

SUNBEAM

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FEEDING THE RABBITS.

It is a very nice thing for young folks to have some pet which they can take an interest in—feed, play with and look after. It teaches the little ones early in life that animals too have feelings like themselves and thus helps to form in them a love and gentleness for the dumb creation, which are not always shown in much older people. If kindly and firmly treated, animals will grow very fond of their owners. The horse in our picture seems glad to welcome the boys' morning visit, and is waiting for the fresh bundle of hay which we see being brought downstairs. The little rabbits, too, seem to have no fear, and to look forward to the morning meal as much as any one.

ELLIE'S PROMISE.

BY ELIZABETH ALLAN.

"Oh," cried little Ellie, springing up in her cot, "there's a great spark of fire on mother's new rug."

Out went the little feet on the bare floor, dashing across to reach the hearth broom; but on the outside border of the new rug they came to a standstill, the pink toes curling up to keep warm.

What held Ellie back? There was the red coal eating its way through the rug; there was the hearth broom waiting to whisk the coal back to the hearth, and there was Ellie, who dearly loved to sweep with the little red-

handled broom. Yet Ellie stood still, on the rug's flowered border, until the smell of fire brought nurse in from the bathroom, and mother from her room, and

Ellie answered, half crying, "I promised not to cross the rug."

"Bless your heart!" cried mother, delighted, catching Ellie up in her arms; "so you did, darling: the day the new rug went down you promised me never to cross it, unless somebody was in the room with you. And I would rather have a girl who keeps her promise than a carpet made of gold threads strung with diamonds!"

Father said, "Yes, indeed," and came in for his share of the hugging, while Jack tickled the pink feet, and said baby was a brick." So Ellie found out that keeping a promise pleased everybody she loved. Some day she will know that it pleases God, too.

After she was dressed, Ellie sat in mother's lap, and heard her tell why she had made Ellie promise not to go near the fire. It was a sad story of a dear little girl mother had known, who ran across the hearth in her night-dress one morning early while nurse was out of the room. The fire seized her fluttering dress, and in few minutes she was burned to death!

"You see mother always has a good reason for telling you not to do things.

"You see mother always has a good reason for telling you not to do things, darling, even when you don't know what the reason is," said Ellie's mother. And when Ellie is just a little older she will know that the heavenly Father has good reasons, too, when he says, "Thou shalt



FEEDING THE RABBITS.—A GOOD PICTURE TO DRAW.

not," though we may not see what those reasons are.

OUR CLUB.

We're going to have the mostest fun,
It's going to be a club;
And no one can belong to it
But Dot and me and Bub.

We thought we'd have a Reading Club,
But couldn't 'cause, you see,
Not one of us knows how to read—
Not Dot nor Bub nor me.

And then we said a Sewing Club,
But thought we'd better not,
'Cause none of us knows how to sew—
Not me nor Bub nor Dot.

And so it's just a playing club;
We play till time for tea;
And, oh, we have the bestest times!
Just Dot and Bub and me.

—St. Nicholas.

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Sunbeam.

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THE LITTLE HELPER.

A little maiden of seven years at one time called upon her neighbor, who asked her to stay awhile, but the maiden pleasantly answered, "I must soon return to do the rest of my work."

"You must be quite a help to your mamma already?"

"I don't know what mamma would do if it were not for me."

And those beaming eyes and smiling lips spoke a language which said, "I love my mother." Oh, how happy little boys and girls can be by simply loving their parents and trying to be useful unto them.

By loving them they have the seed of love sown in their hearts which would lead them to love their Saviour, and thereby enjoy the greatest of happiness.

THE RABBIT AND THE FOX.

The negroes of the South have many legends of animals which they are fond of telling. One is about a fox and a rabbit who had quarrelled, and the fox vowed he would eat the rabbit before night. Although he ran off as fast as he could, the fox gained on him, so he planned an escape. He ran into a barnyard, jumped into the bucket in the well, and was soon floating at the bottom. The fox laughed and said: "Ha! ha! Why didn't you take both buckets?" Leaping into the other bucket the fox began to go down, and the rabbit began to come up, for the fox was heavier. As they passed each other the rabbit said, "That's the way of the world, brother Fox, it's sometimes up and sometimes down." The rabbit sprang out of the bucket and hopped away, but the fox stayed in the well till the farmer watered the cattle at night. "Heigho!" he cried to his son John, "here's a fox in the well. Get a box and we'll catch him alive." Reynard spent the rest of his life a prisoner in that box.

WHAT LITTLE ARTIE DID.

Little Artie and his brothers, three of them, and dear little fellows they were, all were brave and self-reliant, and had been brought up by their parents in the right way.

