

to pay the lawyers; ... that money can't ... opinion; then after ... continued—"Did you ... a short conscious- ... and that he had no ... ed him? Just as ... little better he had ... ging delirium; and ... y sense and feeling ... ent, and men bent ... r pipes from their ... om one of the ser- ... strong and marked ... had to arrange ac- ... e for a few seconds, ... se, to enhance the ... d then stowly he ... ther's presence—he ... e if he comes near ... tly at one another, ... m. ... d.) ... ord and deed; ... er wheat or weed; ... g any sort of seed. ... lready sown; ... he crop is grown; ... one reaps his own. ... arvest be,— ... r hill or lea, ... or eternity. ... ng on alway, ... for the day— ... the grand array? ... ves of golden grain, ... th from hand and ... u shall glean great

### Children's Department.

#### BE FRIENDLY.

You did not expect to find that cat just there? Well, where did you expect to find her? She goes everywhere—we mean everywhere about home. Pussy is not a great traveller. It is said that she once went "to London to see the Queen;" but is it quite certain that she did? Once we had no doubts about the matter, but having thought it over carefully now and again for a great number of years, we are not quite so sure of it now. But Pussy is a great explorer whether she is a great traveller or not. Though she seldom goes far from home, no one is better acquainted with every apartment, large or small, every nook and corner, every hole and crevice, in every building on the premises. She is quite at home anywhere and everywhere in, or upon, or around, or under the house and outbuildings. She is not much afraid of anything except strange dogs; and if the pantry is locked, nobody is afraid of her, except the rats and mice. Pussy makes friends everywhere—in the drawing-room, in the kitchen, in the dog-kennel, in the stable—because she is herself friendly; and when she comes along, purring softly to show how well-satisfied she is with herself and everybody else, one can scarcely help being pleased with her. We cannot all purr, but we can all be civil and friendly to those around us, and it will make both ourselves and them feel better. This is the end of Pussy's lesson: Be friendly.

—Every boy should be careful not to fall into any habits he does not want to carry with him after he grows up, for he will find it very hard work to throw them off.

#### STORY.

There was once a noble man who was about to travel into a far country.

So he called his servants, and gave them his goods to take care of and use for him while he was away.

The Master gave one servant five talents; to another he gave two; to another one; and so on. He knew all his servants, and knew what each one was able to do; and he gave each man as much as he could use well.

Then the master went away on his journey; and as soon as he was gone, all his good servants set themselves to do the best they could for their Lord.

The servant who had received five talents went and traded with the money, buying goods and selling them again.

A talent was more than a thousand dollars, so five talents was a large sum of money in those days; but this faithful servant was glad to take care of it all, and work with it for his Master's sake.

So, too, the man who had been trusted with two talents did his very best with these.

But the servant who had received one talent was not like the others: he was idle; he did not wish to spend his time in work for his Master.

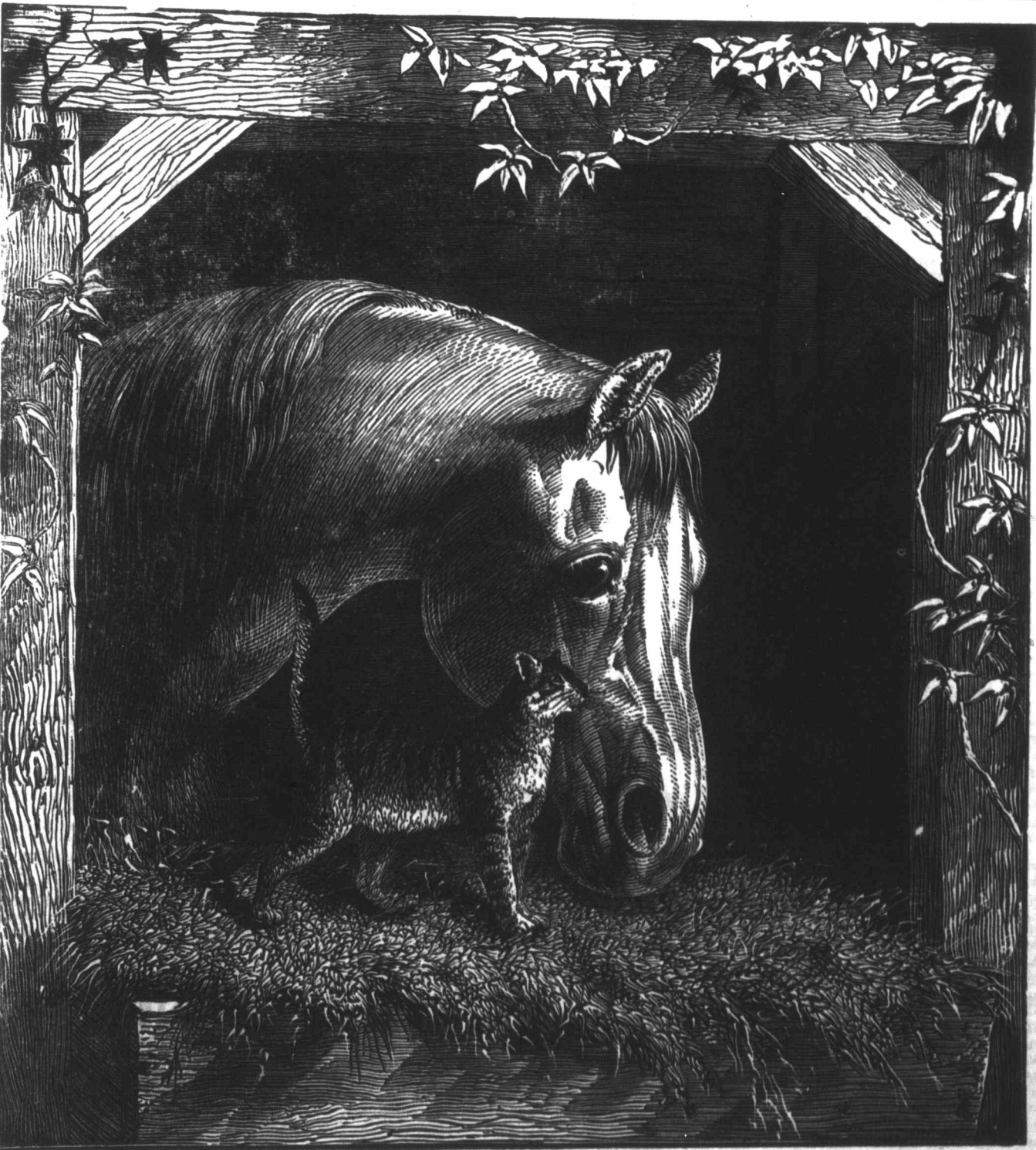
So, instead of using his talent well, as the others did, he dug a hole in the earth, and hid his Lord's money, and then he did just as he pleased until his Lord came back.

