

Pray, do not take it all! Here is my hat; and, hold! here is a drinking-horn; perhaps you will have them instead. Do have some humanity, and I hope you will escape the halter." The highwayman did not take the hat, but from habit, he held out his hand for Hobday's money, all of which he pocketed; but this harangue touched his heart, and made him hesitate. "I am not hard-hearted," he answered; "and as you have hoary hair, and do not seem hypocritical, I return two shillings." So putting two pieces of money into the husbandman's hand, he took to his heels.

On reaching home, Hobday heard that an ostler on horseback had brought from Miss Harriet Howe, of Hutton, a hamper containing a Hampshire ham,

a hundred herrings, a piece of hung beef, with some homely habiliments, hose, &c. And a higgler in the hamlet had given Hannah a huge loaf of household bread.

"You are much heated, my dear husband," said Hannah, as he hung up his hat, and approached the hearth: "I hope you have not hurt your bad hand! Has any harm happened to you, Henry?" Hereupon honest Hobday related what had happened to him when half way home, and how the highwayman had returned two shillings. On taking out the money to give Hannah, what was their happiness to behold *two sovereigns*,* which the highwayman in a mistake had put into Henry's hand!

*A fact.



A STORY FOR LITTLE CHILDREN.

There was a little boy who heard, one Sunday, a clergyman preach. The text which the clergyman read was: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you."

After reading the text he stopped a minute, and asked his hearers to consider what it was they should like most, and then to ask for it in Jesus's name, trusting to his promise that it would be given to them.

At the end of the service the little boy asked his aunt if she asked for anything; then she asked him what he had asked God to give him, and he said: "I thought first of one thing I should like, and then another, but I did not know which would be best to ask, and so I said, 'Father, thy will be done.'"

Never ridicule sacred things, or what others may esteem as such, however absurd they may appear to be.