

# THE SCOFFERS.



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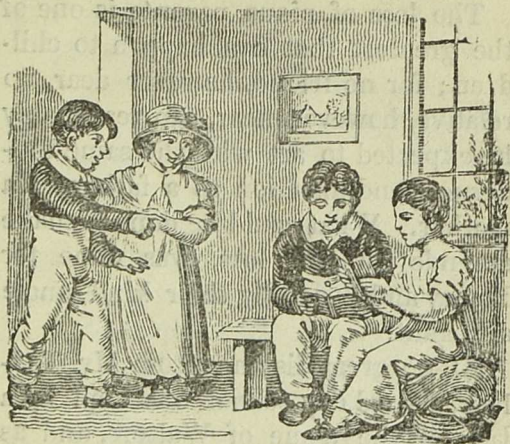
*Instituted 1799.*

SOLD AT THE DEPOSITORY, 56, PATERNOSTER-ROW;  
AND BY THE BOOKSELLERS.

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# THE SCOFFERS.



FRANK and Sarah Taylor lived with their father and mother, and Henry and Susan Wall, their cousins, who had lost their parents, lived under the same roof; but though they dwelt together, and shared the same advantages of

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instruction, the cousins were widely different in their habits and dispositions.

The loss of pious parents is one of the greatest that can happen to children; for no friend, however dear, no relative, however near, can reasonably be expected to act with the same tenderness and affection as a father or a mother. What could be done to make amends for this loss, was done for Henry and Susan by their kind uncle and aunt.

At no great distance from Mr. Taylor's, a good day school was kept by a lady of the name of Walters, and as neither Frank nor Henry were too old to go with their sisters to the day school, they all went together to Mrs. Walters'.

Now it once happened that Mrs. Walters was suddenly called out, so that the young people were left alone; but, be-

fore she went out, she desired them to be very diligent in attending to their lessons. We shall soon see what attention was paid to her commands.

No sooner was Mrs. Walters a hundred yards from the school, than up jumped Frank and Sarah Taylor to have a run in the garden. Sarah put on her bonnet, and wanted Susan to do the same, but she would not. Sarah then took down Susan's bonnet from the peg where it hung, and placed it by the form on which her cousin was sitting; but Susan paid no attention to her. If you could have seen that end of the school-room where the four cousins were together, you would at a glance have discovered the difference between the good and the bad children.

"Come along, Harry, come along," said Frank, "why do you mope, mope mope over your book in that way? there will be plenty of time to learn



our lessons before governess comes home."

When Frank and Sarah found that they could not prevail on Henry and Susan to join them, they began to jeer and scoff at them.

"Look! look!" said Frank, pointing with his finger, "look how they sit, as grave as two judges, frightened to take their eyes off their book for a moment. How wise and how clever they will be!"

At this foolish remark Sarah laughed, and began to scoff in her turn. "I suppose," said she, "that Susan intends to be a governess herself. See how she purses up her mouth; we shall have fine doings by and by, I warrant you!"

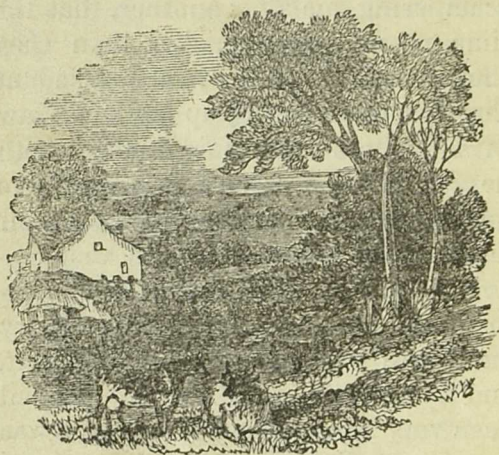
After some more wicked scoffing, Frank and Sarah scampered into the garden, intending to stay there but a little while. The great mistake made

by those who do wrong is this—They persuade themselves that they can do right when they please, without considering that giving way to one temptation, only renders us the more liable to fall into another. The sun shone so pleasantly, and they had such fun in scampering one after another, that the time passed away quicker than they thought of. It was by mere accident that Frank, in lifting up his head, saw Mrs. Walters returning home. Both he and his sister were in a scuffle to get into school, but as to learning their lessons, that was not thought about.

Mrs. Walters was a discerning woman, and soon discovered that Henry and Susan Wall had been very diligent, and that Frank and Sarah Taylor had been very idle. The whole truth was brought to light, and Frank was soon placed on one end of a form, and Sarah on the other. There they stood

blubbering, with their books in their hands, before all their school-fellows.

About ten minutes after they had mounted the form, who should call at the school but Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, intending to take Frank, Sarah, Henry, and Susan to Custard House, about a



mile distant from the place, with a few young people who had accidentally



paid them a visit. Mr. and Mrs. Taylor were shocked to see their children in disgrace, and to hear the cause of it, but they were judicious as well as kind parents, so they did not interfere to lighten the punishment which Frank and Sarah so richly deserved. They asked Mrs. Walters to allow them to take Henry and Susan with them to the Custard House, a request which was readily granted; but Frank and Sarah were not permitted to stir from their place of punishment. Long after every scholar had left the school, they occupied their posts of dishonour; and when they had at last learned their neglected lessons, they had to endure a long lecture from Mrs. Walters, on the folly of scoffing, and the sin of idleness. "Go home," said she, as they left the school, hanging down their heads, "and think on the pleasure you might have enjoyed, and the disgrace you have endured: happy will it be if it

should, through God's goodness, be a means of showing you the great advantage of diligence, and the shame and disgrace arising from idleness and disobedience."

When Frank and Sarah went home, their father took them up stairs, and talked to them seriously on their evil conduct. He told them it was a proof of their sinfulness; and directed them to seek pardon through the Lord Jesus Christ, the only Saviour of sinners. He then kneeled down with them, and prayed that they might be led by the Spirit of God, to feel, and confess, and forsake their sins.







## SOLOMON'S CHOICE.

King Solomon of old  
A happy choice had made ;  
'Twas not for life, 'twas not for gold,  
Nor honour that he prayed.

He chose that better part,  
That leads to heavenly joys ;  
A wise and understanding heart,  
And God approved the choice.

If this is what we seek,  
We cannot ask amiss ; [speak,  
The youngest, poorest child may  
And ask the Lord for this.

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