

"You can stay at home and sew," said her aunt.

"I want to skate," said Bessie. "This rain is very provoking."

"The provoking is all in your own heart, Bessie," said her brother. "If you only had blue sky inside, you would not mind the rain outside."

Yes, it is so. Blue sky inside—that is, a sweet, serene temper—takes all the little disappointments of life without fretting.

### HEAVEN.

A little boy was walking in the fields with his mother, one day. He looked up to the sky and said:

"O, mother, heaven is so far off, I'm afraid I shall never get there."

"My dear," said his mother, "heaven must come to us, before we can go to it."

He did not understand what she meant. Then she told him what Jesus said when He was on earth. These were His words:

"If any man love Me, my Father will love him, and he will come unto him and make our abode with him."

Jesus is willing to come into your heart. He is standing and knocking for you to let Him in. And when He comes in He brings heaven with Him. He will make a heaven in your heart, if you will let Him come and dwell there. But if we do not let Him come and dwell in our hearts here, He will not let us go and dwell with Him in heaven hereafter. Heaven must come to us before we can go to it.

### THE SNAKE AND THE FILE.

A smith left his shop for a short time, and in went a snake to see what he could find to eat. Close to the forge was a large file. The snake went to it and bit it. The snake hurt its mouth, but could do the file no

harm. This put the snake in a great rage, and he bit the file all the more; the more he bit, the more he hurt his own mouth. At last the file said:

"Snake, you may as well cease; you will not hurt me in the least if you try all day. Do you know that I can bite hard steel?"

Then the snake left the shop in a great rage, and in great pain too.

Some folks think that they are so sharp, and can say such smart things, that those who do not love them will dread them, and be friends with them for the sake of peace. But at times one who thinks thus gets more than his match. It is well, at all times to rule the tongue, and not to use sharp words if there is no need for them.

### "THINKING OURSELVES OVER."

"Please tell me, mother, what is self-examination?" said a child; our superintendent said something about it, and he told us to spend a little while every Sunday practicing it—practicing *what*, mother?"

"Self-examination is *thinking ourselves over*," answered the mother. "You know how apt we are to forget ourselves, what we did and thought yesterday, and the day before, and the day before that. Now it is by calling to mind our past conduct that we can truly see it as it is, and improve upon it."

Self-forgetfulness is a virtue in the common acceptance of the meaning of the word, but it is not safe for one to forget one's self. A bad man never likes to "think himself over." It is only those who aim at self-improvement who are willing to review the past, and to profit by its lessons. If we would become truly good, and wise, and successful, we must "think ourselves over." Our past mistakes must be corrected, and our lost opportunities redeemed.