

THE
SPOILED CHILD
RECLAIMED.

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RODWEIL

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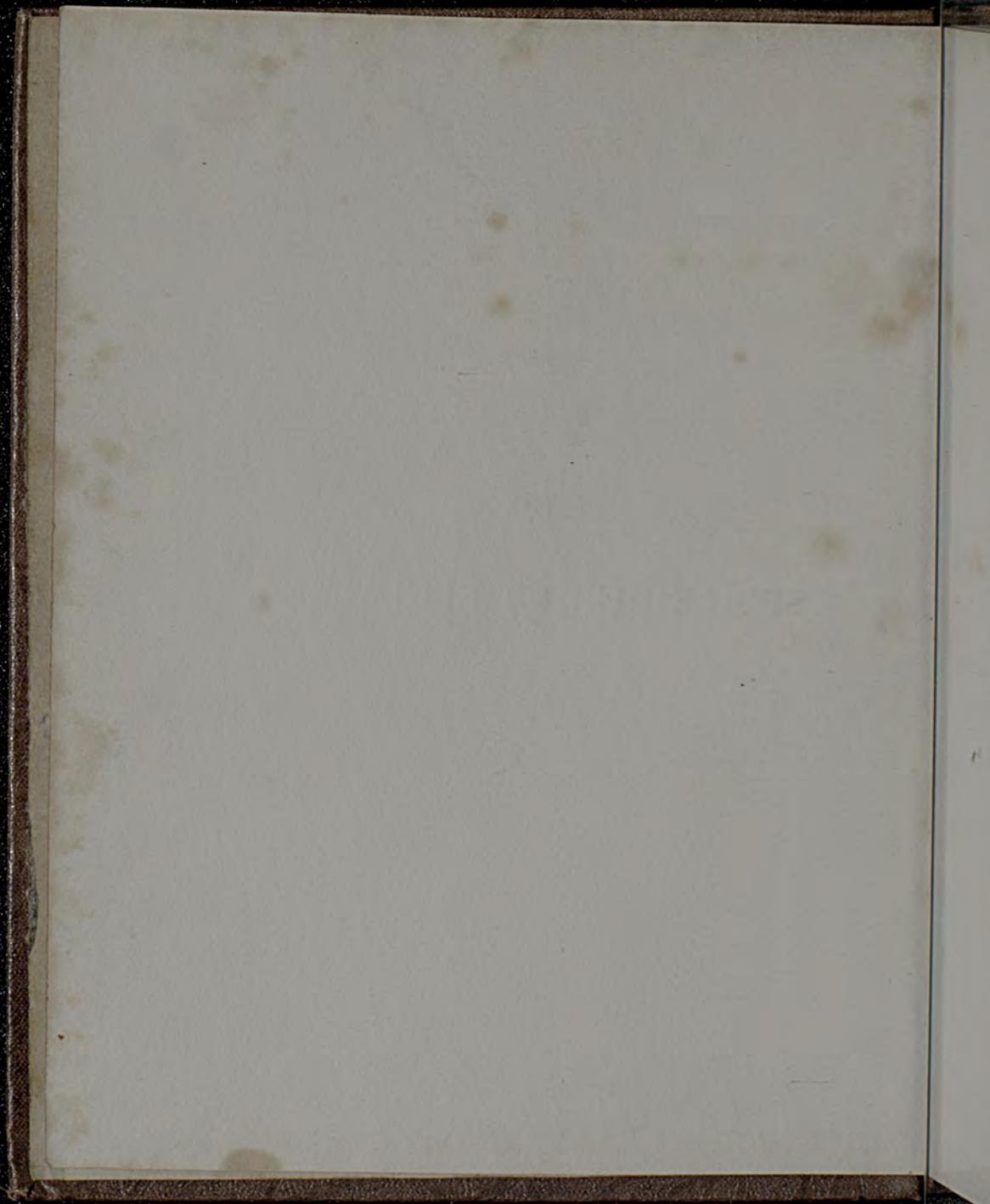
