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**Children's Department.**

**THE ELEPHANT AND HIS SCHOOL.**

The great white elephant left the show—

He said he was too refined;  
The ways of a circus did not suit  
His most superior mind.

"A creature as big and wise as I  
Should be teaching school," said  
he;

"And all the animal little folk  
My scholars they shall be."

So into an empty schoolhouse near  
He marshalled them all one day;  
(Twas in vacation time, and so  
The children were all away).

The kittens and puppies, the pigs and  
geese,

Were put to work with a will;  
But the squirrel and fox to the plat-  
form went  
Because they would not keep still.

And then he began to teach his  
school

The various things he knew;  
"There's much not down in the  
books," said he,  
"That you ought to know how to  
do."



And first he showed how to flap the  
ears,

But their ears were far too small;  
And then he showed how to wave  
the trunk,  
But they had no trunk at all.

The only thing that he taught his  
school

That the scholars accomplished  
well,  
Was when he called to the peanut  
man,  
And taught them the nuts to shell.

The elephant soon dismissed his  
school,

And packed up his trunk to go;  
"For, after all, my talents," said he,  
"Are best displayed in a show."  
—Ellen V. Talbot, in September St.  
Nicholas.

**THE HABIT OF KINDNESS.**

I know of a home in which the very  
atmosphere is so charged with hum-  
an lovingkindness that it is a delight  
to be a guest therein. I have been a  
guest in that home for weeks at a  
time, and I never heard a single  
harsh, unkind word spoken to or  
about any one. One day I said to the  
sweet and gentle mistress of the  
home:

"Do tell me, if you can, the secret  
of the beautiful and unfailing kind-  
ness that forms a part of the very  
atmosphere of this home. What is  
the real secret of it?"

"Why, I do not know that there is  
any secret about it. It is a kind of  
habit with us. You know that some  
people fall into the habit of always  
complaining. Others form the habit  
of always speaking sharply, while  
still others are habitually morose and  
sulk continually. Now it is just as  
easy to form a good habit as a bad  
habit, and, if one would only think  
so, it is just as easy to form the habit  
of kindness as it is to form the habit  
of unkindness. When I was a little  
girl at home my father had his chil-  
dren sing nearly every day:

Oh, say a kind word if you can,  
And you can, and you can;  
Oh, say a kind word if you can,  
And you can, and you can.

"If any one spoke an unkind word  
in the house some one would be sure  
to sing these lines, and so we came  
to speak kindly nearly all of the time.  
So much happiness came from it that  
I resolved when I came in possession  
of a home of my own that habitual  
kindness should be the rule there."

"It is a beautiful rule," I said.

"It is a rule that will bring peace  
and joy to any home, and, as I said  
before, any one can cultivate the  
habit of kindness."

I believe this to be true, and I am  
sure that Sir Humphrey Davy told  
the truth when he said: "Life is made  
up, not of great sacrifices or duties,  
but of little things in which smiles  
and small obligations, given habitually,  
are what win and preserve the  
heart and secure comfort."—J. T.  
Harbour.

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**DOROTHY'S WAY.**

Dorothy never set about being  
good just to be good. She never  
thought of it in that way. That was  
how the old woman who had lost a  
daughter, and who sat lonely and sad  
in one corner of the boarding house  
parlor one evening, found a little girl  
drawing a chair close up beside her  
and felt a warm, tiny hand slipped  
into her own, and heard a happy,  
rushing little voice tell stories about  
dolls and their ways, until her tired,  
despairing heart for the moment al-  
most grew young again. And much  
in the same way the crabbed old  
gentleman who hated children aston-  
ished himself and others by joining  
a little girl in a regular game of  
romps on the boarding house lawn;  
and a bashful young man from the  
country found himself talking out  
loud and actually telling stories to a  
group of "town people" listeners.

But this isn't what I set about tell-  
ing. I want you to know how Doroth-  
y brought the village doctor, who  
hated dogs, and the village lawyer,  
who loved them—that is, his own  
brown-eyed Fido, I mean—together.  
These two men disliked each other  
intensely, and had not spoken for  
years, but both of them were fond  
of Dorothy.

So one day when Fido got a cruel  
wound from a passing dray, and  
Dorothy happened to be close by and  
saw it, nothing was more natural than  
she should gather the little dog up in  
her arms and hurry with it to the  
doctor's office on the next corner.  
And nothing was more natural also  
than that the doctor, with Dorothy's  
confiding eyes upraised to his, and  
her hand trembling on his arm,  
should overcome his first impulse to  
throw the dog through the window,  
and set about caring for it as he  
would for one of his own patients.

When the wounds were all dressed,  
and Fido carefully wrapped and plac-  
ed in a basket, Dorothy took her  
leave, declaring that she would come  
back in an hour or so and take the  
little patient home, but that he ought  
to have some sleep first.

Well, as soon as Dorothy had turn-  
ed the first corner the lawyer came  
hurrying to the spot, having just  
learned of the accident. A boy point-  
ed toward the doctor's office, and,  
hurried there. The doctor was just  
thinking only of Fido, the lawyer  
leaning over for another look at his  
patient, and—of course, you can see  
for yourself how the reconciliation  
came about.

Not so much of a story, you say?  
Certainly not. I didn't mean it to be.  
I just wanted to give you an idea of  
Dorothy's way.—Children's Visitor.

—Any man is far from perfect  
whose sense of well-being could be  
altered by any change of circum-  
stances.

—Know well that all events are in-  
different to thee. For whatever it  
may be, it shall lie with thee to use  
it nobly.—Epictetus.

—There is nothing in human life  
so precious to God, neither clever  
words nor famous deeds, as the sac-  
rifices of love.—Ian Maclaren.

—How many of us have even a  
desire to forget an unkindness. For  
this desire we should pray.—Spur-  
geon.

—All life can be dignified by a  
sense of vocation and sanctified by a  
reminiscence of the Divine Workman,  
who shares our work.—Canon New-  
bolt.

**Common Ills  
You Can Avoid**

Indigestion, constipation and torpid  
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