

he possessed, his reply was, "Friend, by one article alone, in thou mayest deal if thou pleasest, it is civility."

23. What is meant by civility?

It is only another word for politeness.

24. Is there any reason why we should be polite beside the desire to get rich?

The Boy and his Boat.

A young lad was rowing a gentleman across the Merrimac River. Some boatmen going down the river with lumber had drawn up their boat and anchored it at the place where the boy wished to land. "There!" he exclaimed, "these boatmen have left their boat right in my way."

"What did they do that for?" the gentleman inquired.

"On purpose to plague me; but I will cut it loose and let it go down the river. I'll have them know I can be as ugly as they can."

"But, my lad," said the gentleman, "you should not plague them because they plague you. Because they are ugly to you is no reason you should be to them. Besides, how do you know they did it just to worry you?"

"But they had no business to leave it there; it is against the rules," said he.

"But," said the gentleman, "you have no right to send their boat adrift. Would it not be better to ask them to remove it?"

"The will not do it if I ask them," he replied.

"Well, try it for once. Just run your boat a little above or below theirs and see if they will not favor you when they see you are disposed to be polite with them."

The boy did as he was told; and when the men in the boat saw the little fellow quietly and pleasantly pulling at his oars to run his boat above, they took hold and helped him and gave him all the chance he wished. By being civil and polite himself the boy was unexpectedly treated with kindness and politeness.

25. Repeat the story of the Young Boatman.

26. Which acted with the more wisdom, the boy or the passenger in the boat? Why?

27. Does politeness ever require us to do wrong?

28. May we say or do what is wrong to please any body?

Politeness only requires that we shall do right, as we would wish others to do right to us.