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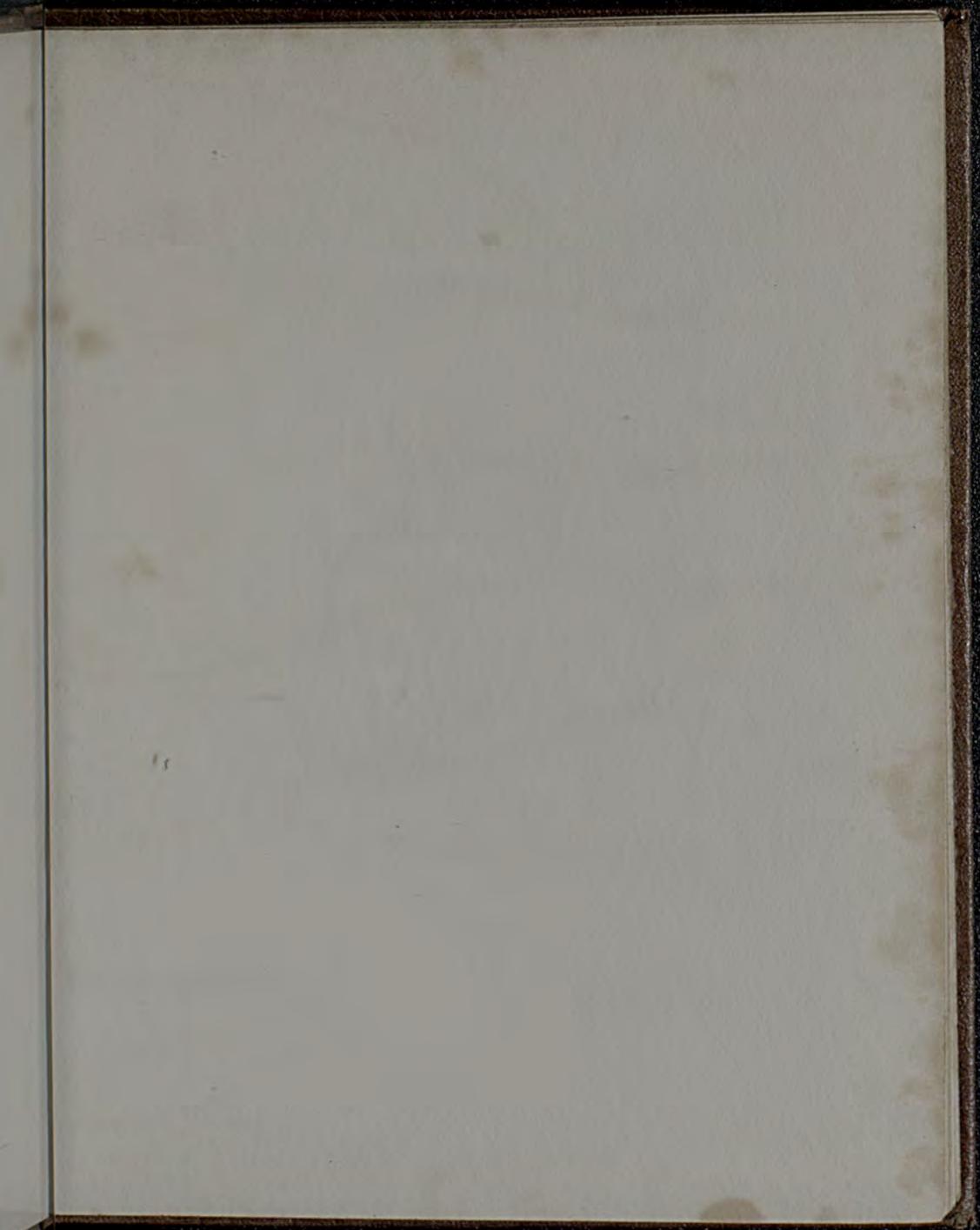
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1837

