

I have been a child ; and, as a child, have been blamed severely by those whom I desired to please, and felt that unkind words fell heavier and more painfully sometimes than blows. I could, therefore, understand the nature of Jane's feelings, and sympathise with her to a certain extent.

All through the day, Jane moved about more quietly than usual. When I spoke to her about anything,—which I did in a kinder voice than I ordinarily used,—she would look into my face with an earnestness that rebuked me.

Towards evening I sent her down stairs for a pitcher of cool water. She went quickly, and soon returned with the pitcher of water, and a tumbler, on a waiter. She was coming towards me, evidently using more than ordinary caution, when her foot tripped against something, and she stumbled forward. It was in vain that she tried to save the pitcher. Its balance was lost, and it fell over and was broken to pieces at my feet, the water dashing upon the skirt of my dress.

The poor child became instantly as pale as ashes, and the frightened look she gave me I shall not soon forget. She tried to speak, and say that it was an accident, but her tongue was paralyzed for the moment, and she found no utterance.

The lesson I had received in the morning, served me for purposes of self-control now, and I said, instantly, in a mild voice—

“Never mind, Jane ; I know you could’nt help it. I must tack down that loose edge of the carpet. I came near tripping there myself to-day. Go and get a floor-cloth and wipe up the water as quickly as you can, while I gather up the broken pieces.”

The colour came back instantly to Jane's face. She gave me a grateful look, and then ran quickly away, to do as I had directed her. When she came back, she blamed herself for not having been more careful, expressed sorrow for the accident, and promised over and over again that she would be more guarded in future.

The contrast between both our feelings now and what they were in the morning, was very great. I felt happier for having acted justly and with due self-control ; and my little girl, though troubled on account of the accident, had not the extra burden of my displeasure to bear.