

Riches.

"And don't you ever want to be rich, Aunt Larcom—never wish that you could have as much money as Mr. Allston?"

"No dear," said Mrs. Larcom in reply, and smiling at the earnestness of her niece's inquiry, "it is a good while since I have wished for a large share of this world's riches. I used to imagine that I should be a great deal happier if I had much earthly wealth, but I think otherwise now."

"O, I know I should be happier, aunt, if I had a great deal of money. I could buy every thing I wished for then, and I could make handsome presents to all my friends. And I could buy a nice new stove for poor aunt Peggy, and a carpet for her room." And Emily's eyes danced with delight, as she anticipated the pleasure she would enjoy if she could only become the possessor of a large sum of money.

"Aunt Peggy has great riches already, Emily, infinitely greater than any earthly friend can give her. With Paul, she has thoroughly learned the lesson,—*In whatsoever state she is, therewith to be content.* And there is coming to her an immensely rich inheritance hereafter." She will soon, I believe, come into possession of it, and then how trifling will appear all the privations of her mortal life. But I want to ask you a question, my dear. You know something of Aunt Peggy's lovely character—something of her severe trials, and of the last four years of pain and suffering, and something of the patience and sweetness with which she has borne her weary lot. You know too that she expresses a firm attachment to the Redeemer, and that her daily life is a sure evidence that she loves to obey his commandments. Now, if riches were among the best gifts of our Heavenly Benefactor, would he have withheld them from Aunt Peggy, whose whole life, since the years of early childhood, has been one of consecration to his service?"

Emily hesitated a moment before answering her aunt's question, and then said, "I suppose not aunt, for I am sure Aunt Peggy is one of the best persons I ever knew."

"Do not covet riches, then, Emily, but seek better, more enduring gifts. Try to obtain the *pearl of great price*, and it will not diminish your true happiness to be without this world's riches."

COUSIN ABBY.

The Number Nine.

This is a peculiar figure, with which numerous tricks may be performed; not to mention the fact that the fundamental rules of arithmetic are proved by the figure 9, there are, among others, the following curiosities connected with the figure:—

Added together as many nines as you please, and the figures indicating the amount, when added together, will be 9 or 9 repeated. The same is true in multiplying any number of times—the sum of the figures in the product will be 9 or a number of nines. For instance:

Twice 9 are 18—1 and 8 are 9;
Three times 9 are 27—2 and 7 are 9;
Four times 9 are 36—3 and 6 are 9.

And so on until we come to eleven times 9 are 99; here we have 2 nines, or 18, but 1 and 8 are 9.

Twelve times 9 are 108—1 and 0 and 8 are 9.

The curious student may carry this on still further for amusement.

Another curiosity is exhibited in these different products of the 9 when multiplied by the digits, the products being 18, 27, 36, 45, &c., reverse these and we have the remaining products, 54, 63, 72, 81.

The 9 digits, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, when added, amount to 5 nines—or instead of adding, multiply the middle figure by the last, and the product will be the 5 mysterious nines, or 45, and 4 and 5 are 9.

Once more, let the digits as written be

123456789
987654321

111111110

and we have 9 ones, and of course 9, once more.

Or let the upper series of numbers be subtracted from the other:

987654321
123456789

864197532

Add the figures of this difference, and once more we have the 5 nines, or 45, or 9.

We will now multiply these same figures by 9:

123456789
9

111111110

and we have 9 ones again, or 9.—*Granite Farmer.*