

perly checked; and being an only child,—the idol of her doting parents, and accustomed to consider herself a paragon of perfection, she could ill brook the idea of being excelled or even equalled by any of her young companions. No; Laura Delany would be reckoned the first and most forward wherever she went, and while she was the leading star, and permitted to eclipse in conscious superiority all the less brilliant constellations which surrounded her, she was the most amiable, agreeable, and lively girl in the world: but jealousy, alas! is "ever vigilant and keen-eyed," and no sooner did Laura come in competition with a young person of superior abilities to herself, than she felt angry, chagrined, and miserable. It is true that her politeness and good breeding obliged her to conceal her feelings for a time; but as soon as that restraint was removed, her mortified vanity would vent itself in unkind remarks, and bitter satire upon her unfortunate rival, the least flaw in whose behaviour was eagerly seized and magnified, and her best actions ascribed to bad motives. Happily for Laura, her parents finding her at the age of fourteen quite beyond their management, placed her under the care of a sensible and judicious governess, who soon discovered her propensity to detraction and satire, and strenuously endeavored to correct it.

But the deep rooted habits of many years are not often overcome in a few months; and though Laura was obliged to restrain her tongue in the presence of Miss Anley, yet she seldom neglected the opportunity of indulging it in the absence of her kind mistress.

"Come, Laura," said Emily, "let us go into our own room, and sit over the fire, and enjoy a good snug chat,—and then you can tell me all your evening's adventures." "Adventures, my dear Emily!" exclaimed Laura, "one must not look for adventures at Mrs. G.'s; she is, without exception, the most stupid creature, and has the most odious set of acquaintances you can possibly conceive. One has nothing to do but to sit and yawn at one's neighbour, till the piano-forte is opened, and somebody is set to work at it. Oh! such music! How you would have laughed! Lucy M. was the first performer. She can run over the keys, rattle, rattle, till one is half deafened; but if only two-thirds of the notes are wrong, it is an unusually lucky hit for her. Then, Miss B. was asked to sing, and after expressing her fears, and lamenting her excessive timidity for a decent length of time, she at last yielded with admirably affected repugnance to the solicitations which overwhelmed her, and then graciously suffered herself to be encored."

"But did not you play and sing, my dear Laura?"

"I play! Oh dear, no! With so many first rate performers in the room, my poor services could not possibly be required. Harriet G. did all she could to induce me to sing, but I knew very well it was only in order to quiz me as soon as I was gone, so I positively refused." "And were those delightful D.'s there?" inquired Emily. "Oh, yes, to be sure. Could any thing go on at Mrs. G.'s without those 'delightful D.'s?" You would have seen them in perfection to-night. Mrs. D. admiring her son all the time. The charming son yawning delightfully; and his lovely sister looking exquisitely silly. I suppose they take me for a heretic, for they scarcely vouchsafed me a word all the evening."

How long this interesting and profitable dialogue might have continued is uncertain; but suddenly, to the terror and dismay of these merciless judges, Miss Anley stood before them. The door of their room, which led into her apartment, had inadvertently been left open, and thus she easily heard all that had passed. The conscience-stricken girls looked thunderstruck on seeing her, but could not attempt to excuse themselves. She saw their confusion, and forbore to reprove them, but kindly addressing her pupil, she said, "My dear Laura, I am sorry to see that all my admonitions and advice have had so little effect upon you, and that in spite of all I can say you still continue to indulge in this shocking habit of detraction. No doubt, you think all these satirical speeches very clever; but I assure you, you are greatly mistaken. Long experience has convinced me, that the most satirical people I know, are those who mistake severity for shrewdness, and who have more quickness than sense. Far from its being true (as some have asserted) that clever people are always satirical, it would be more just to say that persons are often satirical in the hope of appearing witty, from the erroneous belief that an aptitude to satire is a proof of ability. A tendency to see the ludicrous in persons and things is nothing more than a quickness of observation which most children possess. But your habit of detraction, I am convinced, proceeds only from mortified vanity. Blind as you are to your own defects, you cannot help seeing that Lucy M. and Miss B. play and sing far better than you do, and therefore you think to revenge yourself upon them by ridiculing their performances most absurdly and unjustly. As for that excellent woman, Mrs. D., I know you have never forgiven her for the admirable and judicious manner in which she reproved you, the other day, when she heard you speaking unkindly of one of your young friends. Had you been flattered and caressed by all the company this evening, you would have been delighted with them, and perhaps would have extolled them as undeservedly as you have now condemned them. I see, my love, you are ashamed of your conduct, and I will only add, that if the maxim of 'Do unto others as you would they should do unto you,' were constantly uppermost in your mind, and considered, as it ought to be, a sure guide for all your actions, it would infallibly preserve you from the sin of detraction."

