

GOOD FOR EVIL.

"You might look to my canary whilst I'm away to-morrow and the next day, Annie; I shouldn't like the poor little thing to be hungry and thirsty."

"O, bother! Can't you give it enough seed and water to last it till you come back? I've got such a lot to do—lessons to learn, and needlework and my plants, and ever so many other things. I'm sure I sha'n't have a minute to myself."

Katie and Annie were next-door neighbors; they went to the same school together, and were in the same class, but they were very unlike in disposition. Whilst Katie was always anxious to do what she could for the comfort of others, Annie was quite thoughtless and a little selfish, and she would seldom or never put herself out of the way to do a kindness to any of her friends.

So Katie went indoors a little sorrowfully and next day she started on a visit to an aunt who lived at some distance, so that it would be necessary for her to stay the night; and it was arranged that she should come back on the following evening. Before going she looked to the comfort of her beloved little canary, putting him a clean bath and plenty of nice fresh seed and water.

"Good-bye, Dickie," she said, "you won't see your little mistress for two whole days;" and she put her finger between the bars for her pet to nibble at.

Dickie hopped to the side of the cage and fondly caressed Katie's finger. Then with a "cheep, cheep," which Katie would have told you, if you had been there, was his way of saying "Good-bye," he cocked his yellow head on one side, and looked at her with his bright eyes as if he really understood what his mistress had said, and was sorry that she was leaving him.

Well, the two days soon passed, not, however, without many anxious thoughts from Katie as to how her bird was faring. When she came back, as soon as she opened the cottage door she was greeted with the dear old "cheep, cheep," and she knew that her golden-plumaged pet was safe.

I am afraid that although Katie tried hard to forgive Annie for her unkindness, and to forget it too, there was some soreness in her heart about it, and sometimes she was tempted to be unkind to Annie in return. But she struggled bravely against the temptation.

Annie, you must know, was very fond of flowers, and took so much interest in them that this year she intended to send some of her plants to the Cottagers' Flower Show which was to be held at the schools. But when she had acted so selfishly, she had not remembered that there might come a time when she in her turn would be glad to ask a favor of Katie. That time had arrived, for she was going away for a week, and as the weather was very hot and dry, her plants would require frequent watering.

She thought of Katie, but she remembered how she herself had replied to her modest request about the canary, and she was too proud to ask a favor where she thought she would most likely be refused. There was no one else who could attend to the plants but her own little sister and she was so very little that Annie was almost afraid to trust her. Still, as there was no help for it, she left the precious flowers in the charge of Tottie, first making her promise faithfully that she would not forget them.

But, alas! Tottie did forget them; and a day or two after, Katie, looking over the wall, saw that Annie's geranium, the most prized of all the plants, was drooping, and the leaves were curling up for want of moisture.

"Now," said the tempter within her, "here is a fine chance of paying out that disagreeable thing, Annie." But a better voice said: "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them that trespass against us," and the next moment she had opened the gate in the fence which divided the gardens, and the thirsty flowers were presently drinking a draught of cool, refreshing water.

When Annie came back, her first question

to Tottie was about the flowers. Tottie at once confessed that she had forgotten all about them, and before she could say more, Annie had rushed out into the garden expecting to find them all dead; but they were actually looking better than when she had left them. So she ran in again to Tottie, and learned how Katie had rendered good for evil. Then wasn't she ashamed! and early the next morning she went in to Katie to thank her and beg her pardon.

When the geranium went to the show, she thought it would not be right to let the plant go in as her own unless she spoke of the week's attention it had received from Katie. The clergyman who presided over the arrangements, said that that would not prevent the plant from being exhibited; and it actually took the first prize for flowers grown by children. But he was so pleased with Katie that he gave her a beautiful book as a reward.

So Katie was repaid in many ways. She

Done in malice and spite, sir. But it shall be a bad piece of work for somebody."

"What! do you think that this has been broken off on purpose?" said I, pointing to the cucumber.

"I do, sir," said Mrs. Grant; "but they shan't have done it for nothing."

"'Tis a downright shame, that it is," said a neighbor, looking over the hedge; "for you were growing them for the show, weren't you, Mrs. Grant? and you were sure of the first prize too!"

"Yes, that's it," returned Mrs. Grant, holding up the cucumber, almost with tears in her eyes. "It has been done out of jealousy. Dear, dear! that people should have such a bad spirit! But wait a bit, I'll get Jim to pay them off."

