

At that moment Mrs. Mortimer entered the study, and smilingly inquired what he was going to ask her with that radiant countenance.

"I declare the boy has quite a color," said she pinching his flushed cheek. "But come to tea now, and then to bed. I never allow my children to sit up late. You know the old proverb, William," added she, turning to her brother,

"Early to bed, and early to rise,
Makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise."

"I know a great many things once that I have forgotten," replied Mr. Netherton, as he offered her his arm. "You must remind me of them, my dearest sister."

"To be sure I will. Come along, Frank." And her cheerful voice sounded pleasantly in the halls of the old Grange, where no female, except the domestic, had ever come since the death of its gentle mistress.

"But about the seeds, aunt," said Frank, as soon as they were seated at the table. "What sort had I better have?"

"Come to me to-morrow morning, and we will talk it over. You will find me in the garden by six o'clock."

"Six o'clock!" repeated Frank.

"Well, is that too early? Do you not think that you are as capable of getting up early as I am?"

"Why, I suppose you are used to it, aunt."

Mrs. Mortimer could not help smiling.

"And you must get used to it too, Frank. Do you understand anything of arithmetic?"

"Yes, aunt."

"Well, then, to-morrow you shall calculate for yourself how many years are wasted in an average lifetime by lying in bed in the morning."

"And the shorter the life is," said Frank, thoughtfully, "the less we can spare them. I will begin to-morrow morning, I am determined."

"Do so, my dear boy, and you will soon reap the benefit of it every way. And in order that you may be the better able to keep your good resolutions, I would advise your going to bed at once."

Frank was very obedient; and hastily swallowing his tea, he arose from his chair, and went away without another word, having first kissed his father, and held up his face to his aunt with an affectionate confidence that completely won her heart.

"God bless you, my child," said Mrs. Mortimer, and then turning to his father she added, "I need not ask whether you have taught him to pray. Whatever you may have neglected, William, I am sure that you have not forgotten that."

After Frank was gone, Mr. Netherton and his sister had a long and earnest conversation together, in which he admitted the justice and good sense of all her plans, and promised his assistance in carrying them into practice. And then they both kneeled down and asked God's blessing upon the future, without which they could never hope to succeed, leaving the result to Him who orders all things for the best, and who, as Mr. Netherton said, had sent her to save his child.

From that time Mr. Netherton ceased to talk to Frank of the past, but spoke cheerfully and hopefully of the present and of the future. And when he did allude, as he could not help occasionally doing, to her who was never long absent from his thoughts, he spoke of the joy that it would give her—if angels were permitted to behold what passes upon earth—to see her beloved child good and happy.

Since Mrs. Mortimer's arrival, a change seemed to have come over the whole establishment at the Grange. Some of the servants were sent away, and no one missed them; while the others were obliged to do their duty, and, above all, to attend public worship regularly on the Sabbath, besides being ready for family worship, which Mr. Netherton conducted with his household morning and evening. At such times, or when she listened to the merry voices of Frank and his cousin Helen, and saw her master smilingly regarding their childish sports, the faithful housekeeper blessed the hour when God had put it into her heart to write the letter which had brought back Mrs. Mortimer to the home of her childhood, and made them all friends again.

Helen was a quiet, good-tempered little girl, and Frank soon became very fond of her, and used to give her all his prettiest flowers, and was never weary of playing with her, and relating stories, the greater part of which she did not half understand.

"How clever cousin Frank is!" said Helen one day to her mother.

"Yes, I dare say he appears so to you, Helen, who are only a little girl."

Frank colored.

"I do not believe that Frederick knows half as many wonderful things," persisted Helen.

"Tell mamma about the nasturtiums, cousin. Only think, dear mamma, on summer nights they actually send out——"

"Emit," interrupted Frank.

"Emit sparks of fire. Who was it that first saw them, Frank?"

"The daughter of Linnæus, the great botanist."

"I forget what you told me botany meant."

"The natural history of plants and vegetables," replied her mother; "in which Linnæus, the great botanist, by great perseverance and application, was well skilled. It has been said of him that he never took a thing in hand which he did not resolutely accomplish and bring to an end; and therein lies the secret of his success. Application and observation are two very desirable qualifications. It was doubtless by means of the latter that his daughter made the discovery about the nasturtiums. We may all make discoveries, if we will only learn to use our eyes."

"Eyes and no eyes, Helen. You remember that story in the 'Evenings at Home?' said her cousin. "How I should like you and me to make some wonderful discovery!"

"But we are only children," answered Helen, meekly.

"I have heard my father say," continued Frank, "that it was two little children who first invented, or led to the invention of the telescope. They were playing one day in their father's shop at Middleburg—we will look for Middleburg on the map when we go in—and chanced to set up two pieces of glass, such as are used in making spectacles, at a little distance from each other, when to their great surprise, they saw the church steeple, which in reality was a great way off, nearer than they had seen it before. Did you ever look through a telescope, Helen?"

"Yes, once when we were by the seaside; and it seemed to bring the ships so close to the shore, that we could see what some of the men were doing on board."

"Well, I suppose the children could not see quite so plainly as that, but they were very much astonished, and ran to tell their father what they had discovered, who immediately procured some pieces of glass of the same size, which he fixed in tubes; and so the telescope was first invented."

"How strange, was it not, mamma?" said Helen.

"Not strange, my dear, but very interesting. It was observation that led to the invention of