

"I Was Going To."

Children are very fond of saying, "I was going to." The boy let the rat catch his chickens. He was going to fill up the hole with glass and to set traps for the rats, but he did not do it in time, and the chickens were eaten. He consoles himself for the loss, and excuses his carelessness by saying, "I was going to attend to that."

A boy wets his feet and sits without changing his shoes, catches a severe cold, and is obliged to have a doctor for a week. His mother told him to change his wet shoes when he came in, and he was going to do it, but he did not.

A girl tears her dress so badly that all her mending cannot make it look well again. There was a little rent before, and she was going to mend it, but forgot it. So we might go on, giving instance after instance, such as happen in every home with almost every man and woman, boy and girl. Procrastination is not only the thief of time, but the worker of vast mischiefs.

If a Mr. "I-was-going-to" lives in your house, just give him warning to leave. He is a loungeur and a nuisance. He has wrought unnumbered mischiefs. The boy or girl who begins to live with him will have a very unhappy time of it, and life will not be successful. Put Mr. "I-was-going-to" out of your house and keep him out. Always do things which you were going to do.

Be Little Sunbeams.

Children, you are household sunbeams; don't forget it; and when mother is tired and weary, and father comes home from his work feeling depressed, speak cheerfully to them and do what you can to help them.

Very often you can help them most by not doing something, for what you may do may only make more work for them. Therefore, think before you speak or act, and say to yourself, "Will this help mamma?" or "Will this please papa?" There is something inside you that will always answer and tell you how to act. It won't take a minute, either, to decide, when you do this, and you will be repaid for waiting by the earnestness of the smile or the sincerity of the kiss which will greet you.

One thing remember always—the effect of what you do lingers after you are gone. Long after you have forgotten the smile or the cheerful word

which you gave your father or mother, or the little act which you did to make them happy, it is remembered by them, and after you are asleep they talk about it, and thank God for their little household sunbeam.

Brighting all it Can

The day had been dark and gloomy, when suddenly, toward night, the clouds broke, and the sun's rays streamed through, shedding a flood of golden light upon the whole country.

A sweet voice at the window called out in joyful tones, "Look! Oh, look papa! The sun's brighting all it can."

"Brighting all it can? So it is," answered papa. "And you can be like the sun if you choose."

"How, papa? Tell me how."

"By looking happy and smiling on us all day, and never letting any tearful rain come into the blue of those eyes; only be happy and good, that is all."

The next day the music of the child's voice filled our ears from sunrise to dark; the little heart seemed full of light and love, and when asked why she was so happy, the answer came laughingly: "Why, don't you see, papa, I'm the sun? I'm brighting all I can!"

"And filling the house with sunshine and joy," answered papa.

Cannot little children be like the sun every day, "brighting" all they can? Try it, children.

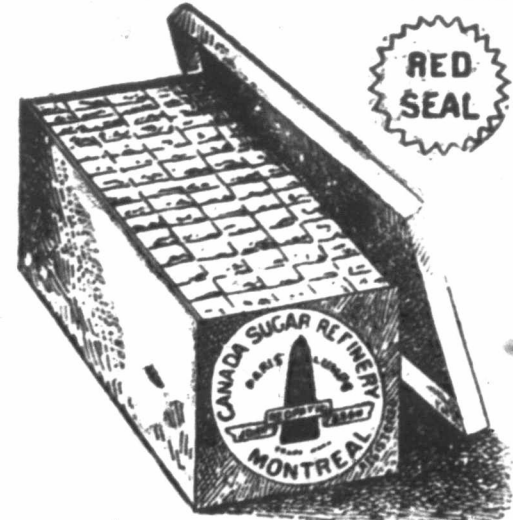
A Good Kind of Revenge.

When Sir Isaac Newton was a boy of six years old he was sent to day school. He was fond of his books and would have liked school, but was in daily fear of the boy who sat next to him in his class, who took great delight in bullying smaller boys than himself. One day this boy gave little Isaac such a savage kick in the stomach that the little fellow said he would be revenged.

Some boys would have kicked back in return, or have told the master, but Isaac's revenge was far nobler. He set to work and learnt his lessons so well that he was soon at the top of his class, and thus showed the bully that, though the latter might be better at kicking, Isaac could surpass him in worthier things.

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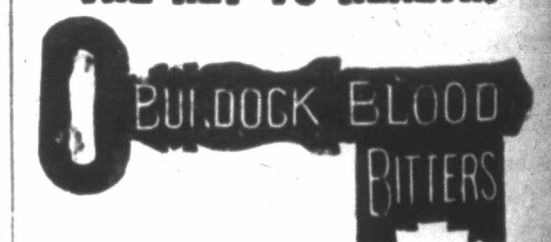
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