As these children lived some distance from town, it was found necessary to leave them at home when father and mother attended meeting; especially was this the case in cold weather. Through the summer months the children were often taken along, to their great delight. And as their parents were Methodists of the good old-fashioned kind, the boys were in the habit of hearing—at such times—the hearty "Amen" break forth from their father's lips when the sermon was particularly enjoyable.

One cold Sabbath day these children were left at home, with many cautions to be very careful; yet hardly had the parents left ere the woodwork near the stove-pipe was discovered to be on fire, and out of the children's reach; but, with wonderful activity and energy, the eldest climbed upon the table and put out the flames.

When the father and mother returned they shuddered to see the danger to which their dear ones had been exposed, and with thankful hearts praised them for their courage.

"How did you manage, Tommy, to reach the fire?" asked the father.

"Why," said Tommy, "I pushed the table up to the wall and got upon that."

"And did you help your brother, Jimmy?" to the next.

"Yes, sir; I brought him a pail of water and handed him the dipper."

"And what did you do?" said the proud father to his pet, the youngest of the group.

"Well, papa," said Artie, "you see I was too small to help out out the fire, and so I just stood by and hollered 'Amen.'"

FOR THE SAKE OF THE NEXT ONE.

"Why, auntie, I thought that you were all through!"

"So I am with my work," returned Aunt Carrie, as, with a smile, she went on threading her needle. "I am only trying to smooth the way for the next one."

"Who, for instance?" questioned Will, curiously.

"Well, suppose that, just as papa is starting for business to-morrow morning, he discovers that he is about to lose a button from his coat, and he can only spare about two minutes in which to have it sewed on. Don't you think it would be quite a relief for mamma to find her needle already threaded?"

"Of course, for I shouldn't think one could find that little bit of an eye at all, if one were in a hurry. I had a dreadful time the other day when I wanted to mend my ball. I'm sure I would have been glad to be your next one then."

"Suppose, again," said Aunt Carrie, "that whoever dropped that piece of wood upon the cellar-stairs had stopped to pick it up, remembering that some one else would be coming that way soon. Wouldn't it have been worth while? Just think how poor Bridget has suffered from her fall, and how the household has been inconvenienced!"

"Yes, auntie; and if I had wiped up the water I had spilled this noon, sister wouldn't have been obliged to change her dress when she was in such a hurry to get back to school; but a fellow will have to keep pretty wide-awake to remember every time."

With a thoughtful expression on his boyish face, Will passed out of the house and toward the front gate, leisurely munching a banana as he went, but apparently engaged in deep thought. Reaching the sidewalk he threw down the banana skin and proceeded on his way; but presently he turned and looked hard at the yellow object lying upon the pavement, and then, quickly retracing his steps, he picked it up and flung it far into the road, where no one would be likely to slip upon it. Turning toward the house, he saw his aunt watching him from the window, and, with a merry laugh, he lifted his hat and bowed, while she in turn nodded approvingly.

HE
Tell me about t
I am weary
The day lies be
And only the
Light with a ra
That lingers
My poor heart
And long, l
Tell me about t
Of the hills
When the tear
anguish
Dropped dow
For to me life
But a sorrow
Rough lies the
The mountain
Tell me about t
Of the wrong
Of his love and
Of his love th
For my heart is
Of the woes
Of the error tha
Of falsehood
Yet I know tha
Or pain or to
The infinite Ma
And knoweth
So tell me the s
That falls on
And my heart
broken,
Shall grow
calm.
LESS
FOUR
STUDIES IN TH
ELL
LESSON
THE WIDO
2 Kings 4. 1-7.
GO
Trust in the l
thou dwell in t
shalt be fed.—I
QUESTION
Who came to
was her husband
upon? What v
do? What did
did she reply?
do? What wa
Did she obey t
What did she a
Was there ano
run? What di
did the prophet

HEART-BALM.

Tell me about the Master;
I am weary and worn to-night,
The day lies behind me in shadow,
And only the evening is light—
Light with a radiant glory
That lingers about the west.
My poor heart is aweary, aweary,
And longs, like a child, for rest.

Tell me about the Master!
Of the hills he in loneliness trod,
When the tears and the blood of his
anguish
Dropped down on Judea's sod,
For to me life's seventy mile-stones
But a sorrowful journey mark;
Rough lies the hill-country before me,
The mountains behind me are dark.

Tell me about the Master!
Of the wrongs he freely forgave;
Of his love and tender compassion,
Of his love that was mighty to save;
For my heart is aweary, aweary,
Of the woes and temptations of life,
Of the error that stalks in the noonday,
Of falsehood and malice and strife.

Yet I know that, whatever of sorrow,
Or pain or temptation befall,
The infinite Master has suffered,
And knoweth and pitieth all.
So tell me the sweet old story,
That falls on each wound like a balm,
And my heart, that was bruised and
broken,
Shall grow patient and strong and
calm.

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT, FROM
ELIJAH TO ISAIAH.

LESSON II.—OCTOBER 9.

