

the visitor modestly. "You see Johnny is awfully poor and his mother cries all the time, so I thought I'd like to help him a little."

"How old is Johnny, and what sort of a man is he?" asked Mrs. Mural. "I want someone who will be kind to the dog, and carry out ashes, and do Mary's errands, and all sorts of jobs."

"Johnny is ten, and he's the nicest boy in our class," said Ben promptly. "He's got a hundred in arithmetic most every day."

"But I want a man," said Mrs. Mural. "or a great, big boy of seventeen or eighteen."

"I asked papa, and he said a boy was only half a man," explained Ben, "so I thought mebbe Johnny and I would do together. I don't want any of the money, because Johnny's mother needs it so much, but I'm willing to help a lot. I carry ashes at home, and mind the baby, and lots of other things. Johnny, he's ten, and me eight, so together we would be as good as an eighteen-year-old boy. Don't you think so?"

"Well, I really couldn't say about that," said Mrs. Mural. "I am very sorry for you little friend, and I want you to bring him to see me this evening. I will not promise to hire you boys, but we'll talk it over."

So in the evening Johnny came in his patched clothes, and Mrs. Mural was very much pleased with him. "Do you think he could do the work, Mary?" she asked of her faithful maid.

"With me to help," put in Ben before Mary could say a word.

"And me to help too, said Mary, heartily. "Yes, I think he'll do, ma'am. He don't come in with his cap on, nor forget to wipe his shoes, I notice, so I think he'll get along all right."

So Johnny and Ben faithfully did the work about the big house as best they could. Mrs. Hilt soon had a good and a warm fire through the efforts of the hired men, as her son and Ben always called themselves. "It takes both of us to make Mrs. Mural a hired man," they always said, "but we try to be a good one."

"We never had such clean walks and fine kindlings and good work all around before the hired men came,

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them from enemies and from cold the anxious mamma makes an outer case of exactly the same shape, only about an inch long, and of course larger all around, also fitted with a closed door. Between the two cases the space is stuffed with a golden-brown colored silk, which she spins herself, makes it warm and comfortable inside. The whole thing is hung to a bush, and left throughout the winter.

**A GOOD DAUGHTER.**

There are other ministers of love more conspicuous than a good daughter, but none in which a gentler, lovelier spirit dwells, and none to which the heart's warm requitals more joyfully respond. She is the steady light of her father's house. Her idea is indissolubly connected with that of his happy fireside. She is his morning sun and evening star. The grace, vivacity, and tenderness of her sex have their place in the mighty sway which she holds over his spirit. The lessons of recorded wisdom which he reads with her eyes come to his mind with a new charm, as blended with the beloved melody of her voice. He scarcely knows weariness which her song does not make him forget, or gloom which is proof against the young brightness of her smile. She is the pride and ornament of his hospitality, and the gentle nurse of his sickness, and the constant agent of those nameless, numberless acts of kindness which one chiefly cares to have rendered, because they are unpretending but expressive proofs of love.

**EVERDAY MAXIMS.**

Pay as you go. A man of honour respects his words as he does his bonds. Help others when you can, but never give what you cannot afford because it is fashionable. Learn to say no. No necessity of snapping it out dog fashion, but say it firmly and respectfully. Use your own brains rather than those of others. Learn to think and act for yourself. Keep ahead rather than behind times.

Life is a sum; and it becomes us to do it properly, as it can be done but once.

**A SPIDER'S CRADLE.**

A certain spider found in the southern part of Europe—makes a curious cradle to preserve her babies through the cold winter, so that the spider family shall not be exterminated. She makes a silk case somewhat the shape of a balloon upside down, not quite half an inch long, and fitted with a door, or cover, which may be opened, though she leaves it carefully closed. In this are placed the eggs, from which little spiders will come in the spring. To protect

A good habit is a labor-saving instrument. A machine which enables one man to do the work of twenty, sets the nineteen free for other efforts and increases by so much the welfare and comfort of the community. So every good habit, thoroughly acquired, whether it be a useful action of the hand or a virtuous choice of the mind, sets free all the power and energy that have been employed in its cultivation for fresh efforts and new conquests.

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