

obliged to restrain himself, having no longer any person on whom he might throw the blame. He thus found himself obliged, willing or unwilling, to put a stop to his wickedness. His time hung heavily upon him; he became sad, and fell sick. His mother was a little alarmed, not knowing to what to ascribe the indisposition of her dear son. No longer able to torment other persons, he began to tease dumb animals, who could lodge no complaint against him.

One day, he asked his mother's leave to go to bathe. Sophia, who never refused him any thing, willingly granted it, telling him at the same time to be on his guard, and not expose himself to danger. He promised every thing, and went away well contented, carrying with him the linen that he needed. When he reached the river, instead of joining his companions, who were already in the water, he amused himself with hiding their clothes:—they pretended at first not to see him: but suddenly they ran from the river, fell upon him, dragged him, dressed as he was, into the water, and ducked him soundly, in order to punish him, and finally let him go.

Ely returned home, wet to the skin, and said to his mother: "I do not know what my comrades have against me: no sooner had they seen me than they laid hold of me and dragged me into the river; and see how they have treated me. O! I shall die with shame!"

Sophia felt keenly the insult offered to her little favorite. She sent him to bed, and went with tears in her eyes, to tell her husband. He consoled Ely, promising him to punish the bad boys who had made him take so extraordinary a bath. Ely soon threw off the mask and betrayed his real character; his parents alone were blind to his faults, because he knew how to impose on them by his hypocrisy.

Let us now turn for a while from this reckless boy to the good and virtuous Frederic.

Having entered college, Frederic applied himself at first to learn the order of the house, and made it his duty to follow the rule, to which he soon became accustomed. He was respectful towards his masters and directors in every circumstance; his exercises were always well written, his books well kept, and his deportment proved him to be a young man of firmness and dignity of character. His companions were at first surprised at his regularity; but, as soon as they knew him, all hearts were attached to him.

Frederic was not hasty in contracting friendship; and he remained some months before he had a single friend. His conduct at college was animated by religion and sincere piety. In seeking to extend the sphere of his knowledge, the young student did not deceive himself as to the true end of science. He knew that the principal object of instruction was

the education of the heart, and to that he chiefly applied. What would it have availed him to be well versed in worldly learning, had he been ignorant of his noble destiny as a Christian, and fallen an early victim to his passions—in a word, had he deserted the altar of his God? He needed no other proofs of a Christian education than the example of his brother, to whom every thing was permitted at home, and for whose future state he was very anxious. He applied himself earnestly to contract Christian habits, and to take the law of God for the rule of his conduct.

Although he had been so badly treated at home, he did not harbor any thought of hatred or of revenge; he generously prayed for and pardoned those who had persecuted him. Enjoying the love and esteem of his superiors and fellow students, Frederic led at College a very happy life, in comparison with that which he had led at home, and thus laid the foundation of his future happiness.

Sophia, who could now caress her beloved Ely, awaited with impatience the arrival of the report of the college, relative to the conduct and progress of Frederic. "It costs us so much money," said she to the neighbors who spoke to her about the matter, "that it would be a shame if he learns nothing. We shall see what will happen: but I augur no good of him; for he behaved so badly here, that I have everything to fear, lest far from the sight of his vigilant father, he will be corrupted by the bad example of evil companions."

The report at length arrived. The principal of the college spoke in the most exalted terms of the excellent qualities of the young man, and pronounced him the first student in the college.—What a disappointment for the cruel Sophia! She started back, and was on the point of fainting, at reading this letter so honorable to him whom she continually endeavored to render more and more odious in the eyes of his father. However she found, even in the report, weapons against Frederic.

"Here, my dear," said she to her husband, showing him the report, "here is some news of Frederic: listen to this letter, it is from the president of the college." She then began to read in an emphatic tone, laying a stress on the expressions that were most flattering to the young man; then she added: "They who say too much—say nothing. It is impossible that Frederic, who was a mischievous boy at home, could have become all at once a saint. This letter is either a counterfeit, or Frederic plays the hypocrite and thus imposes on his masters. What do you think of it?"

The father took the letter; read it to himself, and said to his wife: "I am of your opinion, my dear; this letter is too favorable to Frederic to require entire credence; it is, however, from the president—it is his style, his writing from beginning