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See page 30.

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OR THE
ADVANTAGES ARISING
FROM
GOOD INSTRUCTION.

BY M. M. RODWELL,
AUTHOR OF THE GEOGRAPHY OF THE BRITISH ISLES.

WITH ENGRAVINGS.

LONDON,
CHAPMAN AND HALL, 189, STRAND.

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DEDICATION.



MY DEAR LITTLE SISTER,

As the following pages are written for the purpose of manifesting the advantages that arise from good instruction, I do not know any one to whom I can with more propriety inscribe them than to you, who have ever been in possession of the benefits which it is my earnest desire this little work should inculcate. I cannot wish you a greater blessing, or more per-

DEDICATION.

manent happiness, than you will assuredly meet with if you attend to the excellent precepts instilled into your young mind; and with the hope that you will by all the means in your power endeavour to appreciate them, I subscribe myself, my dear little girl,

Your affectionate Sister,

M. M. RODWELL.

66, Great Portland Street.

THE
SPOILED CHILD RECLAIMED.

CHAPTER I.

ELIZA.—Mamma has just told me that we are to have a month's holiday, and that she has written to aunt Neville, to request that my cousin Ellen may come and pass that time with us.

ANNA.—How delightful! I am sure we shall try to make her happy, it is a long time

since I have seen her, but from the description you gave of your visit in Bryanstone Square, last Christmas, I am afraid she will think the country very dull.

ELIZA.—For my part I prefer the green fields and beautiful walks and gardens to any thing I saw there; but Ellen has never been used to them, and there is a great deal in that. Here comes Mamma with a letter in her hand. I wonder if it be from my aunt?

MRS. HALLAM.—Well, my dear girls, I have just received this letter, which informs me that your cousin will be with us this evening; and I hope you will study to make her happy, and render her visit as agreeable as you can.

ELIZA—I am sure we shall do all in our power to amuse her, but there are some people who will not be pleased with any thing.

MRS. HALLAM.—That I hope will not be the

case with Ellen ; and, as you are, at present, much too young to form a correct opinion of the actions of others, I am sorry to hear you entertain such unkind and suspicious ideas ; for, however obvious the errors of your companions may be, they should make no further impression on your mind, than to serve as examples of faults, which you ought to avoid. I wish you also to understand, that although I shall not require you to learn any lessons during your cousin's stay, yet I shall expect you to spend every morning in reading and working with me, when we will make some clothes for the poor ; and I have selected several pretty tales for you to read, which will be both amusing and instructive.

ELIZA.—Thank you Mamma ; I am sorry for my fault, and will try to remember what you say to me.

MRS. HALLAM.—That is the proper way to make atonement for offences, and I pray that our Heavenly Father may, by His divine blessing, strengthen your endeavours, and also continue to me two such dutiful children; but I am detaining you—go and prepare for your visitor.

It will now be right to introduce my young readers to the history of these little girls.

Mrs. Hallam was a widow, with one son and two daughters, Lionel the eldest, aged thirteen years; Eliza eleven, and Anna nine. She had placed her son under the care of a clergyman, in order to prepare him, by a suitable education, for the sacred duties of that profession, of which his anxious mother hoped he would one day make a valuable and useful member, and, as he was at a considerable distance from her, she constantly reminded him, by letter,

how much his future happiness depended upon his present attention to the commands and precepts of his worthy tutor; his sisters also made up for the loss of their society, by frequently sending him letters and presents. The two little girls were educated at home under the watchful eye of their kind Mamma, who endeavoured to check every rising error, to which their weak and fallen nature had rendered them liable; and which might, by neglect, have spread like weeds in the untilled ground and choaked those virtues that early and judicious maternal culture is peculiarly capable of engrafting upon the human mind. Their cousin, who was so soon to become their guest, had been very differently brought up, she was an only child, and used to every indulgence, for such was the excessive (though mistaken) fondness of her parents, that they

feared contradiction might make her unhappy, and therefore would not allow the least restraint to be laid upon the capricious humours of their darling, whose engaging manners and good abilities, were, at the age of eight years, much defaced by improper indulgences. Mrs. Hallam had long regretted her sister's want of resolution in the management of her daughter, and she hoped the example of her little girls, and her own gentle reproofs, would, in one month, make a great alteration in her wayward niece.

