

Children's Department.

GAMBLING.

AN OPEN LETTER TO BOYS WHO GAMBLE.

Boys, tell me what harm there is in gambling. Why should not Mr. A and Mr. B gamble if they choose?

They both tacitly agree that the winner is to have the stakes, and they both tell me that it is perfectly fair. If Mr. A. wins, he has earned the money by his superior skill and by his good fortune. If you call that wrong, then all business men are gamblers. In the business world it is brains and chance which help a man on. It is all a kind of gambling.

You do not see wherein the sin of gambling lies, that is clear. Now boys, I will tell you why I don't gamble and why I despise a man who does. I think the gambler is a mean fellow, a thoroughly mean fellow. Why? Because the gambler is a man who deliberately wishes and tries to take away money from another man without giving him any sufficient return for it. He is more than a beggar. He does not ask for the money, if we please to give it; but he lets us agree to give it to him if he wins. It seems fair enough because the loser has agreed to run the risk. Ah! but just here is the contemptible meanness of gamblers; they will let a man run the risk, they do nothing to try and keep him from agreeing to a fraud. It is not a fair presentation of the case to call the money won by gambling a gift. A gift must be a free-will offering. It is mean in me to accept a gift which I know is not cheerfully and willingly given. When a suc-

cessful gambler hauls in his money, he knows perfectly well that the loser is wishing he were in his place.

It does not improve the matter at all that the men who sit down to gamble both agree to abide by the results of the game. The man who wins, and the man who loses, are both guilty of intending to take from a fellow-man money which they have not earned, and which does not come to them as a gift from the heart of the unfortunate one. It is wrong. It is mean. It is far meaner than begging, and really is nothing more nor less than stealing. That is why I won't demean myself by gambling, and that is why I don't like the man or boy who does so. It isn't big. It isn't manly. It is both mean and selfish, and what is mean and selfish is sinful beyond a doubt.

LESSONS FROM ANTS.

Perhaps no insect has been so conscientiously and carefully observed as the ant, and we have already learned many things from them. We know that some are more civilized than others. They have military organizations, and some live in fine style, with many servants to do all their work. Sir John Lubbock, an observer of recognised authority, has reported some new things of these interesting little creatures.

He says they can and do recognize relatives to the same degree, but no further. Second cousins are always received kindly in a nest if they have never even been seen before, while they always attack strangers of the same species. Further, they are very conservative in their politics. When by any means the queen has been destroyed, and they have got into working order in a democratic fash-