SATAN A FISHERMAN.

I was some time since walking upon the wharf where a fishing boat lay, and as I was passing and re-passing, the master was uttering the most tremendous oaths. At length I turned to him, and standing beside his boat, said: "Sir, I am unacquainted with your business. What kind of fish are these?" He replied, "They are cod-fish." "How long are you usually out in order to obtain your load?" "Two or three weeks," was the answer. "At what price do you sell them?" He informed me. "Well, have you not hard work to obtain a living in this way?" "Yes, hard work," said he. "I inquired, 'With what do you bait these fish?'" "With clams." "Did you ever catch mackerel?" "Yes." "And I suppose you bait them with clams too?" "Oh, no," said he, "they will not bait at clams." "Then you must have different kinds of bait for different sorts of fish?" "Yes." "Well now, did you ever catch a fish without bait?" "Yes," said he, "I was out last year, and one day, when I was fixing my line, my hook fell into the water, and the fool took hold of it, and I drew him in." "Now, sir," said I, "I have often thought that Satan was very much like a fisherman. He always baits his hook with that kind of bait which different sorts of sinners like best; but when he would catch a profane swearer, he does not take the trouble to put on bait at all, for the fool will always bite at the bare hook." "He was silent. His countenance was solemn, and after a pause, as I turned to go away, I heard him say to one standing by him, 'I guess that's a minister.'—Christianian.

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