

the streets. In a wonderfully short time the streets were filled with curious persons running in all directions: a number started for the school-house, but were surprised to find the door shut and locked; no lights were visible, and yet the bell rang on with its wild clangor, frightening the birds from their nests and the poultry from their roosts.

"What can make the bell ring so?" asked one.

"Somebody run to the master's for the key," said another.

At this moment Mr. Cutter appeared with the key in his hand, and ran hastily up the steps, but, to his surprise; the door would not open; the boys had locked the door on the inner side, and left the key in the lock. The crowd by this time was very large, and in it were the fathers of the three boys who had created all this disturbance.

After a while a small boy was put into a window, and he opened the door. The crowd with lanterns, and armed with sticks and canes, rushed up the stairs; their astonishment increased when they found the school-room empty; but a cry of "help" from above attracted their attention. The ladder was elevated, and in a few moments the three mischief-makers, trembling with fright, and covered with dust and cobwebs, stood among the crowd. They felt cheap enough, and hung their heads for shame. Their fathers chanced to be present, and marched the guilty boys home.

The next day a meeting of the School Commissioners was held, and the matter investigated. The three boys were arraigned and questioned closely, and their previous character was inquired into. The Committee soon discovered that George Beck was the prime mover in all mischief, and the others were led astray by him.

After some deliberation, the Committee reluctantly decided to expel Beck from the school, and suspend Blake and Holt three months each.

It was a severe sentence, but its effect on the school was excellent. Beck was sent to a private teacher, who had directions to give particular attention to his conduct; and by kindness and good advice, it was not long before he was as well behaved as any boy in the town.

Rufus and Stephen studied at home until their term of suspension expired, and then they returned to the Brown High School, wiser and better boys.

THE LOAF.—When a loaf of bread is cut, we see a number of cells of various sizes; how do they come there? The yeast causes a vinous fermentation to take place in the dough, by which an air which is heavier than common air is formed, called carbonic acid gas; this, as the dough warms, expands, and tries to escape; but the dough by its tenacity retains it, and thus the cells are formed.

SMALL HELPS.

I want you to consider what you are doing day by day, in *little* ways, and in *little* things, for the help and comfort of others. I want you to feel like the celebrated Henry Martyn, who after such a simple act as the carrying a bunch of grapes to relieve the burning throat of a dying sailor, exclaimed, "How great is the luxury of doing good!"

A poor man in returning home from work, stooped and picked up a stone that lay in the way of passing wheels, and cast it out of the road. That stone might have been struck by somebody's wheel to the discomfort of the traveller and the injury of his vehicle. It was kind and thoughtful to remove it. Cannot you do as much as *that*?

It is impossible to tell the good which may spring from most trifling causes.

The great Dr. Doddridge was one day walking in the country, in a very depressed state of mind. He felt as if he could no longer bear up under the troubles that surrounded him. As he walked mournfully on, he heard through an open cottage-door a childish voice repeating these words, "As thy days so shall thy strength be." The effect upon him he says was indescribable; it was like life from the dead!

Might not you remind some weary and disconsolate heart of such an invigorating promise as this?

A woman who by her bad conduct had lost all her friends, became so wretched, that she went out one morning with the resolve to throw herself into the river, and thus end her miserable life. She had just turned the corner of the street, when a Christian lady passed her, and said to her kindly, "Good morning, Mary; how are you to-day?" Those few words changed the whole current of that woman's feelings. "Somebody cares for me after all!" she said to herself, "I will take heart once more, and try whether things will mend." She went home, became from that time an altered character, and lived to be a blessing to others.

What a little thing that lady's common salutation seemed! And yet how much good came from it.

THE OAK.

"An oak is not felled with one blow." Of course not, you reply, nobody expects that it will be. Well, dear reader, many people expect things that are quite as unlikely, and as unreasonable. They expect, I mean, to accomplish great purposes with but very little effort. At least, this is what I gather from their actions.

One of my young friends began the other day to learn French. Such knowledge, he thought, would be useful to him in after life. He bought a dictionary, a grammar, and a small, thin volume which

professed to teach him all that he required without the aid of a master; and he talked confidently to me of the rapid progress which he should make.

Well, how has he got on?

Oh, he has already given it up! He was not willing to take the necessary trouble. He had fancied that he should acquire the language almost immediately; but when he found that there was no royal road to learning, and that he must plod on day after day in an ordinary path, he threw aside his books in disgust, and has relinquished all idea of being a "capital French scholar." He wanted, you see, to fell the oak with one blow.

Another acquaintance of mine was desirous to overcome a long-indulged bad habit, which annoyed both herself and others. She supposed she should easily get rid of it. But after some struggles it was still unconquered. "It is of no use trying any longer," she said to me, "I shall never succeed!" "My dear girl," I said, "you must be patient, and hopeful. Such a habit as that cannot be uprooted in a week, nor, perhaps, in a month. The sturdy oak does not fall by a single blow. But if you persevere, you will gain the victory."

Such instances as these might be multiplied without number. I am not in want of any more at present, or else, I have no doubt, dear reader, that you could furnish me with a few out of your own personal history. How often have you imagined that small exertions would achieve great results! How frequently you have fancied that you could attain certain objects much more quickly than any one else could! In your home; in the world; in the Sunday-school; don't you remember how you were going to sweep away in a minute all the obstacles that stood in your path? One vigorous blow from your own hand was to bring down the gigantic oak! But you have failed. And you are disappointed.

Learn to be more humble; more rational, and more moderate in your expectations. You must work if you must win; you must persevere if you would be successful.

THE QUEEN'S DIADEM.—The imperial crown of England comprises one large ruby irregularly polished, one large broad spread sapphire, sixteen sapphires, eleven emeralds, four rubies, 1363 brilliant diamonds, 1273 rose diamonds, 147 table diamonds, four drop-shaped pearls, and 273 pearls.

CORN PAPER.—The manufacture of paper from the leaves of Indian corn is becoming extensive in Austria. The paper is said to be tougher than any ordinary paper made from rags, while it is almost wholly free from silica, which makes paper produced from straw so brittle.