

HAPPY DAYS

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FAST FRIENDS.

It is difficult from the picture to say which of the two appears most interested in the book before them—the dog or his little mistress. There they are, both sitting over the open book, and one of them, at least, absorbed in its contents.

It is very sure that the collie dog, with his handsome face, cares very little for the contents of the book so long as he can be in the presence of the little girl.

He is evidently an unselfish dog, for he is willing to give up his romp in the open air because of his love for her.

But it will not be long before the chapter will be finished and his mistress will then get up and go out for a run in the fields, and the faithful animal will be thoroughly rewarded for his patience, and in his joy will forget all about the dull moments he spent over a book he could not understand.

What a good example of a true and unselfish friendship.

THREE FRIENDS.

"I like to play with Edwin," said Frank; "he knows how to do everything."

"Yes," said Mary, "and he isn't a bit cross."

"He can swim," said Frank, "and he can milk the cows, and he knows the names of all the trees—"

"And just where to find the ripe blackberries," said Mary.

While Frank and Mary were talking Edwin came round the corner of the house, and they ran to meet him.

Frank and Mary lived in a large city, but they had been taken by their parents

to pass some time in the beautiful little village of Plane. Edwin was the son of a farmer who lived in Plane. All his life he had been familiar with trees and brooks, birds and squirrels, and the city children were eager to hear about these things.

Edwin paid the blacksmith for some work which he had done for his father, and then the children started to walk back. When they reached the brook Edwin jumped up on the stone wall which was built between the reek and the road, and easily walked on it. He knew just how to balance himself, for he had done it many times. Frank followed him, but he could not go as fast as Edwin, for his shoes slipped and he did not feel confident, and when he looked back and saw Mary climbing up, he called out,

"Mary'll fall into the water if she gets up here: won't she, Edwin?"

"To be sure she will," said Edwin, jumping down into the road, where the others followed him.

He picked up a pebble and threw it into the brook. Frank also threw one in. "What pretty circles it makes!" said he. "See, they're getting wider and wider!"

Frank was quite right. The pebble made only a little ripple when it struck the water, but this was followed by another somewhat wider, and this by a third still larger, till the motion extended quite across the brook.

Just so it is with your actions. They do not end as soon as they are performed, but go on in ever-widening

circles, influencing your friends and playmates. When you speak a wrong word the boy who hears it may take it up, and so the boy who hears him, until your one word may make a hundred. And good words grow just in the same way. Do not forget this.



FAST FRIENDS.

"Where are you going?" called Frank, as he ran towards Edwin.

"Down to the blacksmith's," said Edwin. "Come along."

"Come, Mary," said Frank, and taking his sister's hand they walked along by Edwin's side.