

Mr. W. Poor man, what caused him to lose his goods?

Henry. Oh, I don't recollect just now; but I have heard all about it. I believe a friend deceived him, and he lost his property, and that drove him out of his mind.

Mr. W. Suppose he had come to you when he first heard of his losses and had said, "Henry, I am in great trouble; I have lost all my property, and I do not know what to do." Would you then have laughed at him, and called him names?

Henry. No, father, I hope not; I should be very wicked to laugh at any one in misfortune.

Mr. W. Is he better off now than he was then?

Henry. Certainly not, I think he is in a much worse condition.

Mr. W. But what have you done to him, to-day?

Henry. I feel I have done wrong; forgive me; I am very sorry I have been so naughty.

Mr. W. I willingly forgive you, since you see and acknowledge your fault; but there is some one else whom you have to ask for pardon.

Henry. Do you mean Old Edward?

Mr. W. If Edward was in his right mind it would be proper to ask his pardon. But, as God has seen fit to deprive him of his senses, it would be useless to speak to Edward.

Henry. Then you mean I should pray to God to forgive me.

Mr. W. Yes; for we are all as he sees fit to make us, and if we mock others for any defect of body or mind, we mock God. The Bible tells us, "Whoso mocketh the poor reproacheth his Maker; and he that is glad at calamities shall not be unpunished." (Prov. 17:5) Now, you do this whenever you make game, as it is called, of others, or laugh at them for any misfortune or trouble that God in his providence has seen fit that they should suffer. Old Edward is in this situation; so, by mocking or making game of him, you in fact reproach God, and forget that he could at once put you or me in the same situation as this poor old man. Think also of the Saviour; how different is such conduct from the example he has set us, and which we should pray that we may be enabled, by his grace, to follow.

Henry felt his error, and used words of prayer to God to forgive him; but I fear he did not really wish his heart to be turned. However, for some weeks, he remembered what his father had told him, and not only kept from teasing Old Edward, but persuaded several of his companions also to leave him alone.

But good resolutions, when formed only in our own strength, seldom last long. One day Edward and his persecutors passed by, and Henry thought he would follow at a distance, just to see how they plagued him. The next day Henry made one in the crowd, and joined in their cries. From bad he went on to worse. The third day he was foremost in the throng; animated by their new companion, they were unusually active; Old Edward could bear it no longer; he turned round, and catching up a large stone, he threw it at his little tormentors; Henry was foremost; the stone hit him on the face, and wounded him very severely.

Henry returned home covered with blood, and crying bitterly. "You are justly punished," said his father. "But why," said Henry; "the other boys have often treated him much worse than I have, and they are not hurt." "Have not you," said his father, "been better taught than they have been, and does not this make your wickedness so much the greater? As your father, I have told you not to tease this poor man; and I have showed you that it was sinning against God. Your offence is therefore greater than theirs, and your punishment is greater, as you deserved it should be. Remember Christ said, 'That servant which knew his Lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required.'

This story teaches a useful lesson; and we hope Sunday scholars will read it, and never act so wickedly as Henry did.

QUARRELSOME CHILDREN.

"There now," said Thomas to his sister, "you have quite spoiled the rose I have been painting." "Well, Thomas, it was all your fault." "No, it is not all my fault, Mira; it is your

clumsiness, or I don't know whether you did not do it in purpose; for you are always trying to tease me." "If you say that any more, Sir, I shall make you remember it; I did not wish to quarrel." "No, that's always your way; you first come and do mischief, and then you say that you do not wish to quarrel." And so saying the naughty Thomas struck his sister on the head. Just at this time unfortunately for the credit of the children, their Maamma entered the room. The door of the nursery having been open, she had heard all the conversation which had passed, and on Mira's screaming, went to see what was the matter. Instantly upon her entrance, as naughty children generally do, they both began at once to tell their stories; but like a wise and prudent mother, she sat down and commanded that only one should speak at a time. Of course, according to custom, Mira said, it was all her brother's fault, and Thomas said it was all Mira's fault, but their mother thought it was the fault of both, and therefore after chastising both, she shut one in her dressing room, and the other in the drawing room; that they being quiet and alone might have leisure to reflect on the shameful impropriety of their conduct. I am happy to be able to say, that this judicious discipline and the excellent advice they received, had the desired effect, for when released from their confinement they kissed each other, declared themselves very sorry for their behaviour, and promised to love each other better for the future. & I do sincerely hope that, the promise made will not soon be forgotten.

