

must confess that I stayed where I was. The conversation ran in this wise:

Ernest—"If I tell you something will you never tell it?"

But Allicon wished to hear the secret without promising, so he said:

"O what is it? Go on. Tell me."

"No, not till you promise."

This went on for some time, until finally Allison promised.

"All right." I won't tell. Now what is it?"

"Well—I—I do like the girls."

I. G.

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### A PROFITABLE EXPERIENCE.

The first year of my teaching was spent in a rural school. The school was a frame building of some years standing and needed painting in the worst way. The trustees decided to have this work done.

One day the work was going on in the school and the painter was outside on the roof doing his work, having left his pails of paints and oils on the ground at the side of the school.

Soon I heard a knock at the door and, going to answer it, beheld the painter in the doorway. One glance at him sufficed to tell me that something was wrong. It did not take him long to tell me that "Johnnie" had upset his oils and paints. A minute or so before I had allowed Johnnie to leave the room, and knowing him to be a boy who loved to play pranks and practical jokes I at once concluded he had done the mischief. As a punishment I told him he must remain in at recess and also after four, then I would have a talk with him.

Four o'clock came; the other children had gone and I had not yet spoken to "Johnnie" when a young lady from the farmhouse directly over the way came in and informed me that she had been sitting at her window and saw the paints upset, not by "Johnnie," but by some of their own domestic animals that had wandered into the school yard in search of food.

I was much relieved by this intelligence. I had cautioned the children not to interfere with any of the painter's belongings and was feeling a little angry all afternoon because they had, as I then believed, disobeyed the caution. So this was good news to me. I learned from this experience never to punish a child when angry and also never to believe a child guilty of any act without knowing all the facts and having all the evidence bearing on the case. Needless to say I apologized to Johnnie and immediately let him go, but the painter's apology is yet forthcoming.

K. E. D.

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### SHOULD THE TEACHER PLAY GAMES?

When I went to my first school the secretary told me the pupils were very badly behaved, because the former teacher had been too free with them. He meant that the teacher should not play with the pupils in their games. Of course I was young and inexperienced, and believed. One day, a couple of months later, I heard one of the boys remark that he wished I would come out and play baseball, and I went. Nearly every day I played for a short time with them and I began to understand better. I never found that it made any change for the worse in their behaviour, and if there was any change at all it was for the better,