Children's Department.

THE LITTLE GIRL AND HER COPY.

A little girl went to a writing-school When she saw her copy, with every line so perfect, "I can never write like that," she

She looked steadfastly at the straight and round lines, so slim and graceful. Then she took up her pen and timidly put it of the paper. Her hand trembled; she drew it back; she stop-ped, studied the copy, and began again. "I can but try," said the little girl; "I will do as well as I can."

She wrote half a page. The letters were crooked. What more could we expect from a first effort? The next scholar stretched across her desk, "What scraggy things you make!" Tears filled the little girl's eyes. She dreaded to have the teacher see her book. "He will be angry with me and scold," she said to herself.

But when the teacher came and looked, he smiled. "I see you are trying, my little girl," he said kindly, "and that is enough for me."

She took courage. Again and again she studied the beautiful copy. She wanted to know how every line went, how every letter was rounded and made. Then she took up her pen and began to write. She wrote carefully, with the copy always before her. But O! what slow work it was! Her letters straggled here, they crowded there, and some of them looked

The little girl trembled at the step of the teacher. "I am afraid you will find fault with me," she said, "my letters are not fit to be on

the same page with the copy."
"I do not find fault with you," said the teacher, "because I do not look so much at what you do, as at what you aim and have the heart to do. By really trying you make a little improvement every day; and a little improvement every day will enable you to reach ex-

cellence by and by."
"Thank you, sir," said the little girl; and thus encouraged, she took up her pen with a greater spirit of application than before.

And so it is with the dear children who are trying to become like Jesus. God has given us a heavenly copy. He has given us his dear Son "for an example, that we should follow his steps." He "did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth." "He is altogether lovely," and "full of grace and truth." And when you study his character, "I can never, never reach that," you say, "I can never be like Jesus."

God does not expect you to become like his dear Son in a minute, or a day, or a year; but what pleases him is that you should love him, and try to follow his example. It is that temper which helps you to grow, day by day, little by little, into his likeness, which God desires to see. God sees you try. God loves I longed to follow them, but could not. If down you for trying, and he will give his Holy Spirit to help you.

FRANK AND SUSIE.

"There! that kitten's run into the pantry," said Mrs. Lee, as she was hurrying about her dinner. "Children, one of you get her out won't you?"

"I will," said Frank, clattering into the pantry. "Here, cat, clear out!"

Poor Kitty, frightened with the noise wildly in every direction but that of the door and finally crept behind a barrel. Frank, of course could not move it, and as little could he get the kitten out When he found that she certainly would stay where she was as long as he scolded, he tried coaxing; but it was too late for that-Kit would not trust

"Here, Kitty, Kitty, come little Kitty," said Susie, in gentle tones, as she came with quiet footfall into the pantry. Kitty knew that pleasant voice and she put her head out, but nesitated.

"Come, Kitty; dear little Kitty," said Susie again, and she came. Mrs. Lee had heard all. Which do you think the better way, my boy?" she asked, laying her hand on Frank's shoulder-" Susie's or yours?" " Susie's." Frank replied.

"Remember, then, little ones, always, that gentleness and kindness are better than roughness; and the rule of love better than of

THE SHADOW OF THE YEW; OR, UNCONSCIOUS INFLUENCE.

Close to the vicarage where I was brought up, stood the little gate which led into our churchyard. And it was my wont, on many a summer's day, to seek the quiet porch of our gray old church, which, shadowed by a yew of a thousand seasons, afforded me a cool and retired resting place. There it was my delight to sit looking out upon the village, its clustering cottages, luxuriant hedge rows, and scattered timber; and I stening full often to the far-off bells of a neighboring village, as they came and retired with their burden of consecrated music. I learned to love much the venerable walls of our parish church, and as years passed, by and I saw many a simple believer in Christ, whose hand I had pressed and to whom I had whispered words of peace, Alaid quietly by his forefathers in that still graveyard, it became a iamiliar, home-like place to me, and in the light of setting suns I often strayed amongst the briar-bound graves, and thought of our eternal hereafter. Sometimes, too, those sacred walls cast their shadow upon my rest, when full summer heated with its noon tide beam the very breeze, and made the daisy droop her head on the graves around me I loved those shadowing walls, and love them still.

It was a sweet evening in the wane of fervid July, when I wandered into the churchyard. thinking of a dear sister friend, closely related to the one dearest to me on earth, taken early to rest and her unfading crown. The remembrance made me very thoughtful, and as the sun had not yet lost it power, I sought an accustomed seat on a gravestone beneath the shadow of the tower, and there went sorrowing back to the summers of the past. Thought clasped thought, till bound in a chain of memory and association, I passed away from the present, and hours fled unnoticed by me. The sun sank to rest, the ten thousand hues of the western heavens passed into the flushed gray of a later hour, and the indescribable calm of twilight was just coming on, when I awoke from my dream of thought. The daisy slept around me, the dew was a prevading presence in the air, the faint 'good night' of a distant thrush just broke on the gathering silence. I roused myself, and felt a chill fallen upon me; and looking around in doubt whence so cold an embrace could come. saw that dark upon the place of my rest fell the dense shadow of the Yew. All my blood was chilled. But even whilst realizing this upon thee by God, and his unsleeping eye America. influence, I seemed to relapse suddenly into

