

violets. Its travels were ended, and, in a few days, some one threw over the violets and their friend a spadeful of earth. Thus life ended for the leaf as life begun, in doing what it could.—*Living Church.*

The Magic of Silence.

You have often heard, "It takes two to make a quarrel." Do you believe it? I'll tell you how one of my little friends managed.

Dolly never came to see Marjorie without a quarrel. Marjorie tried to speak gently; but no matter how hard she tried, Dolly finally made her so angry that she would soon speak sharp words too.

"Oh, what shall I do?" cried poor little Marjorie.

"Suppose you try this plan," said her mamma. "The next time Dolly comes in, seat yourself in front of the fire and take the tongs in your hand. Whenever a sharp word comes from Dolly, gently snap the tongs, without speaking a word."

Soon afterward in marched Dolly to see her friend. It was a quarter of an hour before Dolly's temper was ruffled and her voice was raised, and as usual she began to find fault and to scold. Marjorie flew to the hearth and seized the tongs, snapping them gently. More angry words from Dolly. Snap went the tongs. More still. Snap.

"Why don't you speak?" screamed Dolly in fury. Snap went the tongs. "Speak!" she said. Snap was the only answer.

"I'll never, never, come again, never!" cried Dolly.

Away she went. Did she keep her promise? No, indeed? She came next day, but seeing Marjorie run for the tongs she solemnly said if she would let them alone they would quarrel no more forever and ever.

Hold on, Boys.

Hold on to virtue—it is above all price to you, in all times and places.

Hold on to your good character, for it is, and ever will be, your best wealth.

Hold on to your hand when you are about to strike, steal, or do an improper act.

Hold on to the truth, for it will serve well, and do you good throughout eternity.

Hold on to your tongue when you are just ready to swear, lie, or speak harshly, or use an improper word.

Hold on to your temper when you are angry, excited or imposed upon, or others are angry about you.

Hold on to your heart when evil persons seek your company, and invite you to join their games, mirth, and revelry.

Hold on to your good name at all

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times, for it is much more valuable to you than gold, high places, or fashionable attire.

Hold on to your foot when you are on the point of kicking, running away from study, or pursuing the path of error, shame or crime.

All in Good Time.

A little pearl lay hidden in the shell, and it mourned; for it heard that the divers had taken away many of its sisters, and it complained—"Why am I left in silence and darkness, while they are gazed on and admired?"

And while it mourned and complained, it grew and grew in its undisturbed obscurity, receiving just as much light and matter as was needful to perfect

it in size and purity, none seeing it, none knowing of it.

But, just as its lustre and form had reached the height of excellence, the divers came and took it, and it was made a royal ornament and dazzled a court.

"Ah!" cried the once complaining little pearl, as she looked on her many once-envied sisters, so inferior to her in costliness and beauty, "I see how good it was to be left in solitude; if I had been taken with these, as I repiningly desired to be, I might have been threaded, with many others, for a courtier's arm, but I should not have been raised to glisten on a royal brow."

A Winter Scene.

Slow the snow is falling
Softly to the ground,
All around it droppeth,
And without a sound,
Save a little flutter
In the cold, still air,
As it tumbles eastwards,
Falling everywhere.

All the ground grows whiter,
Trees no more are bare,
Snow has softly covered
Them with tender care:
Birdies nestle closely,
Shelter safe to find,
One still watches o'er them—
Our Loving Father, kind.

A Little Hand.

A little boy, a Sunday scholar, had died. His body was placed in a darkened, retired room, waiting to be laid away in the lone, cold grave. His afflicted mother and bereaved little sister went in to look at the sweet face of the precious sleeper, for his face was beautiful even in death.

As they stood gazing upon the form of one so cherished and beloved, the little girl asked to take his hand. The mother at first did not think it best; but as her child repeated the request she took the cold hand of her sleeping boy and placed it in that of his weeping sister. The dear child looked at it a moment, caressed it fondly, and then looked up to her mother through tears—the tears of affection and love—and said, "Mother, this little hand never struck me!"

What could be more touching and lovely? Young readers, have you always been so gentle to your brothers and sisters that, were you to die, such tribute as this could be paid to your memory? Could a brother or a sister take your hand, were it cold in death, and say, "This hand never struck me"?

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