



MY LITTLE MAN.

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I KNOW a little hero, whose face is brown
with tan,
But through it shines the spirit that makes
the boy a man.
A spirit strong and sturdy, a will to win
its way;
It does me good to look at him and watch
him day by day.

He tells me that his mother is poor and
sews for bread.
"She's such a dear, good mother!" the little
fellow said;
And then his eyes shone brighter—God
bless the little man!
And he added: "'Cause I love her, I help
her all I can."

Ah! that's the thing to do, boys, to prove
the love you bear
To the mother that has kept you in long
and loving care;
Make all her burdens lighter; help every
way you can
To pay the debt you owe her, as does my
little man.

—Independent.

POLITE CHILDREN.

FREDDIE is sailing his new ship on the
pond, and Amelia is sitting on a log looking
at him. She thinks all Freddie does is
just right. He is her twin-brother, and
they look so much alike that if you saw
them in bed asleep you wouldn't know
which was which. But they are not at all
alike in disposition. Fred is a noisy boy,
full of fun and flutter all the day, and
Amelia is quiet, content with following
Fred about, watching and listening to him.
Maude, their elder sister, lets them alone.
"They are company for each other," she
says; "and as I haven't a twin, I must
make up for it with my dollies." So you
seldom see her without her dolls; she even
takes them to bed with her.

But these little ones are very kind to one
another. I have spent days in their home,
and I never hear a disputing word. And
I have been greatly pleased to notice their
politeness. At the table Maude will say,
"Please pass me the bread, Freddie;" and
when he has passed it, she says, "Thank
you." Or Amelia will say, "Please, Maude,
hang up my bonnet;" and she never forgets
to say, "Thank you."

Their mamma is very particular with the
children about this.

"When I was a little girl," she says, "I
learned these lines.

'Please is a very little word,
And thank you is not less.'

And I want you to remember them. If
you would be polite when you grow up,
you must begin when you are children; and
if you wish to behave well when you go
abroad, you must behave well at home.
Form good habits, and then polite and
pleasing manners will become easy and
natural to you."

DON'T BE TOO POSITIVE

Boys, don't be too certain. Remember
that nothing is easier than to be mistaken,
and if you permit yourself to be so very
positive in your mistakes a great many
times everybody will lose confidence in
what you say. Never make a positive
statement unless you know it is as you say.
If you have any doubts, or if there is room
for any, remove the possibility by exami-
nation before speaking, or speak cautiously.
Don't be too certain. "John, where is the
hammer?" "It is in the corn-crib." "No,
it is not there; I have just been looking
there." "Well, I know it is; I saw it there
not half an hour ago." "If you saw it
there, it must be there, of course; but
suppose you go back and fetch it." John
goes to the corn-crib, and presently returns
with a small axe in his hand. "Oh, it was
the axe I saw; the handle was sticking out
from the half-bushel measure; I thought it
was the hammer." But you said positively
that you did see the hammer, not that you
thought you saw it. There is a great
difference between the two answers. Do
not permit yourself to make a positive
statement even about a small matter unless
you are quite sure; for if you do you will
find the habit growing upon you, and by-
and-by you will begin to make hooe replies
to questions of great importance. Don't be
too certain.

"I WILL NOT."

"I WILL not," said a little boy, stoutly, as
I passed along. The tone of his voice
struck me. "What won't you do?" I
stopped and asked. "That toy wants me
to 'make believe' something to my mother,
and I won't," he answered in the same tone.
The little boy is on the right track. That
is just one of the places to say "I won't"
I hope he will stick to it. He will, I feel
sure,