"SWEAR NOT AT ALL."

A teacher of a Sunday school heard one of his scholars using profane language, he called him—"Robert," said he, "was it you that took your Maker's name in vain?" The little boy held down his head. "Robert," said the teacher, "have you not learnt that the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain? And have you not read in the Bible how God threatens swearers? He has said, 'Swear not at all,' James, Chap. 5:12. 'And ye shall not swear by my name falsely, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God.' Leviticus Chap. 19:12. And he threatens you, that 'Every one that sweareth shall be cut off' Zech. Chap. 5:3. Do you know what a dreadful thing it is to provoke the anger of almighty God. If you feel sorry when you offend your earthly father, how much more sorry should you be when your heavenly father, who gave you life, and daily supplies you with all the blessings of life, is offended. Pray, therefore, my

child that the Lord may forgive you this sin. Think in what an awful condition you would be, if the Lord should strike you down dead, while committing sin. Remember how the Lord punished the little children that mocked his holy prophet, Isaiah; and unless you repent you will be punished, for you mocked the Lord himself, and took his holy name in vain."

Pray, therefore, my dear children, morning and evening, that the Lord may strengthen you to resist the temptations of the devil, and to lead a pious and godly life, that when the hour of death comes, you may enter into the paradise above, and there enjoy a blissful immortality.

TO THE PATRONS OF THE JUVENILE ENTERTAINER.

As this number completes the first volume of the JUVENILE ENTERTAINER, we embrace the opportunity of addressing a few words to those, who have favoured us with their patronage.

In the first place, then, we tender them our most sincere acknowledgments, for the interest which they have taken in our plan, respecting the circulation of our little periodical. We must apologize for any deficiencies in the work, as, owing to unforeseen circumstances, it has not been conducted entirely to our own satisfaction. It has, however, been approved of and patronized by Gentlemen, in the various sections of the Province—by many Teachers of Youth—and by numbers of the more intelligent part of the community. We cannot express our satisfaction in having so many youthful Agents of our Paper, as it affords a pleasing indication, both of their concern for its prosperity, and their increasing desire for useful information. In the establishment of our Paper, the benefit of the young was the chief end which we had in view, and just in proportion to the interest which they take in its advancement, will be our encouragement to persevere once for their improvement.

The good or bad habits which young persons contract, become daily more confirmed. So true is this, that custom is said to be second nature. It must, then, be of no small importance, to excite in the youthful mind, a taste for that sort of reading, which is calculated to correct the erroneous ideas which they are apt to imbibе, and to inculcate just notions of the true character and condition of mankind, and of the various duties which they, as accountable creatures, are called to perform.

Conversing lately with a much valued friend, respecting our little periodical, and others of similar description, he said, "Do not faint—persevere: the value of such works will only be apprehended, when all secrets will be unveiled."

True wisdom and pure morality, how beautiful! how excellent! They alone exalt—they alone add dignity to the human character;—they prepare the soul for eternal happiness. How incomprehensibly glorious shall be the final reward of walking in wisdom's way! and how happy shall we be, if any can look back upon our humble efforts, and say, that they had the slightest effect in exciting them to pursue the path of rectitude.

It is said by an inspired writer, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." The truth of this point being granted, and verified by experience, the importance of well regulated periodicals, for accomplishing this end, will be readily