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7D OUR READERS

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called it, but she swallowed back a lump in her throat, and went on bravely:

"Mamma and Miss Abbott thought I had better come over and tell you that, but I want to say more. You know none of us girls, Hazel, and Mabel, and the rest, wanted you to join our class, and we tried to be mean, and—and, oh, horrid, so you'd understand and leave.

"Why?" exclaimed Bessie in anxious surprise, but Rob nodded his head solemnly.

'Cause we're poor?" he said, and Marion nodded back at him.

"And Bessie wore a sunbonnet," she added. "And yesterday we were all cross because Rob came-

"Why?" asked Bessie, again. "'Cause I'm lame, and wear crutches?" said Rob, and Marion assented, soberly.

"I just love those crutches, and that sunbonnet, now," she said, "and we're all sorry, and want you to come over to our house this afternoon, and have a good time, you and Rob, too.'

"I'll have to wear my sunbonnet," laughed Bessie, shyly; but Marion did not laugh. Somehow with the new feeling of shame that had come to her, there was also a great respect for crutches and sunbonnets.

—IZOLA L. FORRESTER. * * *

JOHNNY'S LESSON.

There was a great commótion in the back yard. Mother hurried to the window to see Johnny chasing the cat with stones.

"Why Johnny, what are you doing? What is the matter with the kitty?' she called.

"She's all dirty, mother. Somebody shut her up in the coal hole."

"Is that all?" mother wanted to

"Why, yes," said Johnny. "She's dirty and black and horrid! We don't want her around."

Presently Johnny came in crying, and ran to her for help. He had fallen into a puddle, and was dripping with mud. "O, mother! mother!" he cried, sure of help from her.

"Jane," she said quietly to the nurse, who was sewing near by, "do you know where there are any goodsized gravel stones?"

Johnny stopped his loud notes to stare.

"Stones, ma'am?" asked Jane.

"Yes," said the mother, "to throw at Johnny. He's been in a puddle, and is dirty, and black and horrid!"

Johnny felt as if this was more than he could bear. "Please, mother, I'll never do it again," he cried in humble tones. "Poor kitty! I see now just how bad I made her feel."

Johnny was then washed and comforted, but he did not soon forget the little lesson of kindness to those in misfortune.—Sunbeam.

* * *

A WORD BY THE WAY.

Two ladies, both well dressed and evidently belonging to the higher walks of life, were going along a city street, one of them stopped and spoke a word to a dull, tired-looking woman, who had a fretful-looking baby on one arm and a basket on the other, in which she had a few bananas and apples and cheap candy for sale.

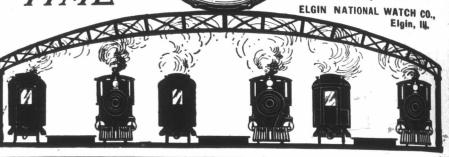
"Why, Helen," said the other lady, what made you stop and speak to that woman? What did you say to

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"O, nothing much. It was just a word or two by the way; that was all. She looked so tired and discouraged, and I stopped to give her a few pennies and say a word or two to her."

A few minutes later the two ladies were in one of the great stores of the city, where they made some purchases, and while they waited for their change the lady who had spoken to the apple-woman entered into conversation with a sales-girl and gave her half a bunch of violets.

When the two ladies were on the street one of them said:

"Why, Helen, how could you be so familiar with the shop girl? What were you saying to her?'

"Oh, not much of anything. It was just a word or two by the way. I thought she looked tired and a little ill, and she said that she did have a severe headache. Did you notice how she brightened up when I gave her the violets?"

A word by the way! A kindly deed by the way! How many burdens would be lightened, how many heavy hearts would be gladdened, how much weariness would be forgotten, how smiles would take the place of frowns, how much more beautiful and how infinitely better the world would be if every man and woman, every boy and girl, lost no opportunity of speaking a kindly word or doing a good deed by the way! Try it for a single day, and see if it is not one of the happiest days of your life. It must be so, because it will have the mark of God's approval upon it. He takes heed of every good thing said or done in His Name. It is all recorded in the book of His remembrance.-Forward.

the crown and the robe and the palm.

—The flower of contentment does not require any particular soil, and blossoms the twelve months through.

-If we were to keep a record of all the good things the Lord gives us we should be as busy as the recording "JACOB THE WRESTLER."

-Heaven assures us that "the merciful man doeth good to his own soul." He who is forgiving and affectionate with his fellow-man is not only a blessing to his fellow, but becomes a blessing to himself as well.



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