"Do you think this has been done to prevent your winning the prize?" I asked.

"That's it, sir," was the answer; "but if I don't get it, they shan't either. There is a lot of potatoes kicked about, and peas and

but, Jim, that is not an easy thing to do, and especially when one is taken unawares."

"True, sir," he returned; "and I don't know but that I might be almost afraid of myself, if it came upon me on a sudden; but that it would be wrong, there can be no doubt at all. We have our Master's pattern set us, that we should follow His steps, who, when He suffered He threatened not, but committed Himself to Him that judgeth righteously."

I was both curious and anxious to know in what temper Jim would bear the unwelcome news of the destruction of his prize vegetables, and I made a point of looking in upon him the same evening.

Jim was sitting very sulkily in a corner of his cottage; and his wife, in no better humor, was washing up her tea-things at the table.

"I somehow thought you meant it for me when you came to the mill and talked like that this morning," said Jim, at length.

"Yes," said his wife; "but I don't see why those who hurt their neighbors in wicked spite shouldn't suffer for it."

"But I am glad to hope that Jim is not going to take the matter into his own hands, and return evil for evil," I said.

"As to that," was Jim's reply, "I'm not going to be of one mind in the morning and another at night; but"—and then he stopped speaking, but stamped his foot on the floor, and plainly looked as though he would not spare somebody's vegetables if he had them under his heel.

"Ah! Jim," said I; "I see the snake is only scotched, and not killed."

Jim looked at me, and his wife turned from her tea-things, as if neither at all understood what I meant; but before another word was spoken, a lad stood in the open doorway.

"If you please," said he, "is it your garden that our donkey broke into last night? It must have come through the hedge, or have opened the gate—for 'tis clever enough—and it gives us a deal of trouble."

"And so 'twas a donkey after all!" exclaimed Jim. "I seemed to think they were curious marks."

"Well to be sure!" exclaimed Mrs. Grant.

"Master bid me say," continued the lad, "that he is very sorry it should have happened; and if you will step up to-morrow morning he will pay the costs of the damage."

Jim and his wife exchanged looks as the boy went away.

"And so 'tis all for the best, wife," said he, "that I didn't take your advice about giving 'til for tat."

"Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."—*Friendly Greetings.*



GOOD FOR EVIL.

had the satisfaction of knowing that she had done what was right, and of seeing that Annie was kinder and more considerate ever after, and she could always look at the book which had been given her with feelings of pleasure that she had been enabled to "overcome evil with good."—*S. S. Treasure.*

EVIL FOR EVIL.

"I'll pay her out, you see if I don't! trust me, she shall suffer for it!"

Such were the words that reached my ears as I entered the gate of a cottage garden.

The speaker, when she appeared, was plainly in an angry mood, as she held in one hand a long branch of a cucumber vine that was broken off, and in the other a fine large cucumber.

"What is the matter, Mrs. Grant?" I asked. "Have you had an accident?"

"No accident, sir, I am sorry to say," was her reply. "I wish it had been an accident,

things all trampled!" and the poor woman sat down in her cottage a picture of vexation.

"Jim and I were looking at them last evening," she continued; "and he said we were sure of first prize, as they would be just fit by show day. But I know who must have done it; and I would not be them for something, for Jim will be just about wild when he comes home."

About mid-day I walked down to the mill where Jim Grant was at work, in order to have a little talk with him at his dinner-hour.

After some conversation, I said, "I know a man, Jim, who has had a petty wrong done him—to spite and harm him, it is said. Now, I am almost afraid he will be led to pay it back in the same coin."

"That won't do, sir," said Jim, who was fond of talking on serious matters, and knew as well as any one what was right.

"No," said I; "it is very wrong to take revenge. We ought to forgive and forget;

longing to the household. She was very fond of a particularly comfortable chair, but frequently found the dog in possession of her favorite seat. Being timid about driving him off, she would go to the window and call "Cats!" Of course the dog would rush to the window and bark, and the lady would secure her seat. One day the dog entered the room, and, finding the chair occupied, he ran to the window and barked furiously. The old lady went to see what caused the excitement, and instantly the dog darted into the chair which she vacated.

AS SOON AS the little ones begin to read with ease each should have a Bible as a personal possession. Children like something of which they can say "It is my own." The Bible chosen should not be too costly for common use, but it should be in good print and of attractive appearance. Bibles can be procured at as low a price as twenty-five cents or thirty-five cents, for those who can not spend more.—*S. S. World.*