CHAPTER II.

ANNA.—I hope it will not be long before cousin Ellen arrives, I am sure I have thought this day would never end.

MRS. HALLAM.—I am sorry to hear you say so Anna, as it is a certain proof that the time has not been well spent, for, had you pursued some useful employment, the hours would not have appeared to pass so slowly; but I hear the sound of a carriage.

The little girls immediately ran to the door, where they had the pleasure of meeting their cousin, who was very glad to see them after her long journey.

MRS. HALLAM.—I am happy to see you my

dear, I do not doubt but you are tired with your ride.

ELLEN.—I am indeed. I never knew so tiresome a coachman, though I told him to whip his horses and drive faster, he would not mind me ; I shall certainly tell Papa when I go home.

MRS. HALLAM.—I hope you will have occasion to alter that resolution before you return. I will ring for tea which will refresh you. As soon as the tea equipage was removed, the little girls requested their Mamma's permission to retire to bed.

ELIZA.—I think we shall have much to shew my cousin Ellen to-morrow, and she must want a night's rest.

ELLEN (*crying*).—I cannot go to bed alone, I must have a servant to attend upon me, I always have one at home.

MRS. HALLAM.—You shall have the same here to-night; but afterwards your cousins will give you any assistance that may be necessary, for I always wish them to assist each other. Good night.

CHAPTER III.

ELIZA.—Let us rise in good time this morning, Anna. Mamma will expect us to help Ellen after we are dressed.

ANNA.—I am not at all inclined to get up yet, and, as for my cousin, I think I shall not like her if she wants so much waiting upon, why cannot she dress as we do, without help!

ELIZA.—Do not you remember how Mamma reproved me yesterday? Ellen, you know,

has been used to be waited upon, and it will take some time for her to learn our ways; besides, you must remember, if Mamma had not taught us what is proper, we might not have been better behaved than our cousin is. I think, dear Anna, you will always be willing to assist her, although you spoke so hastily just then.

ANNA.—I will get up directly, dear sister, and you shall see how quickly I can dress, but I am afraid Ellen will sometimes vex me.

MRS. HALLAM (*on entering the room*).—Good morning to you my dears, I am glad to hear Anna expressing such industrious resolutions.

ANNA.—Indeed Mamma I am indebted to Eliza for them, as I did not wish to get up yet.

MRS. HALLAM.—I have heard all that has passed between you, my dear children, and, although I was sorry to learn that Anna entertains any fears regarding her ability to bear

with patience the little crosses she may meet with from her indulged cousin, yet she must remember that I cannot fail to be angry, if I find her capable of resenting them ; it has given me real pleasure to hear she has an elder sister so able to reason with her, and to persuade her to do what is right ; and I must hope she will as readily follow her good advice in every other respect, as she did in getting up this morning. I want you both to shew your little cousin the benefit arising from good instruction, she has been much indulged, but, at her tender years, I have more hope of correcting her wayward fancies by the force of good example, than by any severe reproof ; and your kindness towards her will assist me very much ; now you are dressed we will summon her to prayers. Oh ! here she comes, smiling. Who has assisted you to dress, my dear ?

ELLEN.—The servant, Aunt, but I do not think I can stay here long, unless I have a fire in my chamber every morning, for I am sure it is much colder here than it is at home, and I always have one there.

MRS. HALLAM.—I never think of having a fire for your cousins to dress by, as such an indulgence would only make them feel the cold more severely; and I think my little niece will in time not know the want of one. Now we will join in prayer to that Great and all-wise God who has so tenderly watched over us the night past, and preserved us from evil. Eliza repeat that prayer from Crossman which you learned the other day. Eliza instantly obeyed, and afterwards the party descended to the breakfast room, where bread and milk were prepared for the young ladies.

ELLEN.—I cannot think how you can eat

such nasty stuff, I am sure I cannot, I must have some boiled eggs and hot roll.