My dear readers, I will not detain you much longer; but suffer the word of exhortation, which is—*Never quarrel*. If once you get into a habit of finding fault—of being easily offended, and often disputing, you will find that it will grow with your growth, and strengthen with your strength, until you become hateful to yourselves, and hateful to all around you. Try and forgive your playmates—bear and forbear; that you may be the children of your Father who is in heaven—and remember, whenever you feel in the least angry, the following expressive and affecting lines—

"Let love through all your actions run,
And all your words be mild,
Live like the blessed virgin's son,
That sweet and lovely child."

ENVY, or the CALIF and his MINISTER.

An Arabian Story

(From Lockett's Mint Amil.)

An Arab, presented himself one day before the Calif Moostuzum Bahah, the Calif made trial of his abilities, and finding him in every respect intelligent and accomplished, appointed him one of his suite, and preferred his society to that of all his other counsellors. Now the Calif had a minister excessively envious, whose jealousy was excited by the Arab's promotion, but dreading the anger of the Calif, if he attempted any thing against him openly, he continued to keep up a show of friendship, but determined to effect his ruin by some secret artifices. He therefore increased daily in his attentions towards him, and at length invited him to his house to dinner, at which he took care to have a large portion of garlic mixed up in the Arab's food. After dinner he advised his guest to sit at a distance from the Calif, at the assembly, telling him that the smell of the garlic would prove offensive to him. The

minister then waited on the Calif, and said "The Arab whom you made your favorite, and whose company you prefer to ours, has spread about a report that you have stinking breath," soon afterwards the Arab made his appearance, and seated himself at a distance from the Calif. The Calif desired him to come nearer to him, which commanded he obeyed, but as he approached he covered his mouth with his sleeve. This action confirmed in the Calif's mind, the truth of his minister's assertion, and the treachery of the Arab, he therefore wrote a letter to one of his governors to the following purport. "On receipt of this letter, let the bearer be immediately put to death." He then sealed it and delivered it to the Arab, saying "Convey this to such a one, and return to me speedily with the answer." The Arab took it, and in going out happened to meet the minister at the door, who enquired where he was going. He replied, "The Calif has employed me to carry a letter to one of his governors." The minister immediately conjectured, that the Arab would receive some very considerable present from the governor, and he determined in his own mind to possess it himself, "What say you," "Said he," if I release you from the annoyance and fatigue of the journey, and present you at the same time with two thousand dinars." "Most gladly, said the Arab, you speak with judgment, and in so doing will free me from a very unpleasant embassy." "You have shot the arrow of your judgment, with the bow of unerring direction." So saying, he delivered the letter to the minister, and received in return two thousand Dinars. The minister proceeded to the house of the governor, to whom he delivered the Calif's letter. The governor read it, and in conformity to its injunction, he immediately ordered the minister to be beheaded.

After some days had elapsed, the Calif remembered the affair with the Arab, and ordered some of his attendants to enquire after him, and also to command the attendance of the minister. They told him the Arab was in the city, but, that the minister was gone on a message to a certain governor, from whence he had not returned. The Calif desired the Arab to be called before him, & obtained from him the particulars of the matter. "But did you not spread such a report among the people?" "God forbid," said the Arab. I should repeat that of which I am ignorant, your minister could only have told you this from treachery and deceit towards me, do not therefore grieve for his fate, for the proverb says, "he who digs a pit for another, will fall into it himself." The Calif was astonished at this marvellous adventure, and saw that the Almighty from the purity of the Arab's intentions, had rescued him from an untimely end. He exclaimed, "Vengeance on the head of the envious man." "Envy where it originates, will surely destroy its possessor." he then bestowed a dress of honor on the Arab, appointed him to the vacant office of his minister, and seated him on his right hand at the head of the assembly.

THE POLAR STAR.

Among the northern constellations, that which is situated nearest to the north pole, and is termed the little bear, is naturally the first to attract our notice. The last star of the tail is but two degrees from the pole, and is thence denominated the polar star. It may be easily distinguished from all the neighbouring stars, because it seems