

Children's Department.

Bobby's Fright.

Once upon a time, there was a little boy named Bobby Martin. Now Bobby was not a bad boy, but I am sorry to say he had one great fault; whenever he saw anything he wanted, he used to try to get it. If he saw a nice cake in a shop, he would worry, worry, till his mother gave him the money to buy it. If a school-fellow had some nuts, then Bobby never rested till he had made him give up half at least. In short, Bobby was very greedy.

One day he was out with the school-master, who had taken four boys with him for a long walk. As they were coming home, Mr. Frost went into a pastry-cook's, and told the boys to choose a cake each. Bobby looked over all the good things very carefully—they all seemed so nice that it was difficult to choose. The other boys had taken their cakes and were eating them, before Bobby could make up his mind which to have. At last he caught sight of a large round puffy cake, which looked twice as big as any of the others.

"That's the biggest," he thought, "so I'll have it."

But alas! when he opened his mouth to its widest extent, and took a bite, the cake went quite flat. It was hollow, and just frothed up into a big ball, with a tiny bit of jam at the bottom. Although Bobby began last, he finished first, for his little friends had picked out good solid cakes.

"Well, Bobby, my boy," said Mr. Frost, "you have found out that 'all is not gold that glitters.' Your cake certainly looked the biggest, but I expect that you will be more hungry than the other boys, after all."

Bobby blushed, for he did not think any one had noticed his greediness;

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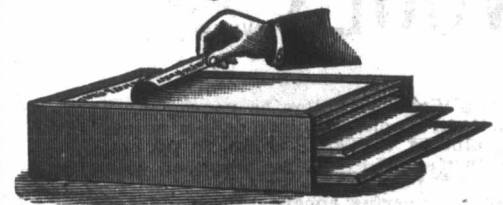
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and indeed he was sorry for it now, for he felt terribly hungry.

I think, dear children, you have all been taught that bad habits either get better or worse. So Bobby's greediness grew worse, and at last led him into real sin.

You know that he went to school every day. Now there were two ways of going there, and one led him past a lovely garden belonging to the Squire. There where some fine apple-trees at the end of the garden, and some of the fruit hung over the wall. Day after day Bobby passed the garden, and each time the apples seemed bigger and rosier. He passed those apples four times every day, until at last, one afternoon, what should he see within a few yards of the garden but a ladder. He looked up and down the country lane, but it was a lonely spot, and no one was in sight; then he seized the ladder, dragged it to the wall, and mounted.

He had just put two king-pippins in his pocket, when he heard steps on the grassy path. If Bobby had not been stealing, he would have looked round, and seen at once that it was only some sheep and lambs who were going in search of fresh grass. But Bobby had a guilty conscience, and so he was frightened, and shut his eyes tight, and clutched hold of the ladder, expecting some one to pull him down every minute. All of a sudden the ladder gave a tilt over, and it was all Bobby could do to prevent it being thrown down by snatching at the wall.

"I won't do it again! Let me go—let me go! Boo—oo—oo!" How he shouted and cried! Then, as no one touched him, he looked down, and there was an old ram rubbing his head against the ladder.

Then Bobby was angry, and tried to kick the poor thing, and as he did so he relaxed his hold on the wall, and went sprawling down amongst the sheep, with the ladder on top of him. The noise brought the gardener out of the gate at the end of the garden, and he gave Bobby such a flogging as he was not likely to forget in a hurry. But Mr. Frost came up in the middle and begged off his little pupil. Then as he walked home by his side, he showed Bobby how sinful such ways were.

"Many a thief who has died in prison, began by stealing apples," he said. "Try to be honest in little things, my boy, and then you will find it easy to be honest in big ones."

Lady Maud.

Kitty was a little girl who liked to have her own way, and always thought she knew better than anyone else what was best for her, and so she was often

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