ANNA.—You do not know how good it is, and here is some for you, do taste it, besides, Mamma will not let us call such good food nasty, as it is very wicked.

ELLEN.—I do not know what you mean by wicked, I thought that was only said of murder and stealing.

MRS. HALLAM.—My dear child, there are many varieties as well as many degrees of wickedness, and to be unthankful for the gifts of the Creator, is certainly a very great error; many poor children would be glad to partake of that wholesome nourishment, which you now despise; but I will not oblige you to eat what is prepared for you this morning, and although I shall not give you either eggs or hot rolls, yet here is some very nice bread and butter.

ELIZA.—Oh, Mamma! there is a poor woman at the window, with two little children, I am sorry I have eaten all my milk, I am sure I could have spared some for them.

(Ellen runs screaming to her Aunt.)

MRS. HALLAM.—What is the matter, why this unnecessary alarm? Calm yourself, here is nothing to hurt you.

ELLEN.—Oh! send the woman away, pray do!

MRS. HALLAM.—Poor woman! see she is crying, I dare say she is very hungry, Anna, take the bread and milk which was made ready for your cousin, and give it to her.

(Ellen clings to her Aunt and cries.)

ELLEN.—Pray do not open the window?

MRS. HALLAM.—*(taking Ellen on her knee)*—My dear little girl there is nothing to fear, look how eagerly the poor children are eating the bread and milk, and come with me to the win-



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dow, that we may hear what the woman has to say.

POOR WOMAN.—God bless you, my good lady, and these sweet young ladies, for the good meal they have given to my poor babes ; who have not tasted any thing since yesterday morning, when I bought a little milk for them with a halfpenny a kind gentleman gave me.

MRS. HALLAM.—Poor woman ! you seem to be in great distress. Eliza, go to the kitchen and ask for a loaf of bread, and my little Ellen shall give her this sixpence.

ELLEN.—(*trembling*)—Yes, Aunt, if you will not leave me.

POOR WOMAN.—God bless you, Madam, and you too my little lady, you need not fear me, for I will not hurt you, I thank you all for your goodness to me and my poor children.

MRS. HALLAM.—Now we will finish our

breakfast, and I hope we shall all feel some satisfaction in having been permitted to relieve the pressing wants of a fellow creature.

ELLEN.—I do not like beggars Aunt, for Nurse has always told me they would take me away.

MRS. HALLAM.—Such ideas are too often instilled into the minds of children by incautious servants ; who endeavour thus to frighten them into good behaviour when they are naughty ; but they are very improper, and cannot be too severely censured, as children ought to be taught to feel for the distresses of others, as well as to remember that the same God that created and watches over them, is also the maker and preserver of the most abject of his creatures ; and that those alone are unworthy in his sight, who do not obey his commandments.

CHAPTER IV.

Now my dears you may prepare your work and books ; as we must devote a short portion of each day to them, I want very much to have some linen finished for the poor, and if you do it well, you shall have the pleasure of presenting it to the persons for whom it is intended.

ELIZA.—We will be very industrious, what part will you do Ellen ? I am making a cap, will you hem the strings ?

ELLEN.—I cannot sew, I must go and play, it is so very dull to be always shut up in the house.

MRS. HALLAM.—I do not wish you to remain here against your inclination ; as it is my desire to give you every enjoyment.

ELLEN.—Will you let my cousins come too ?

MRS. HALLAM.—Not until they have finished their tasks, they will then be at liberty to amuse themselves. If you are going into the garden, I beg you will put on your hat and cloak.

ELLEN.—Papa and Mamma told me that when I was here I should have my cousins to play with me ; I do not think I should have come if I had known you always kept them at work, I might as well be at home, as I have to be alone, may I ask the servant to get my hat for me ?

MRS. HALLAM.—You may, if you please, ask her to put on your walking dress, but your

cousins would be too much fatigued were they to be always at play ; and I hope that when you have been with them a little time, you will see how happy they are, though they are obliged to be sometimes usefully employed, and wish to read and work as they do.

