

must lead you closer to your Saviour, dear, for in him only is all your trust, all your strength. The two sisters are still more devotedly attached to each other, and Lucy is a great comfort to Mildred. It is so sweet to feel with what loving confidence she reposes upon Mildred's counsel and sympathy, for she has no concealments from that dear sister.

Mildred is cheered, too, by the hope that Julius is trying to master his one great infirmity, and endeavors by her sweet cheerfulness to make the evenings at home so pleasant that the children do not desire other companionship.

But, alas! hopes are often clouded where a human heart is the theatre of action; for Julius brought a new companion to spend the evening with them; and Mildred soon discovered that Steve Howard was no companion for Julius, for his talk was all about theatres, cards and gay parties; his conversation often interspersed with slang expressions; and now and then, when forgetting the presence of the girls, still more offensive language.

But he was bent upon making Julius Delancey his chum, and gained much influence over the lad by flattering speeches, and lively descriptions of his places of amusement.

Mildred saw, too, that Steve had no taste for the sports that are so popular with the home circle, and Julius began to think that he was getting too old for such pure, simple plays.

"They'll do well enough for chits," he said, "but really I want something more manly."

"Do you really admire Stephen Howard's talk?" asked Mildred, after his departure.

"We have had such hum-drum pastime, sis," he replied, "that I really like a little fun such as Steve provides."

Mildred is really distressed at the growth of the intimacy, and when she found that Steve had actually been teaching games of cards to her brother, she communicated her fears to her father, who remonstrated with his son, and pointed out the evils of games of chance. Mildred had been taught the game of chess by her father, and thought that it would be just such amusement as might please an intellectual boy like Julius.

Just now she was very much occupied with some fine needle-work for Aunt Helen that was very fascinating, but, with her usual self-denial, she proposed to teach Julius the game, and laid aside her pleasant work.

He was pleased with the idea, and hoped that she had found a way to keep Julius at home.

He was soon interested, was a very apt scholar, and was greatly elated when he found that he could beat sister Mildred at the difficult game; but one evening Steve led Julius off, and he had a long story to tell, about the choice company he had met at Steve Howard's, and showed Mildred a book that Steve had lent him—such reading as never entered Mr. Delancey's house—which she handed to her father.

"This intimacy must come to an

end," he said, "for such poison shall not be read by my children; and, with his usual decision, he forbade the intimacy."

"I know who has done this," he said; "Mildred wants to make a poor, weak milk-sop of me," and away Julius flew to his sister, and pouring out a torrent of anger, he said, "You may choose your company, but you shall not meddle with mine, Miss Prude."

"It is for your own good," she replied, "and I cannot look on quietly and see you so led away."

Deeply wounded, she sought her own room. Lucy missed her sister, and seeking for her, found her in tears.

"What is the matter, dearest?" she asked.

"I have offended Julius," she replied, "and he said such dreadful things to me; and yet I do love him so truly; but I know that I have done right, and after a while Julius will think so too; but I said some sharp things to brother, and I am so troubled, Lucy, for I do pray to be made like Jesus; and now see what I have done; but I will ask him to forgive me, and I know that he will."

"I think he is the one to ask forgiveness," answered Lucy.

"I had no right to say sharp things to Julius, for I profess to be a Christian, and he does not."

Mildred knew that Julius was fond of reading history, and she bought a set for him, just what she had heard him say that he wanted.

Leaving them in his room, with an affectionate note, she was soon made so happy by a visit from the penitent boy, who came with a full heart to ask forgiveness.

"You know, sister," he said, "that a fellow of fifteen doesn't like to be treated like a boy of ten; it made me feel so mean; but I am really ashamed of myself, when I remember all your goodness, no matter what I have done."

(To be Continued.)

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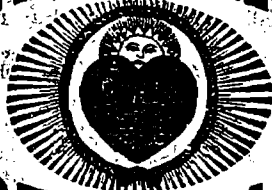
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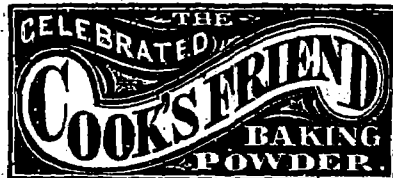
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