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"Marion" about the shy girl who had impressed others so unfavourably, and closed by saying in loving tone: "But I know you will like her; so come and let me put her under your protecting wing and then I shall feel at rest about her."

"I am curious to know why your friend can be relied on to like the girl who seems to be shunned by all the other young people," said one who had heard the foregoing, a moment later. "Is it on the principle that people are inclined to like their opposites?"

"Oh, no," was the quick rejoinder. "Marion has a keen sense of what is beautiful; but the secret of her fitness in a case like this is that she has the rare grace of overlooking defects. That is why I did not hesitate to say, 'I am sure you will like her;' for while the verdict of others has been the reverse of complimentary, Marion will be on the alert to see something praiseworthy."

Later in the evening this member of the lookout committee and the one whose query called forth the foregoing, chanced to be together again when Marion, with face aglow, rushed up to the former, saying: "I cannot understand what our young people were thinking of to shun Miss Davis. I think her a delightful person. True, she is so modest I had to make the first advance, but I have learned enough of her to know that she has many lovable traits."

Saying this the tactful girl again joined the stranger, whose face lighted up at her approach as if greeting a long-time friend; seeing which the one who had judged aright sighed as she said: "Ah, what a mighty army for good our young people would be if all possessed her happy grace of overlooking faults."

TRUST IN GOD.

Some years ago, by the seashore, there was a party of a father and three children—two boys and a girl. The children had been searching for shells, and their father reading, when suddenly he saw the great waves curling up to within a few feet of where he sat under the cliff. They could not go back the way they had come, deep water was over the strip of yellow sand. In about half-an-hour water would be washing over the foot of the steep cliffs, and they would be drowned.

The father in his desperation looked round and saw on the face of the cliff, going upward to a place of safety, a narrow path, or rather ledge. In one place it was not a foot wide but by creeping around the face of the cliff he saw they would get on a higher path and be saved. He called to his children to follow, and he himself went first, followed by the boys and girl. When it came to the very narrow part, the boys refused to follow. He held his stick back to make a sort of hand to help them. Still they hesitated; but the little girl said: "Let me

pass, I will go;" and then the father, spreading himself along the face of the rock—it was too narrow to walk straight-sided along, holding his stick. The little girl held one end; and so, with the waves roaring below them and the blue sky so far above, father and child passed securely to a safe place. The father went back to the boys, who were now ashamed by their sister's courage into following.

Later in the day her mother, who was holding her tight, overjoyed at her having escaped the danger, said:

"How was it you were a brave, good girl and not frightened, but did what father told you?"

"Oh," said the child, quite simply, "of course, I knew it was all right. I knew I could walk there. Father never tells me to do what I cannot."

If we had that belief and trust in God, how much easier life would be!

INTERESTING ITEMS ABOUT ANIMALS.

In France there exists an order of merit founded by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, of which the members are dogs who have distinguished themselves by deeds of bravery. A tastefully designed "collar of honour," is awarded to the nominees of the order. Among the animals decorated in this way one of the most celebrated is Bacchus, a large bull-dog, whose specialty it is to stop runaway horses by jumping up and seizing them by the bridle. Bacchus' master resides in the Rue Biscornet. It is calculated that the intelligent animal has already saved the lives of eight persons, if not more, in this way. Pautland, another bull-dog, received a collar in 1877 for saving his mistress from the attack of a footpad; and Turk, a splendid Newfoundland, has had a

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MONSOON

INDO-CEYLON TEA

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similar honour for saving three young children from drowning on different occasions.

It is worth while to know that many animals and plants can tell us when a storm is approaching. Young people who are in the country should watch the horses and cattle stretch their necks and sniff the air, see the chickens huddle together, and hear the cackling of the geese and ducks, telling as plainly as they know how that the storm clouds are not a long way off. If you are well provided with umbrellas, overshoes, and mackintoshes, you might go out of doors and watch the wild birds. The sea-gulls will not venture out to sea. They fly inland, or they hover over the fields. The swallows and martins fly very low when a storm is coming, skimming the water with their wings.

THE FIRST FROST.

The frost which kills the flowers brings the nuts rattling down. Nature seems to be constantly trying to teach us the law of recompense. God never takes from us without giving back something as good or better.

Some of these mornings in early October you look out on your garden and see the blackened, drooping flowers that were so bright yesterday, and you feel a pang at your heart. But look toward the hills where the maple boughs are gorgeous in red and yellow draperies. Think how the frost has set your blood to tingling. This morning you feel equal to anything. The last vestige of the summer's lassitude is gone. These fall days may take something from our pleasures, but they give back, let us be sure, far more than they take away.

WHEN THAT BOY'S AROUND.

"I can't help but keep good-natured when that boy's around," we heard a mother say; and knowing the rather habitual fretfulness of her nature, we wished the boy happened round oftener. When we stop to realize what a rare thing cheerfulness is, why do we not all cultivate it oftener? Do we find this such a hard world that we need to frown upon it? One would hardly think so, from what

he sees scattered here and there for man's benefit. And yet, how seldom do we see downright cheerfulness stamped upon the faces that pass us by! If only in childhood we could all learn to acquire a cheerful disposition!

—Prayer is needed, not to prepare God to bless us, but to prepare us to receive God's blessing. In carrying to Him our want, we carry to Him an open heart, and not even Almighty grace can give help to the soul that is closed against the great Father's loving help.



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