ELLEN.—May they come to me, Aunt, when they leave off work ?

MRS. HALLAM.—After your dinner I intend walking with you all into the village, as I have several poor people that I wish to visit. Eliza you may now read this short fable, which is translated from the French.

ELIZA.—

THE YOUNG MOUSE AND HIS MOTHER.

“A young mouse that had never seen the world, took it into his head to go into the country, but he had scarcely travelled one mile before he returned in great haste to his hole. ‘Oh Mother!’ he exclaimed, ‘I have seen a most extraordinary animal, which had a furious and restless countenance, a fierce and angry look, and a shrill voice, a piece of flesh as red as blood grew on his head, and under his throat. When he saw me, he clapped his sides with his wings, stretched out his head, opened his mouth as if he would swallow me, and made so much noise, that I, who pique myself upon being courageous, have fled in great fear; had

it not been for that monster, I should have become acquainted with another animal, the finest creature you ever saw; he had a mild, benign, and amiable mien, a velvet skin like ours, a meek countenance, a modest look, and two fine sparkling eyes: I think he must be a near relation to the rats, for he had ears like ours; he was going to speak to me, when the sound of that tremendous animal caused me to leave so suddenly.’—‘My son’ said his Mother, ‘you have had a narrow escape, the animal that seemed so gentle, is a cat, and under a hypocritical appearance conceals an implacable hatred to all our race; he would devour you if he could catch you—the other animal on the contrary is a cock, and may, perhaps, serve one day to regale us.’ ”

MRS. HALLAM.—“The moral to be deduced from this fable, is to caution people in the

choice of friends, and to shew how wrong it is to judge from external appearances; as the kindest heart is often hidden under a rough address, while behind a gentle mien may lurk a hidden enemy," and also, that although different degrees in society must necessarily exist in this world, yet however mean the condition, those who are contented with their lot, and attend properly to its duties, are entitled to respect and esteem—as they are as essential for the general good, and as important in their station as the monarch on his throne; it likewise inculcates the degree of deference which the youthful mind ought to entertain for the ripened judgment of advanced life; for if their vanity leads them to follow their own imperfect perceptions of right and wrong they will, like the young mouse in the fable, be in danger of being the victims of their own conceit.

ELIZA.—I hope my dear Mamma, that Anna and I shall remember this fable, and not fancy we are capable of knowing what is proper without asking your opinion; and I think cousin Ellen may perhaps be soon made to know better what is right, than she at present appears to do; as from having been allowed to follow her own wishes in every thing, she has very likely provoked her Mamma's servants so much as to cause them to treat her unkindly, and that has made her so pettish and troublesome.

ANNA.—I am sure I never wish to do anything without first asking Mamma's leave, but I think that neither you nor I Eliza, would call good bread and milk nasty, nor yet scream at the sight of a poor woman and two or three little children.

MRS. HALLAM.—It has ever been my endeavour, my dear little girls, to watch over

your inclinations ; and I trust that by my earnest care to instil proper thoughts into your hearts, the errors to which you, as well as all other children are prone, have been gradually corrected ; otherwise I have great reason to fear that my little Anna (who was just this minute boasting of her own power to think and do what is right), would not have been better than her cousin Ellen, if she had been always allowed to do as she pleased. I can see she is now wanting some employment.

ANNA.—Yes, Mamma, I have finished hemming this little frock.

MRS. HALLAM.—Then you may take the book from your sister, and read the first fable.

ANNA.—

THE EAGLE AND THE EAGLETS.

“An eagle flew into the skies with his young ones. ‘How you stare at the sun,’ said the eaglets, ‘and it does not dazzle your eyes.’ ‘My children,’ replied the king of birds, ‘my father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and all my ancestors have been able to look at it in the same manner; follow their example, and mine, and you will never have occasion to close your eyelids.’”

MRS. HALLAM.—It generally happens that the virtues and good qualities of a parent are transmitted to their posterity, and education and good example complete what nature has begun.

ANNA.—I hope then Mamma that I shall make as good a woman as you are.

