

small matter to say that little word, or to think that little thought, or to do that little action; but we must not despise little things; for there is nothing so trifling but it may be very serious.

A boy once slyly took a marble from his playmate, while he was playing with him; but, as he did not notice his loss, it was not known. Soon after, the same boy took some cake from his mother's cupboard; but she did not find it out. Next he stole some money from his father; but he did not miss it. He then robbed his master; and at last it was found out, and he was taken to prison, and sent away to a strange land, and he never saw his father and mother again. Perhaps, if he had not cheated his playmate of the marble, he would never have robbed his master, and come to so bad an end. He did not think that the little stone would produce first a small circle, then a larger one, and at last one that would fill his mind, and ruin his good name.

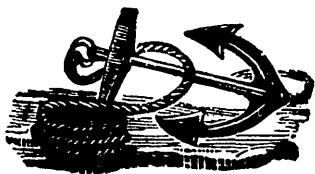
O, that we may be able to throw this stone into the pool of your heart—the fear of God! This, too, will produce circles larger and larger, till it will teach you to fear God at all times, in all places, and lead you safe through this world, and fit you for a better.

Watch over the first steps, think no sins little, be afraid of evil in the bud; and good books, good advice, and, above all, God's good Spirit, will be stones thrown into the pond of your heart, to bless and save you.

HUMBUG.

Humbug, which is in universal use, not classically admissible into an English dictionary, comes unquestionably from *Hume of the Bog*, a Scotch laird—so called from his estate—who was celebrated in Edinburg society,

during the reign of William and Anne, for the marvelous tone of his stories, in which he indulged so commonly that they became proverbial: and thus a very long shot was always designated "a regular Hume of the Bog." Hence, by simple contraction, *Humbug*.



THE ANCHOR.

The anchor, as many of our young readers are aware, is used for holding ships at sea, or at a distance from the wharves and places of fastening on the land, and thus to prevent them from being driven about by winds and currents. And hence it is employed in the Scriptures to represent the Christian's hope, by which he is kept securely amidst the trials and afflictions of this life. "Which hope we have," says the Apostle in the epistle to the Hebrews, (vi. chap. and 19th verse,) "as an anchor of the soul." The sinner is destitute of this hope, and is "driven with the wind and tossed," and like a ship without an anchor. Let all our readers ask how it is with themselves.

A plate of sweet cakes was brought in, and laid on the table. Two children played on the hearth-rug before the fire. "Oh, I want one of those cakes," cried the little boy, jumping up as soon as his mother went out, and going on tip-toe towards the table. "No, no," said his sister, pulling him back; "No, no; you know you must not