

kept him at home several evenings. After the work was done he remained at home instead of spending his leisure at a saloon; and the money thus saved went to buy comforts for himself and for his family.

Then, as the house grew more attractive, and only by a little expenditure of time and money, the whole family began to love it better than ever before, and grew happier and healthier, with the one flower and others that were soon added. Thus the little plant—so small a gift—brought a real as well as a physical blessing to the whole family."

Can you not, dear reader, see some way that you may do some little act of love for Jesus, that he may bring great good from it?

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## Happy Days.

TORONTO, MARCH 26, 1904.

### TWO KINDS OF APRIL FOOL.

BY ELIZABETH THOMPSON.

"Which hand will you have—right or left?" Fred came running in from school with fists tightly closed, and held them out to his little sister Mabel.

"Left," ventured Mabel, hoping that it would be a chocolate drop or a peppermint.

"Wrong," laughed Fred, putting his hands behind him; "now guess again."

But every time she guessed he opened an empty hand, and told her to try once more.

"I'm not going to give another guess," she said at length, after the sixth time. "I just think you might let me see it."

"Well, here, then, you may have them both." Fred brought out his fists and slowly opened them, only to show his disappointed little sister that both were

empty. "April fool! April fool!" he shouted. "I didn't think you'd fool so easy!"

"You're just as mean as you can be, Fred Bray," cried Mabel. "to fool me so when I have a sore throat."

The sore throat felt unusually bad just then, for a lump was beginning to swell in it. A big tear was just getting ready to fall when there came a loud ring at the door-bell. Mabel flew down the stairs and opened the door, and there on the doorstep was a large flat package addressed to "Miss Mabel Bray."

She carried it into the library and was about to open it, but suddenly put it down on the table. "I just believe it's another one of Fred's horrid jokes!" she exclaimed.

"No, it isn't, Sis; honest, it isn't," said Fred, who was beginning to feel a little ashamed of his pranks. "Come on, let's open it and see what's in it."

"It can't be a toad, anyway," said Mabel, slowly untying the string; "it's too flat for that."

She cautiously took off the paper, and there was a set of the prettiest paper dolls: a lady and her baby and the nurse, and a little boy and girl, with half a dozen different suits for each one. On top of them was a note addressed to Mabel. She opened it, and, with Fred's help, read:

TRICKSY, FUNLAND, April 1, 1899.

My Dear Mabel: I send you some of my children to take care of, and hope they will have a good time with you. I am a brother of Santa Claus, and I help him watch you every day to see whether you are a good little girl. To-day is my birthday, so he lets me have my own way. If you are a good girl, perhaps you will hear from me again next year. Good-bye. Your old friend,  
APRIL FOOL.

Mabel was perfectly delighted. It took her all the afternoon to cut out the dollies and their wardrobes, and when Sister Ella came home from school she helped her do the pasting.

Next day the sore throat was all gone, so mamma let Mabel run across the street to show her new treasures to Elsie, her little playmate. Elsie and her sisters listened in breathless amazement to the story of the wonderful package.

By the end of the week all the boys and girls in the neighbourhood had heard about it, and were wishing that April Fool had remembered them too. Rob Hall was sure he had heard of a place named Tricksy, and even tried to remember going past it when papa took him to New York. But Elsie's sister thought that Funland must be near Finland, and that was part of Russia. "way across the ocean"—her geography said so.

Mabel felt very important to think that she was the only one who had been honoured with a present from April Fool. "I wonder why he didn't send something to

Elsie, too; Santa Claus always does," she said to Sister Ella one night when she was getting ready for bed. "I don't see why I should be the only one, do you?"

"What would you think if I told you that the package was my April Fool joke?" asked Ella, smiling. "I knew it was hard for you to have to stay indoors, and I thought it would be fun to pretend that the paper dollies came from April Fool."

"I don't care," said Mabel, putting her arms around Ella's neck. "I think it was a lovely April fool, ever so much better than Fred's, and it lasted a whole week."

### BUILDING ON SAND.

The boy who smokes a cigarette,  
Or drinks with friends a social glass,  
Is forming habits to regret,

Whose ills all other ills surpass.  
Though solid rock is near at hand,  
That boy is building on the sand;  
With scoffing mates and boisterous glee  
His course is downward—don't you see!

### LESSON NOTES.

#### SECOND QUARTER.

SIX MONTHS WITH THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS.

#### LESSON I.—APRIL 3.

JESUS VISITS TYRE AND SIDON.

Mark 7. 24-37. Memorize verses 27-29.

#### GOLDEN TEXT.

Without faith it is impossible to please him.—Heb. 11. 6.

#### THE LESSON STORY.

Jesus had been followed by scribes and Pharisees who had asked strange questions, hoping to find something against him, but he had answered them as he saw their need, and then he went away to rest by the great sea in the region of Tyre and Sidon. There he wished to be alone, but he could not be hid. A poor woman whose little daughter had an evil spirit came and fell at his feet and begged him to cast out the thing that made her daughter sick. She was of the Jewish nation—she was a Phœnician—but she believed in Jesus. When she still besought him he said, to try her faith, "Let the children first be filled, for it is not meet to take the children's bread and to cast it unto the dogs." Would you not think that the poor mother would feel hurt by these words? It may be that she did, but her love for her daughter was stronger than her pride, and she said, "Yes, Lord, yet the dogs under the table eat of the children's crumbs." The Phœnicians were a wise and noble people, yet she humbled herself for love of her daughter. Jesus saw it and said, "For this saying go thy way: the devil is gone