THE WIDOW'S OIL INCREASED.

2 Kings 4. 1-7. Memorize verses 5-7.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Trust in the Lord and do good; so shalt
thou dwell in the land, and verily thou
shalt be fed.—Psa. 37. 3.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

Who came to Elisha for help? Who
was her husband? What had she to live
upon? What was her creditor about to
do? What did Elisha ask her? What
did she reply? What did he tell her to
do? What was she to do with them?
Did she obey the words of the prophet?
What did she ask one of her boys to do?
Was there another? Did the oil still
run? What did the woman do? What
did the prophet tell her to do? Could

she pay her debt? Yes, and live also from
the rest.

DAILY STEPS.

Mon. Read the lesson verses. 2 Kings
4. 1-7.
Tues. Learn who were the sons of the
prophets. 2 Kings 2. 3-5.
Wed. Read again of the widow of Zare-
phath. 1 Kings 17. 8-16.
Thur. Find how Jesus increased the
bread. Mark 6. 37-44.
Fri. Read the miracle of the water
turned to wine. John 2. 1-10.
Sat. Learn the Golden Text.
Sun. Read what God is able to do. Eph.
3. 20.

THREE LITTLE LESSONS.

We have learned that—

1. If we have a little love or faith left
we need not fear.
2. God will make it grow to meet all
our needs.
3. He looks after least things as well
as greatest things.

LESSON III.—OCTOBE 16.

ELISHA AND THE SHUNAMMITE.

2 Kings 4. 25-37. Memorize verses
32-35.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The gift of God is eternal life through
Jesus Christ our Lord.—Rom. 6. 23.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

Where did Elisha sometimes go?
Who lived there? "A great woman."
What did she do for the prophet? What
did her husband build for him? What
did he do in return for the woman's care?
Where did the child go when he was
older? What came suddenly? His
death. What did the mother do? Where
did she find the prophet? At Mount
Carmel. Could the servant help her?
What did she insist upon? Did he go?
What did the servant do with Elisha's
staff? Did that help? What did Elisha
do? Was it easy to bring back the boy's
spirit? Did he do it? For whom did
he send? What did she first do? What
then? What had Elisha's God done?
He had twice given a son to the Shunam-
mite.

DAILY STEPS.

Mon. Find how loving-kindness was re-
warded. 2 Kings 4. 8-17.
Tues. Read a sad story of love and sor-
row. 2 Kings 4. 18-24.
Wed. Read the lesson verses from your
own Bible. 2 Kings 4. 25-37.
Thur. Learn the great truth in the
Golden Text.
Fri. Try to recall the story of the in-
crease of oil. 2 Kings 4. 1-7.
Sat. Can you tell the story of Elijah's
going to heaven? 2 Kings 2
1-11.

Sun. Read how Jesus gave a son back
to his mother. Luke 7. 11-15.

THREE LITTLE LESSONS.

We have learned that—

1. We must have the faith of the
Shunammite.
2. We must also have her earnestness.
3. And then we may have her reward.

THE MAGIC OF SILENCE.

You have often heard that "it takes
two to make a quarrel." Do you believe
it? That is how my little friend, May,
found that the proverb is true:

Whenever Dolly came to see May, there
was a quarrel. May tried to speak gently;
but no matter how hard she tried, sooner
or later Dolly would make her so angry
that she, too, would speak hard words.

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

"Try this plan," said her mamma:
"The next time Dolly comes into the
room sit down in front of the fire and take
the tongs in your hand. Whenever Dolly
says a sharp word to you, snap the tongs
gently, but say nothing."

Soon afterwards Dolly came to see her
little friend. It was not a quarter of an
hour before Dolly became angry. She
lost her temper and began to scold. May
rushed to the hearth, took up the tongs
and snapped them gently; more angry
words came from Dolly; snap went the
tongs; more still; snap. "Why don't you
speak?" cried Dolly, in a rage. Snap
went the tongs. "Why don't you speak?"
she cried again; but another snap of the
tongs was the only answer; so Dolly
rushed out of the room, crying: "I'll
never, never come back again—never!"

Away she went; but did she keep her
promise? No, indeed; she came again the
very next day. As soon as May caught
sight of her friend she ran for the tongs.
When Dolly saw this she remembered how
cross she had been the day before; she
felt very sorry for it now, and told May
that she would never quarrel again.

