

Here the soldier stepped out, and moved his gun, and little Jamie thought he was going to shoot him, but he was not, for he very respectfully presented arms to the young gentleman, and did not mind the little lad at all. Jamie jumped for joy when he got inside the gate; but he soon began to be troubled again, for he saw another great soldier near the palace door, so he turned to the young gentleman, and said, as he looked down upon his rags, that the soldier would not let them pass; but the young gentleman replied:

"Don't fear, Jamie, my lad, only hold my hand and trust me. I'll bring you to the queen."

And the little boy asked, "Gentleman, who are you who is so kind to poor Jamie?"

The young gentleman said: "Oh, I am the queen's son, so you see you need not fear."

The little lad did not fear after that, but boldly walked past the soldier who was at the door, and wondered how it was that the prince would walk with such a very poor looking boy.

And by and by the prince walked into a beautiful large room, and left Jamie alone for a little bit, whilst he went and told her majesty; and presently he was brought in to the queen, who was so kind to him, and pitied him so much, that she sent him to a good school, where he was looked after and taught to read and write.

I know some little folks that sometimes pry into other people's affairs too much. One once opened and read a letter addressed to another so anxious was he or she (Whether was it a boy or girl do you think?) to know what was in it, and might have been sent to the Penitentiary if informed on. We must not allow our curiosity to permit us to do a dishonorable or dishonest thing. The following story shows how it led to wrong doing:—

Willie and Ned are often employed to go on errands. Squire Evans at the Hall sent them over to the station, five miles off, to fetch a hamper and some parcels for him, and told them to make haste back. In general they were very good boys and did their errands quickly and well, but to-day a spirit of curiosity seemed to have come over them, and they wondered what was in this parcel, and in that, and especially in the hamper. They shook it, and smelt it, and tried to peep in, but they were no wiser.

At last, when they reached the milestone, they resolved to sit down and undo the fastenings and look in. Alas! alas! one wrong step led to another. When they opened it, they found the top of the basket was filled with beautiful grapes. One bunch of white grapes especially attracted them. "How good they look," said Ned, and then they each took one, "just to taste," they said, but that led to their taking more, till the bunch looked so bare they thought they had better eat it up or they would be found out. Then they tied up the hamper again, and set off for the Hall with not very light hearts.

Squire Evans saw the boys coming, as he was speaking to his gardener.