

THE FATHER'S ARMS.

A little girl, out at play near the place where her father was working, thoughtlessly ran upon a bridge that was not safe. Her father saw her and called to her to stay where she was. He was afraid to have her go back or go on. Molly stood still, just as she was bidden.

"Now look at me," said her father, standing beneath and stretching out his arms. "Jump and I'll catch you."

Molly obeyed and was caught and carried to a place of safety.

"Were't you afraid you'd fall on those sharp rocks there?" asked a little friend afterward.

"Why, no," said Molly, "papa's arms were under. He wouldn't let me go, you know. He caught me and held me tight."

This is the loving way in which we should all think of our heavenly Father. We may be sure that he is strong enough to save us from every harm, and that when we are in danger, whether the danger is to the body, or to the soul which may easily fall into sin, our Father's arms are under, and He will bear us up.

ALWAYS FELT TIRED.

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SHE KEPT THE CHARGE.

"I don't understand what it means to keep the charge," said Letty studying the Golden Text for the Sunday's lesson, which began, "Keep the charge of the Lord thy God."

"A charge," said mamma, "is something given into your care—something you are trusted to do, or told to do. Perhaps you can understand it better if you do just what I tell you to this afternoon, for I intend to give you a charge which I wish you to keep faithfully."

"Oh, I will!" said Letty eagerly, thinking it meant something remarkable.

"I am going out at four o'clock," said mamma, "and I want you to take care of little sister. She is to be your charge, for nurse is gone for the day. She is to be your care till I come home; you are to be in charge of her, you understand, and I charge you—that is I tell you earnestly—to be faithful. Will you keep the charge, Letty, and let nothing make you neglect it?"

Letty was disappointed to find it was only this common sort of a thing, but she promised to keep the charge.

But though it was a common sort of a thing, it was not an easy one. Baby was restless, and wanted to get out; Letty had much to do to keep her amused and happy. A playmate came and begged her to go with her on an errand, and Letty wanted to go, but refused. It meant giving up her own way and pleasure, it meant watching and working, but it brought happi-



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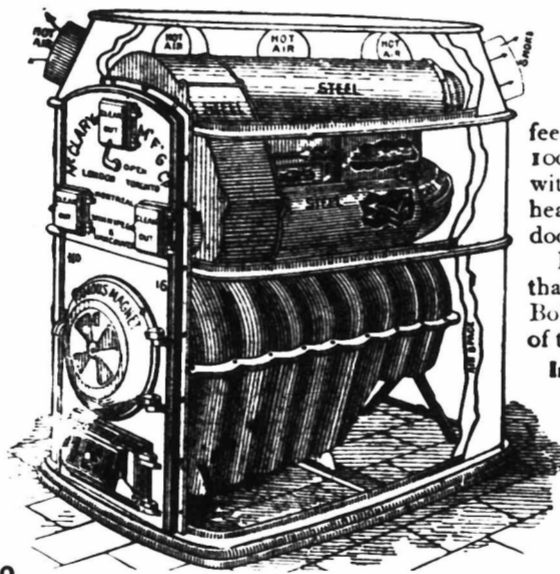
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ness when mamma said, "You have kept the charge, and I am glad."

—Every day in this world has its work; and every day as it rises out of eternity keeps putting to each of us the question afresh: What will you do before to-day has sunk into eternity and nothingness again?

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THE SAFE SIDE.

Few people, large or small, are apt to run into danger with their eyes open. Nobody enjoys broken bones or bad bruises, and if there is danger in one direction and safety in another, most people will choose the safe side. A careful driver will keep away from places where there is danger, even if there is a good chance of escaping it. He will take the safe road, and be sure.

This choice is the wise one when temptation comes. Perhaps a boy might escape great harm if he passed a saloon daily, and looked in to see what was going on, or if he read only one book that was not exactly the best sort for boys, or stayed out in the street a few minutes after he knew he ought to come in. But there is only a possibility of escape if one goes along a dangerous place. There is certain safety if one keeps away. The touch of poison ivy might be followed only by a poisoned finger or hand, but even if it did not spread, why not keep out of the way of the poison altogether, and

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