

not think it such, and he never forgot the lesson that even a dog deserves in return for faithful service considerate treatment.

A boy, who had sent a little brother upstairs for a magazine from the book shelf, waited impatiently for his return. "Well, you young stupid," he called at last, "are you stopping to make a magazine, or what's the trouble?" He needed something to impress upon his mind the fact that a little child, who is doing one a favour, should receive, at the least, courtesy and kindness.

There are boys who call on their mothers for service in a matter-of-fact way, that is in poor taste, to say the least, and some girls are equally inconsiderate. There are students who will take up an hour of a teacher's leisure seeking help in their studies, and then will leave without a "thank-you."

Good manners do not come out "in spots." True courtesy is a thing of the heart and will manifest itself everywhere. If it possesses us we shall increasingly realize that from those friends who most deserve our love and reverence, down to the humblest of God's creatures, each and all have a right to that considerate gentleness on which their comfort or happiness in part depends.

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER.

One of the parables that Jesus told His disciples was of a sower who went out to sow seed. And as he cast the seed about, some of them fell by the wayside, and the birds came and ate them up; some fell on stony places, where they had not much earth to grow in, and they sprang up fast, because they were not deep in the ground; but when the sun came out, it burned them up quite dry, for they had no root; and some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them—that is, did not

leave them room to grow. But some fell on good ground, and grew up, and brought forth much fruit.

The Apostles did not quite know what hidden meaning there was in this Parable, so Jesus told them.

The seed meant the Word of God; the sower, a servant of God who had to teach the Word. The seed that fell by the wayside meant that the words had not been cared for by those who heard them, and the Wicked Spirit then made them forget all they had heard. That which fell on stony places and had no depth of earth, meant those who at first are glad to hear of God's love, and seem as if they would be His children; but their goodness has "no root," and so a little trouble makes them give up trying. We must all ask God to keep us Christ's children. The seed that fell among thorns meant that sometimes when men have been taught about God, they let the love of money, and the cares of life and its pleasures, fill their minds so that they have no time or thought to give to God, or to read or pray. Those seeds that fell on the good ground meant the children or men who listen to God's Word, and read it, and pray to Him for help, and try to obey it. These grow better and better, and God will love and help them.

FILLING A BASKET WITH WATER.

An Eastern King was once in need of a faithful servant and friend. He gave notice that he wanted a man to do a day's work, and two men came and asked to be employed. He engaged them both for certain fixed wages, and set them to work to fill a basket with water from a neighbouring well, saying he would come in the evening to see their work. He then left them to themselves, and went away.

After putting in one or two

bucketfuls, one of the men said, "What is the good of doing this useless work? As soon as we put the water in on one side, it runs out on the other."

The other man answered, "But we have our day's wages, haven't we? The use of the work is the Master's business, not ours."

"I am not going to do such foolish work," replied the other; and, throwing down his bucket, he went away.

The other man continued his work till, about sunset, he exhausted the well. Looking down into it, he saw something shining at the bottom. He let down his bucket once more, and drew up a precious diamond ring.

"Now I see the use of pouring water into a basket," he exclaimed to himself. "If the bucket had brought up the ring before the well was dry, it would have been found in the basket. The labour was not useless, after all."

But he had yet to learn why the king had ordered this apparently useless task. It was to test their capacity for perfect obedience, without which no servant is reliable.

At this moment the king came up to him; and as he bid the man keep the ring, he said:

"Thou hast been faithful in a little thing, now I see I can trust thee in great things. Henceforward thou shalt stand at my right hand."

PRAYER WITH THE PENNY.

"Was that your penny on the table, Susie?" asked grandmother, as the children came in from Sunday school. "I saw it after you went, and I was afraid you had forgotten it."

"Oh, no, grandmother; mine went into the box."

"Did you drop anything in with it?" asked grandmother.

"Why, no, grandmother," said Susie, looking surprised; "I hadn't anything to put in. You know I earn my penny every week by getting up early and going for the milk."

"Yes, I remember, dear. Do you know just what becomes of your penny? Do you really care?"

"Oh, yes. I want it to do good somewhere."

"Well, then, every Sunday when you drop your penny in, why don't you drop a prayer in, too, that your penny may be blessed in its work and do good service for God? Don't you think that if every penny carried a prayer with it, the money the school sends away would do wonderful work? Just think of the prayers that would go out—some across the ocean, some away among the Indians!"

"I never thought of that, grandmother. The prayer would do as much good as the penny if it were a real, true prayer, wouldn't it? I

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am going to remember, and not let my penny go alone again."

WHAT A LITTLE ANT DID.

The most splendid reminiscence of a ruin in Athens is the sixteen columns of the old Temple of Jupiter, the Olympi together in one group, and three by themselves, one of which lies prostrate on the ground. For forty years it has lain on the earth, unbroken except in the separation of its component pieces. And as its fellows outline themselves, still strong and erect, against the sky, they seem not only memorials of the grandeur of which they made a part, and speaking witnesses of the past glory of a past religion, but faithful guardians and watchers over their fallen companion. The column was blown down in 1852 in a great storm, but the reason why it fell and the rest still stand was found to be that an ant, taking advantage of a small opening in the cement between the pedestal and the base, had worked its way in, and with the branching corridors of its nest had gradually broken away the mortar which held it; so that it was weakened at the foundation, and unable to resist the violence of the storm. What ages had failed to do, what the enormous power of a furious element could not accomplish alone, was wrought to its destruction by the least of all powers in the world, that of a little ant.

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