

many times when we shall need some strong place to fly to for safety. The best place we can go to in a time like that, when we are tempted and the devil's arrows fly about us, is to God, who has promised to take care of us. Solomon says, "The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe."

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Sunbeam.

TORONTO, MARCH 27, 1897.

THREE FRIENDS.

"I LIKE to play with Edwin," said Frank; "he knows how to do everything."

"Yes," said Mary, "and he isn't a bit cross."

"He can swim," said Frank, "and he can milk the cows, and he knows the names of all the trees—"

"And just where to find the ripe blackberries," said Mary.

While Frank and Mary were talking Edwin came around the corner of the house, and they ran to meet him.

Frank and Mary lived in a large city, but they had been taken by their parents to pass some time in the beautiful little village of Plane. Edwin was the son of a farmer who lived in Plane. All his life he had been familiar with the trees and brooks, the birds and squirrels, and the city children were eager to hear about these things.

"Where are you going?" called Frank as he ran towards Edwin.

"Down to the blacksmith's," said Edwin. "Come along."

"Come, Mary," said Frank, and taking his sister's hand they walked along by Edwin's side.

Edwin paid the blacksmith for some work which he had done for his father, and then the children started to walk back. When they reached the brook Edwin jumped up on the stone wall which

was built between the brook and the road, and easily walked on it. He knew just how to balance himself, for he had done it many times. Frank followed him, but he could not go as fast as Edwin, for his shoes slipped and he did not feel confident, and when he looked back and saw Mary climbing up he called out,

"Mary'll fall into the water if she gets up here; won't she, Edwin?"

"To be sure she will," said Edwin, jumping down into the road, where the others followed him.

He picked up a pebble and threw it into the brook. Frank also threw one in. "What pretty circles it makes!" said he. "See, they're getting wider and wider!"

Frank was quite right. The pebble made only a little ripple when it struck the water, but this was followed by another somewhat wider, and this by a third still larger, till the motion extended quite across the brook.

Just so it is with your actions. They do not end as soon as they are performed, but go on in ever-widening circles, influencing your friends and playmates. When you speak a wrong word the boy who hears it may take it up, and so the boy who hears him, until your one word may make a hundred. And good words grow just in the same way. Do not forget this.

"I like this place," said Frank as they reached the house where they were staying.

"Oh, how I should like to see the city," said Edwin; "the trolley cars, and the electric lights, and all those things!"

"Come and see us," said Frank, "and we will show them all to you."

"Yes, I will," said Edwin, "if I can."

ELSIE'S ADVICE.

BY SALLY CAMPBELL.

"Now, Maude Anna Belinda," said Elsie, "I want you to sit up straight and listen to me. I have something to say to you; something you should be glad to hear."

It was hardly worth while to ask Maud Anna Belinda to sit up straight, for she was already sitting up very straight indeed, with her hands hanging down stiffly at her sides, and her eyes staring right out in front of her.

"I've got some good advice to give you," Elsie went on, "for your manners. There's company manners and there's home-folks manners. Some people have very fine company manners, but their home-folks manners are horrid. They make all their smiles in company, and just have frowns and pouts and frets for the family; which, of course, you know is very unfair, and not nice at all. Some people don't divide theirs up; they just have manners that are just the same all the time. And this is a much better way, especially if they are of a pleasant kind, my dear."

"Some people get their manners at Paris, and some people's mothers tell them to them when they are young. But my dear Maud Anna Belinda, if you want

yours to be good and lovely through and through, you must have a good and lovely heart that's full of kindness and best wishes to everybody. Those are the sort they have in heaven, and heaven's a better place to get them from than Paris, I guess, or anywhere else.

"So now I'm done. And I will give you a kiss to remember it by."

If Maud Anna Belinda did not need Elsie's advice, that is not saying that some of us may not.

APRIL FOOL.

WHAT are the children all about?

Mischief is certainly brewing:
When four little heads are in a bunch,
I know there'll be something doing.

Hark! what a merry, noisy shout,
As away they suddenly scatter!
Papa has sweetened his tea with salt,
And doesn't know what is the matter.

Mother, who says, "You can't catch me!"
Her breakfast just ready to swallow,
Finds that the egg she likes so well
(How strange!) is perfectly hollow.

Bridget, with dish-cloth pinned behind
By fingers that stealthily handle,
Is patiently trying, with all her might,
To light—a potato-candle!

But, ah, you rogues! though you had
your fun,

The fun was not all for you;
And you found, before the day was done,
We could have our nonsense too.

For Dick, who thinks maple-sugar nice,
Took a bit of soap so yellow!
Tom tasted a doughnut of cotton-wool,
And got laughed at well, poor fellow!

And when mother sent to the thread-store
near,

The little ones, Kate and Willie,
For a skein of sky-blue scarlet silk,
They came back looking quite silly.

Our jokes were only innocent fun:
And now let me give you a rule:
Don't ever be vulgar or rude or unkind
In playing at April Fool.

BUYING THE TRUTH.

"Buy the truth and sell it not; buy the truth and sell it not; buy, buy, buy!"—Allan stopped and shouted, "Say, mamma, what's it mean to buy the truth?"

"Truth is such a good thing, my boy, that we must have it, and be willing to part with anything to get it. When Johnny Lee learned that it was wrong to sell papers on Sunday, and gave it up, he bought the truth."

"I see," said Allan; "it cost him something to do right."

If you wish to be loved, be unselfish, thoughtful, and kind, always looking for good in those about you.