

angrily ; and giving Mary a sudden push, threw her upon the side-walk, and then ran away. Mary's bonnet flew off, and the side of her head struck hard against the pavement. She lay as if insensible. Her mother saw her from the window, and hastening to her took her up in her arms, and carried her into the house. She was soon able to speak ; but there was a great pain in her head, and a mist before her eyes so, that she could see nothing distinctly. A physician came and prescribed for her relief, but in vain ; her sight grew dimmer and dimmer, until she could not see at all. She was blind. When she had been quite blind for several days, she asked her mother, "Can I never see again ?"

'I fear not my dear child,' was the answer.

'Jesus could open my eyes, if He were here. He made the blind to see.'

'He is not here, my child, to open blind eyes now ; but he is continually giving sight to blind souls, which is a greater blessing to those who understand it.'

'I think I know what you mean, mother ; making those who did not care any thing about God, and who never thought anything about him, to see his love to them and feel his presence, and love him for his goodness.'

'You understand something of what I mean. If you should be blind all your life, my child, yet if you should see God with your mind as your reconciled and kind Father, and Jesus as your full Saviour, you will be happy. The light of his presence will be better to you than the light of the sun and the smile of his love sweeter than the face of parents and friends.'

'I think I do love God mother, and that he loves me, and seems to smile upon me. I feel a sweet peace in my heart, and love everybody. I am not vexed, because I am blind, because God has let me be so.'

'Do you love Ellen Green, then ?'

Yes mother ; and I am sorry for her. She must feel grieved for what

she has done, and I think she does not know how pleasant it is to feel that God loves her. Couldn't she come and see me sometimes ? Perhaps it would do her good.'

It was told Ellen that Mary wished to see her. Ellen seemed very troubled when she went into the chamber where Mary sat quietly holding her hands, and whispering to herself sweet verses she had learned when she could see. When she heard that Ellen was come, she took hold of her hand, and spoke very kindly to her.

'I can't play much with you, Ellen ; but I wanted you to see how happy I am. God is very good, even to blind people.,'

The tears came to Ellen's eyes, and one of them fell on Mary's hand.—Don't cry Ellen. It is best for one to be blind, or God would not have permitted one to become so ; and perhaps, when you see one blind, you will be sorry for the bad temper that sometimes makes you unkind, and will learn not to get angry any more.—Ellen still wept, but could say nothing.

A few days afterwards, she went to lead Mary out to walk in the beautiful sunshine ; and it was pleasant to see how careful she was that no harm should happen to the little blind girl. But oh ! how sad and sorrowful she looked ! and though Mary smiled and talked of the fresh air, and the sweet smelling grass and flowers, and the songs of the waters and the birds, and of God in all of them, and seemed very grateful and happy, Ellen looked unhappy and miserable. Those blind eyes continually reproached her with her sin. There was no peace for her till she had sought and found the forgiveness of God ; but even now, when she looks on Mary's pretty, sightless face, joy dies within her, and her spirit lies low in humility. She will never cease to mourn for her great sin of anger ; by which, though she meant it not, and little dreamed to do such harm, she put out the eyes of her friend and playmate.—*Lamp of Love.*