my trance of thought, and to hear a voice short. Like a mighty river nearing the falls, (whence it came I know not; for myself, gentle reader, I believe in the minist y of angels) whispering the following strap e, and to me, affecting words; "The shade / that chills thee is an emblem of a deeper truth. Listen! I will interpret to thee the Yew Tree's message. It throws its chill shade about thee to teach thee that every thing casts a stadow. Thou thyself hast : shadow-one that must rest upon those about thee-one that may chill and darken every thing beneath it. Thou castest the shadow of unconscious influence upon the spirits of thy fellows. Angels good and evil watch it. Wouldst thou know of what it is composed? Listen! Thy words, thy deeds, thy looks, the very expression that passes from thy face to another, - these, with thy omissions, weave the shadow of nacons-

cious influence I started in agitation, and seemed to-lose the voice; but after a moment's silence it resumed. "In the book of God's remembrance these shadows often, very often appear. They are more powerful for good or for evil than all open persuasion, all uttered enticement. The characters of the children around thee, those lambs of Christ's fold those favored of angels, those fairy things of smiles and tears, are moulded by such influences; thy sister can not cast off the secret mastery of thy unconscious influence, the brother of thy affection keeps his eyes upon the to watch and to follow. Shall thy friend go to God's dreadful judgment bar, his unsaved soul dark with the shadow of thy unconscious influence? Dost thou doubt? I will show thee a pic-

And methought as these words died solemnly away, a group of four young men stood before me, and one was persuading his fellows | charged for it, is considered. I have one now to go down the river w th him. (It was Sunday.) I seemed able by some strange agency to read the thoughts of the one nearest me, who alone stood out, and hitherto had refused to go. I marked the strong desire of pleasure rise up in his heart; saw, too, hung up in the chamber of memory (all seemed open to me) the warnings of his widowed mother, the holy texts learned of old at her knee; I heard the still small voice of conscience enter her eloquent protest against his unhallowed wish. And I thought, "Ah! these must prevail" But even as the thought flashed by, I observed with alarm a dark shadow creeping unperceived over his spirit. They were talking still, and the leader, finding his arguments of no avail, had ceased to urge the proposed excursion. But a moment more, and upon the mind of the young man who had refused to go with his fellows, flashed the thought, "Well, W., who is so good, never warned me against the river, and I don't think he is particular about Sunday ;" and at this thought he not seem long in the dream land of my thoughts ere slowly and solemnly upon my ear fell the tolling of a neighbouring church bell; and in the pauses between those mournful strokes, I seemed to hear people talking in the street, and caught the words, "A sad thing! four young men drowned, in service time, at the bridge;" and again the bell toiled -tolled solemnly. I shuddered and struggled to utter what I knew, but the voice, which had been silent, prevented me. "Thou has seen one soul darkened by unconscious influence; the millions are hid from thee. See again." The voice ceased, and I seemed to be close to a sleeper, who lay stretched upon a public bench; his eyes were closed, a terrible ashy hue seemed creeping over his lips, and I observed with horror a phial, labelled "Poison," half empty on the grass; the only other thing I noted was a pocket volume, the leaf turned down at a passage on death, whose tatal teaching, the sceptic's baseless dream, had been the means of hurrying the suicide's soul into the presence of the God whose existence he had learned to doubt. I trembled, and would have call for aid; but my tongue seemed chained, and once more the mysterious voice broke silence. The shadows of unconscious influence pass not with life; they live on with the recorded doubt, the remembered saving, and rest upon untold generations; the shadows which men cast here go with them to judgment."

stricken and self-accusing, I trembled, and scarce dared to question my past; for a long the dim vistas of memory I saw countless shadows resting, and Conscience half whispered the history of some of them. But as a sleeper, oppressed by some horrible dream, wakes to the music of the lark's matin song, and to see the blue heavens filled with earliest sunlight smiling upon his repose, so I seemed to grow conscious of a brighter story, a happier tale of unconscious influence. The voice, comfort in every tone, fell again upon my ear: "Yet one more lesson, and the Yew Tree's shadow will have performed its mission." And now I seemed wandering in a quiet hamlet, and following with my eye a white-haired clergyman as he passed on errands of mercy from cottage to cottage. And I noted that, wherever he went, an influence for good seemed to rest upon those around. At length he entered a silent cottage, and passing with him up a narrow flight of stairs, and heard him pour forth his soul in earnest supplication by the bedside of a dying woman. She spoke not, for the mystery of death was about her; and he left, lifting up an inward prayer that at eventide there might be light. But I noted her husband sitting in the room below, a strong, laboring man, with his head bowed upon his hands, watching the faintly flickering fire He spoke not as the clergyman pressed his hand, and spoke a few soothing words of mingled comfort and warning; but when all was quiet again, and the cottage door was slowly closed, he lifted up his head and murmured, "God save me; I am a miserable sinner." He had caught the words of the clergyman's prayer from the upper room, and I saw, with a thrill of delight, the dim dawn of that unclouded day, which shall make one endless noon of a happy eternity, breaking in his alienated heart. The divine word had gone forth, "Let there be light" and "there was light." The house where the Angel of Death had his mission passed from me, and the voice once broke in with these last words, "Remember the Yew and its shadow. There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over this sinner, for he repenteth." The voice was no more. I awoke and started up; the shadow of the old Yew lay dark upon me, and, chilled

Reader, thou hast, whoever thou art, the vast gift of unconscious influence, conferred rests ever upon thy use of it. The time is

through, I left my seat to see the canopy of

heaven crowded with stars, the gray church

tower standing up darkly defined against the

sky, and to hear a far village clock speak

eleven warnings to the darkened world. I

left the still graveyard to mourn at the foot of

the cross for my past, and anxiously to guard

my future, unconscious influence.

the stream of time hurries on to eternity. Reader, what shadow do you cast on those around you?

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D. H. FERGUSON, 100 McGill Street. To R. Alsop, Esq.

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