

His sister Ella and his younger brother Herbert got used to these invasions, and Ella would make him a mock courtesy and hail him as "The Black Prince." His mamma always strove to let him see that he could do a great deal of real fighting, even if he never donned the soldier's red coat. She used to tell him of those giants that try to take the castle of every boy's heart, such as Selfishness, Pride and Deceit; and point him to the soldier's guide-book—the Bible—which would help him to fight them. So at last Harry began to find out that he could fight in a grand cause, even though he never went from home at all, and never followed the beat of the drum on an earthly battle-field. But he never forgot his fondness for fighting, and in after years his favourite text of all was: "Fight the good fight of faith."

#### A Little Girl.

A little girl was passing by a garden in which was some very pretty flowers. She wished much to have some of them; she could have put her hand between the rails, and have taken them, and perhaps nobody would have seen her. But she knew this would be very wicked; it would be stealing. So, after thinking a little while, she resolved what she would do. She went to the mistress of the garden, and asked her very prettily to give her some of those nice flowers. The mistress told her she had done right not to take them, and then showed her another garden full of beautiful plants and flowers, and gathered for her a fine large nosegay.

Let this teach you a lesson. If this girl had taken the flowers without leave, she would have been very unhappy; and if she had been asked how she came by them, she would most likely have told a lie to hide her first fault. And how uncomfortable she would have felt at night, when she lay down, and when she thought of the great God, and prayed to Him who hath said, "Thieves shall not inherit the kingdom of God." "Be sure your sin will find you out," if you break God's commands.

#### In the Barn.

It is the brightest of spring mornings. The air is soft and mild, and Minna and Gretchen, having finished their tasks, have come to the brown barn, where swallows fly in and out under the eaves for a frolic. Truly they have fallen upon good company, and one might easily envy their delight as they nestle in the bright yellow straw, where Tabby has also brought her young family for an outing. The thoughtful Minna has remembered the physical wants likely to be encountered, and brings a plate laden with tidbits, to tempt carnivorous little teeth. At the door, Chanticleer anxiously lifts a foot, hoping a crumb may fall his way—a thing quite certain to happen, for Minna has a tender heart, and already casts a tender glance toward him.

Gretchen has thrown herself down to the level of the furry innocents in the straw, one of which is held aloft while she talks to it. But the roly-poly scarcely appreciates its sudden elevation, as it hangs its paws helplessly, with a vacant stare in its blue eyes, as if pitifully complains in a series of friendly meows.

The mother-cat switches her tail contentedly, yet keeps a wary eye on the proceedings, though trying to feel

the strictest confidence in the good intentions of her young mistress.

While we do not give a religious worship to cats, as did the Egyptians of old, we yield a ready admiration to their feline perfections, wherever seen. There are few things more charming than the sight of kittens at play. They are so agile and graceful, and ready for frolic whenever not cuddled down in a soft, furry heap for repose.

#### The Pet Sheep.

Annie had three pet sheep and one of them has a baby lamb. They are all very fond of their little mistress, and will follow her about, and romp with her without the least fear. This is because they have learned that she is kind to them and will not let them want for anything that they need. She feeds them and gives them water to drink; puts them in their houses at night and lets them out early in the morning.

When it is time to be put up at night or let out in the morning, or if they want food, or drink, they will bleat until she comes to them. Then they will rub their noses against her and manifest their gratitude to her in many ways. The little lamb has soon learned to love her and to call her by bleating, just as the old sheep do. Most animals will appreciate kindness just as readily as they will resent an injury. Even wild beasts that are captured and shut up in cages have feelings of kindness toward the keepers who feed them which they do not have towards others. This is very well understood by those who have the care of them.

#### A Sharp Pigeon.

Cats are generally thought to possess great cunning, but the other day I saw a pigeon outwit a cat. The bird was busily engaged in picking up scatterings of grain, when "Tabby" came forth in a stealthy manner to capture him.

Gradually Miss Puss wriggled up to a place from which she could make her deadly spring. But just as she was going to jump, the pigeon gave a flying leap, landing some ten feet away, and then went on picking up grain, all the time not appearing to see his enemy. Kitty again went through the crawling process, until near enough for a leap, only to see the pigeon quietly hop beyond her reach and continue his dinner. This performance was repeated several times, until he reached the alley's end, where he could go no farther.

"Now," thought I, "this fun must end. Mr. Pigeon will have to fly away altogether or get caught." Pussy was evidently of the same opinion, for she approached her intended victim with even more than usual caution. But the seemingly careless bird knew his business better than either of us, and picked away as though nothing was the matter.

This time Puss succeeded in making her spring, and landed just where she intended to. But the pigeon wasn't there! Flying over the cat's head, he alighted on the very spot from which she had sprung.

#### Rain and Fine Weather.

"I don't like the rain," said little Octavius: "It hinders my running about and getting a good game of play in the garden."

"I like it," answered Colin, the gardener's little boy. "It comes just

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