

THE OLD CLOAK.

SOME soldiers, passing during a time of war through a certain village, asked for a guide. A poor old day laborer offered himself. It was bitter cold and snowing fast. The old man asked several of the farmers to give him a cloak, but no one paid any attention to him. Now there was an aged soldier, who, wishing to get money enough to take him home, was working with the blacksmith: he saw the poor, shivering old man, and gave him an old cloak of his own.

The soldiers went on their way, and toward evening a fine young officer, richly dressed in elegant uniform, came into the village and inquired for the man who had given the guide a cloak. The moment the tender-hearted old man saw the officer, he cried, "Oh, mercy! that is my son, Rudolf," and rushing forward, pressed him to his bosom.

Rudolf had been in the army for several years, and had, by his bravery and good conduct, risen to a high rank. He had sought in vain for his father, and little thought to find him at work in a small village smithy. But he had caught a glimpse of the old cloak on the guide, and learned the whole story. He knew it was his father's cloak, and, as soon as he could, hastened back to the village. Father and son wept for joy, and all the people who stood around wept with them. Rudolf remained all night with his father, and in the morning left him a purse of gold, and promised for the future to take care of him.

Every one said, "Had the old soldier not been so kind hearted, and helped the poor old laborer, God had not taken pity on him and sent him back his son."

BLIND AND DEAF.

THE Bible tells us that woman is to be a helpmate to man, and the man is to be the support of the woman.