

cruelty. He took delight in torturing insects and birds, that he might watch their sufferings. He scattered pieces of glass and sharp tacks on the floor of the shop he tended, that the barefooted boys who visited it might have sore and bleeding feet. The selfish cruelty of boyhood grew stronger in manhood. It went with him into the army. He was hated by the soldiers and distrusted by the officers in spite of his bravery, and at last he became a traitor to his country.

61. Give the character of Benedict Arnold as a boy.

62. Why might we expect such a boy to become a bad man?

63. Why are habits so hard to change?

64. Give an example of a person's acting in school from the effect of habit?

65. May we excuse ourselves for a bad habit because it is a habit?

No. A bad action cannot be excused because it has been often repeated. We should change the habit.

### *Farragut's Change of Habit.*

Admiral Farragut used to tell the following in relation to his early determination to be a sailor, and the reasons for it:

"Would you like to know how I was enabled to serve my country? It is owing to a resolution I formed when I was ten years of age. My father was sent down to New Orleans with the little navy we then had to look after the treason of Aaron Burr. I accompanied him as cabin-boy. I had some qualities that I thought made a man of me. I could swear like an old sailor. I could drink as stiff a glass of grog as if I had sailed round Cape Horn, and could smoke like a locomotive. I was great at cards, and fond of gambling in every shape. At the close of the dinner one day my father turned everybody out of the cabin, locked the door and said to me,—

" 'David, what do you mean to be?'

" 'I mean to follow the sea.'

" 'Follow the sea! Yes, be a poor, miserable drunken sailor before the mast, kicked and cuffed about the world, and die in some fever hospital in a foreign land'.

" 'No, I said; 'I'll tread the quarter-deck and command as you do.'