

prohibitions hold good—that proper names do not count, and that slang words, foreign words, or contractions, should not be used.

STARS AND DAISIES.

At evening when I go to bed
I see the stars shine overhead ;
They are the little daisies white
That dot the meadow of the night.
And often while I'm dreaming so,
Across the sky the moon will go.
She is a lady, sweet and fair,
Who comes to gather daisies there.
For when at morning I arise,
There's not a star left in the skies ;
She's picked them all and dropped them
down
Into the meadows of the town.

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TORONTO, MARCH 5, 1904.

THE MOUSE-TRAP.

BY WALTER N. EDWARDS.

A very simple but very suggestive thing is a mouse-trap. A useful article for catching mice, and perhaps equally useful in bringing home to youthful minds a few illustrations and suggestions.

The Trap.—To the mouse the trap is doubtless a very innocent-looking thing. Possibly he does not think about it at all, but that does not prevent the trap from catching him all the same. If he is once tempted inside, it is almost a certainty that he will be caught. It looks harmless enough, and even if the mouse examined it carefully it is unlikely he would perceive any danger to himself in going in. We may, therefore, be pretty safe in saying that the mouse is caught through ig-

norance, for if he knew the danger he cannot conceive of the mouse being foolish enough to enter. If some wise and clever mouse who had discovered the danger of the trap could speak to all the other mice and warn them of it, there would be very little use in setting traps, as the mice would all say, "No, thank you; I prefer the outside." The saloon may be compared to a mouse-trap in this respect—that it has two sides, the inside and outside, and just as the outside of the trap is the safest for mice, so the outside of the saloon is the safest for boys and girls. To many the saloon seems harmless and innocent, but just as many mice are caught in the innocent-looking trap so many men and women are caught by the evil influence of the public house.

The Bait.—Now, the trap by itself could never catch a mouse. There must be the bait. It is the smell of the bit of cheese or bacon that tempts the poor mouse to destruction. Having once sniffed this, he can't resist, but enters the fatal opening and is soon a prisoner. The bait used in the saloon is strong drink. Take this away and the saloon would be harmless. But while the drink is there men and women are attracted and enticed by its influence, and in spite of all persuasions and pleadings they enter again and again until they become the victims of the intoxicating cup. Although they are not shut in as the mouse is, they are so enslaved by drink that their condition is even worse in many cases than that of the mouse.

The Victim.—We can't help feeling sorry for the poor mouse. The only wrong he has done is to try and get a meal, but there he is entrapped, and he must die. How much worse off are the victims of the saloon trap! No one can tell all the evil caused by strong drink. It is computed that 100,000 people die each year through it in the United States, and that nine-tenths of the crime and poverty are caused by it. Starving children, dirty houses, cruelty and vice are the outcome of this great evil. Just as the poor mouse cannot escape from the trap, just so the poor victim of drink cannot escape from its awful power.

The Safeguard.—We need not trouble ourselves about a safeguard for the mouse. He must take his chance, but boys and girls are of more value, and if we can safeguard them it is our business to do it. The pledge is the great safeguard against the dangers of strong drink. Many may say that just a little drink won't hurt them, but we must remember that all drunkards have begun by taking a little. The pledge will enable us to keep free from the awful curse and slavery of strong drink.—*Youth's Temperance Banner.*

Strike while the iron is hot.

THE LITTLE FARMER BOY.

BY FAY STUART.

Kenneth Stevens was not a whistling, barefoot boy who drove the cows home each night from the pasture. Oh, no! He would probably have been afraid of a real, live cow. You see, Kenneth was a little, merry-faced boy of only five years who had lived in the great city of New York all his life.

His mother had read him many stories about country life, and the stories that his father sometimes told him about the big farm where he lived when he was a boy were even more interesting than the printed ones. So one day, after he had been sick with the measles and could not go outdoors, he began to build a farmyard in one corner of the play room.

Mother lent him the green rug, which looked a great deal like a mossy field, and Kenneth built a fence all round it with his blocks. The stories had all fallen out of his Mother Goose book, so he stood up the painted cover and made a fine barn. The pig-pen was built beside the barn, and Kenneth used clothes-pins for logs, while a small pasteboard box with doors cut in the sides was the sheepfold.

At first his marbles were the pigs that ran squealing into their pens; the woolly sheep were bright colored balls of worsted, and some shiny brown chestnuts did duty for cows.

One day mother brought home a little cedar tree that was only ten inches tall. It looked very real growing beside the pond in Kenneth's farmyard. In mother's shopping bag were several pine cones and a bunch of hemlock twigs.

Mother showed him how to make a grove of hemlock trees by sticking the twigs in the pine cones. He clapped his hands in delight when it was all done.

"My farm is ever so nice, isn't it, mother?" he cried.

"Very pretty, Kenneth," replied his mother. "The next time I go down street I will buy you some animal crackers to play with instead of the marbles."

When the crackers came, there were horses, sheep, goats, cows, and pigs. Kenneth stuck stout pins into the rug and leaned the animals against them, so that they could stand anywhere he wished to put them.

One night the little pet kitten was shut into the play room; in the morning the horse had lost his tail, the cow's head was off, and the goat had disappeared.

"I s'pose Blossom got hungry, mother," said Kenneth, slowly, as he set up the cedar tree. "But I do wish she had eaten one of the horses instead of my goat, 'cause then I'd have three left."

All through the long winter days, the little farmer boy kept busy and happy among his animals in the sunny corner of the cozy play room.

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