

THE SUNBEAM

CHUMS.

WHAT happy-looking chums they are, these two. They never quarrel. They are fond of each other and have too much sense to fall out about trifles. Do you know where they have just now been? You can't guess. They look as if they had been having some fun somewhere, don't they? They have been swimming in the mill pond near the house, and feel as fresh as can be and ready for a frolic. Watch is a splendid swimmer, for he is a natural water dog, and George learned to swim when he was a little fellow, for he has lived near the old mill all his life.

SIMPLY STUPID

We were talking a little while ago with a mother whose boy was troubling her by his apparent determination to seek low associates and coarse pleasures. "He has a good home, and his father and I are just as kind to him as we know how to be," she said; "and yet we cannot pre-



CHUMS.

As we listened to this kind mother, whose tears flowed while she spoke, we could not help saying to ourself, "How unutterably stupid, as well as sinful, this boy must be! If he had a grain of sense, he must see that the course he is pursuing not only brings grief to his parents, but must cramp and darken his whole life. He is deliberately throwing away his chances for the future, and marking out for himself a course which can lead to nothing but disappointment and ruin."

What we thus thought of this boy we say of all like him. In an age as full of opportunities for good as ours, the young man or woman who turns away from them and contents himself or herself instead with the low and coarse is simply stupid. The fact is, there is nothing so stupid as sin. He that is wise will avoid it, no matter what the shape in which it offers itself.

We cannot keep our children too near our hearts, if our hearts are as they should be, for their welfare and for our happiness.

We have tried in every way to get him to do differently, but he will persist in his course, and we are at our wits' end."