

Happy Days

VOLUME IV.]

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A MOUSE IN THE PANTRY.

"WHEN I used to be out of temper, or naughty in any way, if grandfather was here he would call to me, 'Mary, Mary, take care! there's a mouse in the pantry!'

'I often used to cease crying at this, and stand wondering to myself what he meant. I often ran to the pantry, too, to see if there really was a mouse in the trap, but I never found one. One day I said, 'Grandfather, I don't know what you mean. I haven't a pantry, and there are no mice in grandfather's, because I have looked ever so often.' He smiled, and said,

'Come, little woman, sit down here in the porch by me, and I'll tell you what I mean. Your heart, Mary, is like a pantry. The little sins are the mice that nibble away at the good, and that make you sometimes cross, and peevish, and selfish, unwilling to do as your mother wishes; and, if you do not strive against them, the mice will keep nibbling till

the good is all eaten away. Now, I want to show you, my little girl, how to prevent this. To keep the mice out you must set a trap for them—the trap of watchfulness, and I have for bait good resolutions and firm-

THE PARABLE OF THE TARES

MATT. XIII.



told me, for I was such a very little girl, but I knew it was told for me in some way, and after a while I began to find out what he meant. He told me, too, that I might store my pantry with good things if I watched it well. Do you know what that means, Nancy?"

"To be full of good always," said Nancy, whose tears were dried now.

"Yes, to store it with good principles, good thoughts, and kind feelings."

ILLUMINATED BIBLES.

AN old man sat in his lonely room. What was he doing? It was hundreds of years ago, and he was writing a Bible, for in those days people had not learned to print books, and every book had to be made by hand with pen and ink. If you could have looked over that old man's shoulder you would have seen that he was not only writing the books, but he was making the page gay with bright-coloured inks;

"But, mother," said Nancy, now quite interested in the story, "wouldn't they nibble the good resolutions and firmness?"

"No, Nancy, not if the watch was kept strictly and the bait a good one. I did not exactly understand it when grandfather first

some of the letters were beautifully traced with gold and silver, on some pages the pen was used to make very pretty margins and bright pictures. But your Bible, all in black and white, should be just as precious to you, because it is God's Word.