

HAPPY DAYS

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[No. 6.]

IN MISCHIEF.

This little lassie has a somewhat guilty look, as if she felt she was doing something that was not exactly right. Bless her little heart! Let us hope it is not a valuable book she is tearing. We think, however, that any mamma would forgive a little girl who looks up in such a wistful, appealing way as this one. Blessings on the man who invented the untearable linen books with bright pictures, which so gladden the hours of the little folks, and make learning to read a perpetual delight instead of a tearful task. Children should learn, however, to take care of books, papers, their clothes, and everything they have.

PUTTING OFF.

WHEN I was a little girl learning to write, I had for a copy the line, "Procrastination is the thief of time." My teacher was kind enough to explain to me that "procrastination meant putting off," and was the opposite to "doing things at the right time," and that it was called the "thief of time" because it caused people to lose so much time. This "putting off" is a terribly bad habit, and one which, like other bad habits, grows with indulgence and often brings boys and girls as well as older people into a great deal of trouble. Molly has a little hole in her dress. She could mend it in five minutes, but she puts it off, and thinks that to-morrow will do just as well; but before to-morrow comes, the little hole has caught on a nail, and has become a great one. The frock is perhaps spoiled, or, at best, Molly must spend hours in doing what need not have taken as many minutes.

Jack has a lesson which must be learned before morning. If he sat down to the



IN MISCHIEF.

task at once, he would conquer it in an hour, but he thinks that it will do "by-and-bye;" so he goes out to play, instead of studying. The time slips away, as one thing after another engages his attention. Bedtime comes before he remembers the lesson. It is too late then, but Jack thinks that he can get up early in the morning and learn it; but, alas! he gets up only just in time to dress before breakfast. He must go to school unprepared, and is in disgrace.

Arthur has a letter to post, and is charged to do it at once; but he wishes to speak to Harry about the tennis match. It will do just as well when he comes

back, he thinks; but when he comes back, the mail is closed, and the important letter must wait a day.

Dear children, beware of "putting off." Many a man has lost his life in consequence of this evil habit. Many a man who thought that there was "time enough" to make his peace with God has been overtaken by death before the work was done. Remember that it was those who were ready who went in with the Master to the wedding feast, and that then the door was shut, not to be opened again.

"ONLY A BOY."

A MAN was cursing and swearing as he was whipping his horse, which was trying to draw a load altogether too heavy for him, when he was remonstrated with by someone for using such language, and he said: "No one will hear me but you, and you know who I am; at least, no one except that boy, and he is only a boy. He will never know; he will never understand. It won't make much difference if he does hear."

Some seem to think that if a boy hears vile language, if he hears oath upon oath, if he sees a bad example, he is only a boy, and it will not harm him. What is the difference? We hardly have time to draw our breath, when a thousand answers come from as many directions.

"That boy is only the beginning of a man. What he hears now he will treasure up; he will use it by-and-bye. He is watching every point; he is listening to every word he hears. He has an idea that everything he hears is right; at least, that he can use it if it isn't, anyhow."

No one has the right to disregard the feelings or the best interests of a boy, no matter if he is little. He has a soul and heart ready to take in everything. Do