

or make some silly display of their independence of the opinion of others, rather than be guided by a fixed *principle* of action!

We have in our minds three young ladies, all of them lovely and interesting, so far as we can judge from their appearance. But these three are very unlike in their characters, and very unlike in the motives which direct and control their conduct.

Mary is a timid girl; but she is governed wholly by the opinions of others. The inquiry ever present to her mind in regard to all she does or says, is, "How will it appear?" or, "What will others think of it?"

Laura is a bold girl. She despises the opinions of others, and often adopts a course of her own, not because she prefers it, but for the sake of showing that she dares to be singular. She prides herself on her independence of what others say or think.

Amelia is a girl of *principle*. She neither idolises nor contemns the opinions or the examples of others; but her first concern is with herself. She has a standard of her own,—the unerring and undeviating rule of truth.

Now, what young reader does not see a very great difference in the character of these three young ladies? Amelia alone is a girl of *principle*. Mary and Laura are girls of *appearance*. The former only is in the path of safety, and even of true respectability. How can we respect one whose every action is prompted by an idolatrous regard to the principles of others, or by a proud and reckless disregard, a false and affected independence, of those opinions?

GOLDEN CHAIN OF THANKFULNESS.

The past is forever receding—the present eluding our grasp—the future hastening on. Is there one bond of union between them all? Is there a golden chain which can bind together things so dissimilar?

When we remember what has been, when we think of what is when we strive to realize what shall be, is there any one of the bright Christian graces which can throw its heavenly splendour on all?—It is even so.

THANKFULNESS.

Shall we thank God for the *past*? Are we to forget its many sorrows, its many trials, its many sins? No! forget not these. Yet do we bid you thank God. Thank him that he has pardoned those sins, the