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How It Grew

A little boy made him a wee snowball,
And rolled it about in the snow ;
And it gathered the crystals and clung to
them all,
And, O, how that snowball did grow !
O, my !
You've made one, of course, so you know.

A little boy whispered a word one day
Unkind of some one he knew,
And each one who heard it repeated his way
The story, till, O, how it grew !
O, my !
And a heartache was caused by it, too !

Two little red mittens the small ball rolled
That grew in such magical way,
And a little red tongue was the one that told
The tale that grew big in a day.
O, my !
Be careful, wee tongues, what you say !
—Pauline F. Camp, in *The Housekeeper*



Helping the Children to Choose Between Right and Wrong

By Mrs. C. M. Hincks, B.A.

"Which hand will you take, left or right?" you say to Mary as you hold two rosy apples behind your back.

"Which do you want, a red pencil or a blue one?" you ask Freddy, as you take him to the shop to give him the pleasure of making his own selection. How children love to choose! How they delight to feel that they are *free* to decide for themselves, instead of having laid down for them hard and fast rules they *must* obey.

This love of freedom is natural and is a sign post to us, showing us the way to train our children in self control, self control which will enable them to resist the impulse of the moment and to stand up bravely and do the right. If we deprive them of *freedom* to choose, they will grow up without the *power* to choose, and when freed from our restraint and guidance, they will be ready to yield to every wind that blows, ready to follow the first man stronger than themselves, whether his leadership be good or bad.

Freedom to choose, then, seems essential, but how are we to help our inexperienced little ones to choose between right and wrong?

In the first place they must have a *knowledge* of right and wrong. We cannot begin too early to teach them. Baby, when only a year old, has learnt that it is wrong to throw her toys down from her high chair, wrong to untie her shoes or bonnet-strings. On the other hand she is made to feel, by a smile of approval, that she is a good baby when she claps her hands and takes her food nicely. Even with such a young baby we must be consistent in our demonstrations of approval or displeasure. For instance, if she is to realize that it is wrong to throw her toys, we must never laugh when she does it, else she will begin to think it is a good game. Baby's will power develops rapidly, and "I won't," alas, is one of the earliest phrases she learns. Daily and hourly we must teach her the difference between right and wrong. We must remember that our children come into the world quite without knowledge, and that many of the things which we, with our years of experience, know to be wrong, seem quite right in the eyes of the child. We must