



### THE TWO FRIENDS.

**J**OE Simpson and Jim Little were school-boy companions and friends—always together at every nutting or skating expedition. But they were careless, light-hearted fellows, who never thought of religion or their duty to God. But at length the faithful instruction of his Sunday-school teacher led Jim Little to repent and give his heart to God, and the first thing he did was to find his old companion Joe, and to try to induce him to seek the same loving friend whom he had found. At first Joe was very shy, but Jim's loving persistency overcame his shyness, and they both bowed together before God, while Jim prayed earnestly for God's blessing upon his friend; and now they are united by a stronger tie than ever, for they are both seeking to love and serve God every day.

### WHAT DID SHE GAIN?

**I**T was a warm, summer day, and old Betty Nolan had fallen asleep over her fruit-stand. It was afternoon, when few people passed that way.

Madge Linden, the flower-girl, came along just then. "Now's my chance," thought she, "Betty will never miss one," and she helped herself to one of the nicest oranges on the stand. While she was doing it she quite forgot the basket of flowers on her arm, which she had spent the forenoon in tying up into pretty bouquets to sell that evening at the ferry. The goats that had followed her, drawn by the sweet smell of the posies, took their chance when she stood still, and helped themselves out of her basket, without asking leave; just as she had helped herself to Betty's fruit without asking leave, or saying, Thank you.

Now the flowers which the goats destroyed were worth a great deal more money than the orange Madge stole. So what did she get? She lost a good deal more than she gained. So it is always, children, when we take what does not belong to us. We lose far more than we get. We may not lose our possessions, but we lose tenderness of conscience, self-respect, and above all the smile of God.

And when we wrong another, the wrong will surely overtake us in some way. The Bible says, "He that seeketh mischief, it shall come to him."

A SMALL BOY astonished his mother the other day by wishing himself a pudding. "Why a pudding, Frank?" asked his mother. He replied, "'Cause then I would have lots of sugar put into me!"