

# HAPPY DAYS

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## REVERIE.

One would think, to judge from the expression on her face, that it is not a very happy train of thought this dreamy maid is indulging in. Do you know, young friends, that the thoughts you oftenest entertain leave their impress on your countenances, and declare your character, as well as even words could, to every observing eye? Well, such is the fact, as any one of considerable experience can tell you; so be very careful, even from this lesser consideration, what you permit yourselves to think about. If you are a studious child much applied to research after useful knowledge, your face plainly shows it; if merely inquisitive, whether of good or ill, that can be read, too. If you are cheerful and happy-hearted every one can see it at a single glance; if inclined to sulk and meditate upon grievances, they can perceive that just as plainly. The girl in our picture does not look like the kind of a young person last described; she only seems a little puzzled or troubled about the subject of her reverie.

## THE ONE-TALENT MAN.

He came slowly, he was in no hurry.



REVERIE.

He had had no chance, at least none to signify. Those others had been well treated in the start and had made money; of course they were eager to come and boast. But he?—well, he never had had much to brag of in this world and he supposed he never should. It was queer how some masters helped one servant and hindered

people! How ungracious they are! how suspicious! how self-centred! Honest! Oh, yes, they would not spend their Lord's money, but their very honesty comes from timidity. They would run a risk of discovery and punishment if they squandered their talent. Read Matthew 25, 14-29.

another. If he had only had their chance now!

Well, what would he have done with their chance if he had it?

Precisely what he did with his own chance. He might have been flattered at first that so large a sum as ten talents had been entrusted to him, but after a few cautious ventures with it, he would have suspiciously remembered that his lord was sometimes hard, and concluded that the best and safest way was to bury and keep it and thus be sure of returning to his master all he had received.

But how did these other men do? They went cheerfully about the duty of using their master's money so as to increase it. They knew that if they did their best he would not blame them for lack of success. They put forth the talents he gave them and trusted that they would bring back more than their value, and what a reward they received! Oh, boys and girls, the world is full of one-talent