

country they settle, they devour all the vegetables, grain, and, in fine, all the produce of the earth, eating the very bark off the trees; thus destroying at once the hopes of the husbandman, and all the labours of agriculture, for though their voracity is great, yet they contaminate a much greater quantity than they devour, as their bite is poisonous to vegetables, and the marks of devastation may be traced for several succeeding seasons.

Little Ellie.

"I wonder what my text is, this morning," said little Ellie, as she opened her text-book. "I hope it is a nice easy one." "Mine is," said her sister Mary. "It is.—'This is my commandment; that ye love one another, as I have loved you.' I am sure I understand that: Jesus loved us more than himself, and so we are to love our friends more than ourselves." "Oh! Mary, mine is so hard; just see. I am sure I cannot tell what it means," said Ellie, in a most desponding tone.

Her sister took the book, and read—"As every one hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another." "It is a hard one, Ellie dear; but try and learn it, and after breakfast you can ask mamma about the meaning."

These little girls were accustomed to learn a text to repeat in the morning, and their mamma had told them that it was not sufficient to learn, or even to keep in their minds these words of God, unless they tried also to regulate their actions by them; and in order to do this, they must understand what these texts meant.

When breakfast was over, Mary went into another room to practice music, and Ellie waited for her mamma to give her some work. She looked out of the window into the street. It was snowing. All the people who passed looked very cold and blue.

I am very glad, thought little Ellie,

that the holidays are not over yet. I should not like to walk to school this morning; it is much nicer to sit at home, and work by the fire. I hope mamma will give us nice short tasks, that we may play with our New Year's gifts. Ah! that reminds me of my text. Then she said aloud, "If you please, mamma, will you tell me what my verse, this morning meant?"

"You know what a gift is, Ellie," said her mamma.

"Oh, yes, of course, mamma! my new doll, and my puzzle were gifts. I had a great number of gifts this New Year's-Day. A gift is a present, something given to you."

"Quite right, Ellie. Now tell me what God has given you."

"You said the other day, mamma, that God gave us all we have."

"Yes, dear, God does give you all you have. He gives you health, and friends, and reason, and a home: and beside these, he gives you opportunities of serving him. The word minister, in your text means to serve. Now try if you can make out your text altogether."

Ellie thought some time, and then said, "I think it must be, that we must use what God has given us, to serve him; but I do not see how I can do that, mamma. If I had money, I could serve God by buying Bibles and clothes, and food, to give away; but I cannot till I am a woman, because I have not money enough."

"But if you should not live to be a woman, Ellie, what then?"

Ellie paused; then said, "Perhaps there is some way to serve God." Mamma, will you tell me how? *Teacher's Offering.*

Never Strike Back.

"Hush, hush, children," said a mother to two little girls, who, stood by her at play with their dolls, "no quarrelling!"

"Magie struck me first, and she struck her," said Bessie pouting.

"Bessie took my doll, and then