Mrs. HALLAM.—My dear little girl, I hope, with the blessing of providence, to see you adorned with every feminine and Christian virtue; and although it is often a painful task for me to correct you, yet I am well aware I should be deficient in my duty if I did not; and it is my study to give force to my precepts by my own example.

ELIZA.—Here comes Ellen, I hope she has passed the morning as pleasantly as we have.

ELLEN.—I am sure I never was so tired before, I wish I was at home, then I should do as I like.

Mrs. HALLAM.—What has occurred to make you express such a wish?

ELLEN.—I only wanted to run where I liked in the garden, and gather the flowers that are

in full blossom, and the gardener would not let me ; but said, if I would do so, he would tell you. I am sure Papa's servants dare not speak to me as he did.

MRS. HALLAM.—My servants are so regulated, that had you spoken in a proper manner to the gardener, he would not have dared to disoblige you, nor would he have refused you any thing that was proper for your amusement, or that he knew I should approve ; but as he is paid for keeping the garden in order, he would incur my censure, were I to find it otherwise. I wish you to know, that I expect to have all my servants treated with respect, and never commanded to do any thing by little girls ; if you behave well, and speak properly to them, they will always be willing to wait upon you ; but it is my positive order, that they should not attend to any command but

mine. I am not at all surprised to hear you say you are fatigued; as nothing can be so irksome as to have no employment.

ELLEN.—I never was taught to sew, and as for reading, I have only some books full of tales, and some of them have so many long words in them, that I do not know the meaning of them.

ELIZA.—Mamma will, I am sure, explain them to you if you wish it, as she has so often done to us, and I think I can shew you how to work.

ELLEN.—What a nice little frock that is cousin Anna has made, I wish I could do so too.

MRS. HALLAM.—You shall be instructed if you desire it, but now it is time to go to dinner, and after that I shall be ready to walk to the village, and if you be not too tired, you may accompany us.

ELLEN.—Thank you Aunt, I do not feel at all tired now.

As soon as they had dined, they prepared for their walk.

CHAPTER V.

MRS. HALLAM.—Eliza, have you some of the clothes for the poor children, and is the servant coming with the remainder, and the jug of broth for goody Jones, who is ill?

ELIZA.—Yes Mamma, and Anna has a cake which you promised to the little girl that was so good at church last Sunday.

MRS. HALLAM.—I am glad you were so thoughtful, I always like to reward the good; and the attention of that little girl during the

time of Divine Service last Sunday, pleased me very much.

ANNA.—Oh Eliza! there is a poor man, who has dropped some of the sticks he was carrying; let us run and help him to pick them up.

ELLEN.—May I go too, Aunt? I should like very much to go with my cousins.

MRS. HALLAM.—Run to them, my dear; I will follow quickly, and hear what the poor man has to say; he appears to be in distress!

OLD MAN.—I thank you young ladies for your kindness, I have been some way to find these sticks to make a fire with, to warm my poor child who is sick.

MRS. HALLAM.—How far are you from home? I will return with you, and see if I can render you any assistance.

OLD MAN.—Thank you, my Lady, I am

not able to get my poor grandchild all that is good for her, as the doctor says she ought to have some wine and some meat.

MRS. HALLAM.—How long has she been ill?

OLD MAN.—About a month, my lady. I feared she would have died, but the good God has spared her to me, and I hope she will now recover; she has been a good girl, and a great comfort to my grey hairs. There is my cottage, my Lady.

MRS. HALLAM.—Stay here, my dears, while I go and see the poor girl. I will not take you into the cottage with me, as her disorder, may, perhaps, be contagious.

As soon as Mrs. Hallam had administered comfort to this afflicted person, she returned to the little girls, who anxiously waited for her.

ELIZA.—Mamma, is there any thing we can do to assist the poor man's granddaughter?

MRS. HALLAM.—Yes ; I shall find employment for you all, and to-morrow I must send her some wine, and good broth ; now we will proceed in our walk.