Yes, after a long time the Master came back, and was ready to reckon with his servants.

Then the man to whom he had trusted five talents came and brought five talents more, which he had gained for his Lord.

Then his Lord said, "Well done, good and faithful servant; thou has been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things. Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

The servant who had received two talents came and brought two more which he had earned. And his Master praised him, and rewarded him just



as he did the other, because he, too, had been faithful. Then came the man who had hid his talent in the earth. Oh, must he not have felt ashamed!

But he tried to excuse himself; he said he knew his Master was a hard man, and he was afraid to try to serve him by using the talent, so he hid it in the earth, and now he had brought it back.

But his Lord called him "a wicked and slothful servant," as indeed he was; for he had not tried to serve and please his Master at all.

Then he took away the talent from him, and gave it to that faithful worker who had gained the most.

And the Master said, "Cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness." So he was sent away from his Lord's presence, but the faithful servants gathered around their Master with great joy.

Now, dear little children, our Lord Jesus himself told this story, and he meant to teach us something by it.

Who do you think is meant by the Master who went to a far country?

It means our Lord and Saviour, who has gone away into Heaven, but will come back again by-and-by.

Who are his servants? We are, all of us. He is our Master, and we belong to Him.

But has the Lord Jesus given us anything to serve Him with, as the Lord gave to the men in the parable? Yes; every one of us has something by which we can do good and please God.

Your hands, your feet, your tongue, can all serve the Lord Christ, even if you have nothing else with which to serve Him.

We must think and be on the watch to do something for our blessed Master; for if we do not care to serve Him, and do not try, we shall be like that wicked servant who went and hid his talent in the earth.

Let us all try to be faithful servants; then, when our Lord comes from Heaven to judge all men according to their works, He will say to us, "Well done!"

#### SPECIAL SEASONS FOR PRAYER.

Christ spent much of his time in retirement, especially in that period of his life that preceded his ministry; hence very little is heard of him up to that time, except that he was the carpenter's son. It was so also with John the Baptist; for he was in the desert till the day of his showing unto Israel. Christ, also, in the midst of his public career, would frequently retire from the company of his disciples, and from all the world, and would often remain all night upon the mountain tops in communion with the Father. We, too, ought to have especial seasons for retiring from the world, to seek communion with God—seasons so sacred that no one should be suffered to intrude upon them. It is in such seasons, when our minds are lost to all but God, that the Spirit searches our hearts, shows to us our weakness and frailties, and we gain strength and vigilance to guard against those points in the future. It is on such occasions that the soul becomes sensible of the overshadowing presence of Jehovah—the world seems small to us, and we become refreshed with new courage, zeal, patience, and wisdom for the duties and trials of life.

—My son, trust not to thy feelings, for whatever they may be now, they will quickly be changed toward some other thing. But he that is wise and well-instructed in the Spirit, standeth fast upon these changing things; not heeding what he feelth in himself, or which way the wind of instability bloweth; but that the whole intent of his mind may be to the right and the best end.—*Thomas a Kempis.*

We cannot live on probabilities. The faith in which we can live bravely and die in peace must be a certainty, so far as it professes to be a faith at all, or it is nothing.

Never indulge in what appears to be a little sin; it will harden the heart and lead to greater.