There's a pretty little proverb

From the sunny land of Spain,

But in northland as in southland

What it means is clear and plain;

Lock it up within your heart,

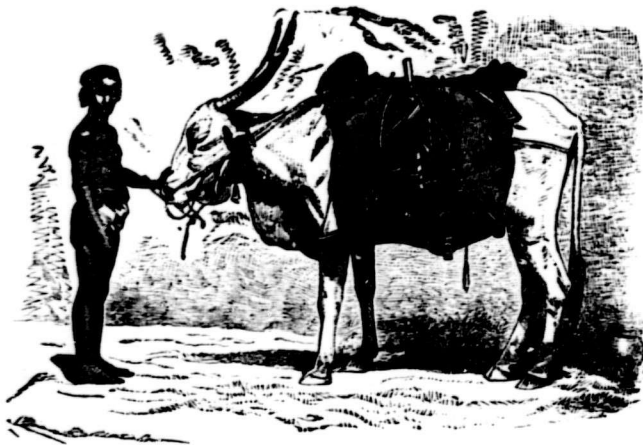
Never lose nor lend it;

It takes two to make a quarrel;

One can always end it.

DEFECTIVE PUNCTUATION.

Owing to defective punctuation, the fol-
lowing passage appeared in a German
paper: "Next to him Prince Bismarck
walked in on his head, the well-known
military cap on his feet, large but well
polished top boots on his forehead, a dark
cloud in his hand, the inevitable walking
cane in his eye, a menacing glance in
gloomy silence."



AN INDIAN OX.

GRANDPA'S WAY.

My grandpa is the strangest man!
Of course I love him dearly,
But really it does seem to me
He looks at things so queerly.

He always thinks that every day
Is right, no matter whether
It rains or snows, or shines or blows,
Or what the kind of weather.

When outdoor fun is ruined by
A heavy shower provoking,
He pats my head and says, "You see,
The dry earth needs a soaking."

And when I think the day too warm
For any kind of pleasure,
He says, "The corn has grown an inch—
I see without a measure."

And when I fret because the wind
Has sent my things all whirring,
He looks at me, and says, "Tut! tut!
This close air needs a stirring!"

He says, when drifts are piling high,
And fence-posts scarcely peeping,
"How warm beneath their blanket white
The little flowers are keeping!"

Sometimes I think, when on his face
His sweet smile shines so clearly,
It would be nice if every one
Could see things just so queerly!

AN INDIAN OX.

The ox represented in the picture is such as religious mendicants in India sometimes lead about. This one carries waterskins for supplying water where it is scarce. But the mendicants often train them to nod assent to certain questions and shake their heads in disapproval of others. Then they put artificial horns on to the natural ones, making them very long indeed, and adorn the horns and neck and

body with bright colored rags. Taking them through the streets as they beg, when any one gives them food, they ask the ox if the gods will bless that house, and the ox answers "Yes," by nodding. When they are turned away from any house they ask the ox if any blessing will come to that house, and it shakes its head in dissent. And the poor, ignorant people think they will be blessed or cursed as the ox indicates, and they are afraid to refuse them food.

THE CHAMELEON.

The Chameleon, which is once mentioned in the Bible (Lev. 11. 30.) belongs to the family of lizards. Some fifteen or twenty species of it are known, one of which is found in Southern Europe, and one in Florida, but most of them live in tropical regions. It is a very sluggish animal, its quickest pace being about five feet a minute. Its power to change its form and appearance is remarkable. By inflating its sides it flattens its body and looks something like a leaf lying flat; and again, by throwing out the air from its lungs and expanding itself upward and downward, it becomes thin like a knife. Sometimes, with its back curved upward and its tail erect, it resembles a small

crouching lion, and hence, it is said, comes its name *chamai-leon*, or "ground-lion."

Its natural color is a light pea-green, blending at times with straw color or yellow. The least disturbance or excitement, however, causes a change both of color and appearance. Stripes of deep green appear, nearly encircling the body and reaching from the head to the tip of the tail, and if the excitement continues these stripes change to black. The common idea that the chameleon takes on the peculiar hue of the foliage among which it may happen to be is a mistake.

The body of the chameleon is cased in an armour made of thousands of granular plates or scales placed edge to edge and running in circular bands. At night it hangs by its tail or a claw, or both, from some branch of a tree, and so manages to sleep and rest comfortably. Its eyes, unlike those of most animals, work independently—one looking forward, for instance, while the other is looking backward—and each eye is covered by a lid which is pierced with one small hole. The ears are concealed beneath the skin. The toes are in two opposite sets, fitted for grasping small boughs of trees.

The mouth of the chameleon has been called an "open sepulchre," for when open it shows a deep cavern almost down to the stomach, though no sign of the tongue is visible; but let an insect come within three or four inches of the mouth, and, quick as a flash, a round tongue, in appearance resembling a common angle-worm, is darted out, and the victim is caught upon its viscid and enlarged tip and carried alive into the stomach. The mucus of the mouth attracts insects within the fatal reach of the unerring tongue, and often the chameleon may be seen quietly basking in the sun, with its mouth wide open, forming a trap to attract the insects which are its chief food.

A mother's intuitive knowledge of what is best for her boy or girl is deeper and surer than any conclusion of philosophy or science.



A CHAMELEON.