

# HAPPY DAYS

Vol. XVI

TORONTO, OCTOBER 12, 1901.

No. 21.

## SELF-CONTROL.

There is a story told about Alexander and his horse Bucephalus which may well "point a moral."

When Alexander was but a boy he was present one day when a Thessalian brought the horse Bucephalus to Philip offering to sell him for thirteen talents. But when the fiery animal was taken to the field to try, he proved so unmanageable that none of Philip's men dared so much as to venture near him. Philip bade them lead him away as useless, and as they were about doing so, young Alexander said: "What a fine horse do they lose for want of address and boldness to manage him!" At first Philip did not notice the boy's remark; but when it was repeated, and he saw how sorrowful he was to see the horse taken away, he said: "Do you reproach those who are older than yourself, as if you knew more and were better able to manage him than they?"

"I could manage this horse," replied the lad, "better than others do."

"And if you do not," said Philip, "what will you forfeit for your rashness?"

"I will pay," said Alexander, "the whole price of the horse."

The men who stood by laughed heartily, but the wager was accepted, and the bold youth hastened to the horse, and, taking him by the bridle, turned him towards the sun, having noticed that the animal was afraid of his own shadow. Then, stroking him gently, he watched his opportunity and sprang quickly on his back. Gradually, and with great gentleness, he drew in bridle and curb, and presently, when the creature found he had a master, the bold youth let him go at full speed, speaking to him with

the ringing tone of command, and even spurring him on to increased speed. When he came back presently flushed and triumphant, but with the horse under full control, Philip, who had been deeply anxious for his son's safety, is said to have shed

own spirit. Impatience, fretfulness, lack of self-restraint, thwart themselves, for they prove weakness in the one who exhibits them which even a dumb animal can feel.

How great a pity that one, who as a boy could thus control himself and others, when he became a man could yield to his lower appetites to such a degree that he is actually said to have died the death of a drunkard. Alexander did not know the true meaning of the word conquer, for he never learned to conquer himself. To conquer nations is a small thing compared to the conquering of oneself; for "greater is he that ruleth his own spirit than he that taketh a city."



THROUGH THE STORM.

tears of joy, and to have declared, as he kissed him, that Macedonia was far too small a kingdom for so great a spirit as his son possessed!

Alexander could never have conquered the horse if he had not had control of his

there is no prayer, where God's Word is not read, God's Sabbath not honoured, God's name not revered, there is no promise of blessing.—Selected.

God loveth a cheerful giver.

## TWO HOMES.

There were two families who lived in the same village. In one of them every day the Word of God was read, songs of praise were sung, and the father offered prayer to God, while all the family joined in repeating the Lord's Prayer. On the Sabbath they all went to church and Sabbath-school, and every day they tried to please the Lord. In the other family the boys and girls never heard their parents pray, but often wicked words fell upon their ears. They never went to church or Sabbath-school, but spent the Lord's day in fishing, visiting, or other amusements. The former home is the kind of one God wants us to have. He blesses the families that call upon his name; but where

there is no prayer, where God's Word is not read, God's Sabbath not honoured, God's name not revered, there is no promise of blessing.—Selected.