

Ask.

HAS father given away the fishing rod that Mr. Wren left here, and said he did not want?" said Mark to his mother.

"Yes, he gave it to your cousin Tom," was the reply.

"Gave it to cousin Tom!" said Mark. "Why did he do that? Father knows that I have not got one."

"He did say something about it," said Mrs. Hay, "but he seemed to think that you didn't care much about it."

Mark looked puzzled to hear this. He was very fond of fishing, and he thought that everyone in the house knew that he did not possess a fishing rod.

"Better ask your father about it," said his mother, as Mr. Hay came into the room.

"What is it you want to ask me?" said his father.

"About the fishing rod that Mr. Wren left here," said Mark.

"Oh, I gave that to your cousin Tom," was the reply. "I thought it was a pity for it to be lying idle. I did not want it, you did not seem to care about it, and Tom wanted it."

"Why, father, I wanted it very badly," said the lad. "Every time I saw it I kept hoping you would give it to me."

"How was I to know this?" asked his father. "Now I did know that Tom wanted it."

"I thought you knew that I had not got one," said Mark.

"Yes I knew that" was the reply, "but persons do not want everything that they have not got."

"How did you know that Tom wanted it?" asked Mark.

"He asked for it," said Mr. Hay. "When a person asks for a thing, they do so because they want it. Did you ask for it?"

"No," said Mark, "but I thought——"

"Yes, you thought you would get it without asking for it, but, my boy, a thing that is not worth asking for is seldom worth giving. Let it be a lesson for you, and don't forget to ask for what you want. Even our Heavenly Father, who is so good to us, tells us that this is the way to obtain His favours. He says, — 'Ask, and it shall be given you'."