

ed the garden, and the two little girls were soon engaged in a most interesting discussion about some flower-roots which Emma wished to transplant. They then amused themselves in playing with the kitten, which seemed to be in as high spirits as they were.

"I wish you would come into the house," said Emma, "and see the gold fish that Aunt Ellen has sent me ; you never saw such beauties.

"Mamma said I musn't go into your house, because Hatty had the scarlet fever," said Dora, hesitatingly.

"Oh, but Hatty's a great deal better now," said Emma ; "the doctor says she may come down stairs to-day ; besides I don't believe there's any danger ; I haven't taken the fever and I've gone into the room many a time when mamma didn't know. You're, not afraid." are you ?

"No, I am not a bit afraid."

"Well, come then, your mamma won't know anything about it ; come, I want you to look at my fish and I'll give you a piece of cake that Aunt Ellen sent me."

Dora needed no more persuasion and ran with Emma into the house to see the gold-fish. The time flew quickly by, and Dora was startled by hearing the clock strike four ;—she had been with Emma a whole hour, and must hurry home. In crossing a lobby, she met Mrs. Sharp, who was carrying little Hattie into the parlour.

"Oh, Dora, is that you ?" said the lady ; "I am afraid you should not be here ; you must come and see Hattie another time when she is quite well. Good bye, dear."

Dora ran home, and went straight to her bed-room, thinking she should perhaps escape notice. After a little while, she went down stairs with a book in her hand, and her mother said—

"Dora, my child, you are getting very fond of reading, I think ; what a time you have been up stairs ; I wondered where you were."

Dora said nothing, but thought,— "How fortunate mamma thinks I was up stairs all the time I was with Emma !"

So, her very silence was an untruth, for it served to deceive her mother, just as well as if she had uttered the lie with her tongue. Ah, how many a dark shadow is cast upon the conscience from a falsehood which was never spoken, but only acted !