ELLEN.—What a great deal you give to the poor, Aunt ; Papa and Mamma do not give so much away as you do, because they say they do not know whether the people are deserving, but I think there must be great pleasure in being charitable.

MRS. HALLAM.—I am glad to hear you say so ; your parents are equally kind-hearted, but as they reside in the Metropolis, it is impracticable for them to administer to the necessities of the poor in the way I am able to do ; for where so many objects offer themselves, it is certainly difficult to know who are deserving, and who are not ; therefore they, like most families in town, subscribe yearly sums

to many of the benevolent institutions there ; but in a small village, a great deal of private charity may be most beneficially exercised, and every Christian should consider, that wealth is the gift of a beneficent Creator ; and that its possessors are stewards, who will have to render an account of all their riches. I am not an advocate for relieving common beggars, as I think, in many cases, it would be encouraging idleness, and it is only in particular instances (such as the poor woman this morning), that I do it. Here is goody Jones's cottage ; Eliza, go and tell her that the servant will bring her some broth ; we will not stay to-day, as it is getting late.

ELIZA (*returning*).—Goody is very thankful, and she hopes you will soon go and see her.

MRS. HALLAM.—I will do it the first opportunity I have ; now we must dispose of the

clothes, and then return home, as we have made our walk longer than usual to-day. After you get home, you may amuse yourselves as you please.

ANNA.—We will shew Ellen the chickens, and a great many other things, and after that we will play with the baby-house.

MRS. HALLAM.—I find you will not be at a loss for occupation, but pray have you fed your brother's rabbits to-day?

ANNA.—Yes, Mamma; and I think they will be very much grown when he returns home.

Mrs. Hallam now entered the house, and allowed the little girls to proceed to the poultry yard; and when they had gratified their cousin's curiosity with a sight of their domestic fowls, they went up stairs to play.

ELIZA.—What shall we do Anna?

ANNA.—Whatever my cousin likes, she is our visitor and shall choose the game.

ELLEN.—I do not know any games ; I have no one to play with me at home ; besides, I am soon tired of my toys and then I break them, and tell my Mamma I must have some new ones, which I would advise you to do, as I think you must be tired of seeing the same things so often.

ELIZA.—Indeed ; I should be very sorry to do so ; Mamma was so good as to paper and furnish this baby-house for us, and it would be both wicked and ungrateful to destroy what she has taken so much pains to do in order to please us. Only look here, these carpets and ornaments were all her own work, and I assure you we take a great pleasure in keeping them nice.

ELLEN.—Well I think it would be a pity,

but still I like to see something new ; let us take the things out, and play with them in the room ; that house is so small, we can do nothing with them in it.

ANNA.—Do you not think it will be better to place the dolls round it ? there will be great danger of their being broken, if you take them out.

ELIZA.—Yes, surely ; it would be right ; for see the chairs would be quite useless out of the house, as they are too small for us to sit upon.

ELLEN.—But I tell you I will have it as I please ; do you think I mean to be contradicted in any thing ? you are very much mistaken if you do.

ANNA.—And you are wrong if you expect to have all your own way ; I tell you you shall not touch any thing, unless Eliza likes.

ELLEN (*stamping her foot*).—I tell you I will.

ANNA.—I say you shall not.

MRS. HALLAM (*entering the room*).—What is the matter? Why are you speaking in so commanding a tone, Anna? I am very much displeased with you.

ANNA (*hanging down her head*).—Indeed, Mamma, Ellen wants to pull all the things out of the baby-house, and Eliza and I do not wish it.

MRS. HALLAM.—Nothing can justify the manner in which you spoke, but as you cannot agree, young ladies, I must separate you; Ellen will come with me, Anna, you must go and keep in your sleeping room, until I send for you; and Eliza will remain here, and put the play-things in their places.

ELLEN (*in going downstairs with her Aunt*).—I think Anna is very unkind to me, Aunt; surely I ought to do as I like.

MRS. HALLAM.—I will not hear a word from you ; I never allow naughty girls to converse with me ; you are equally in fault with your cousins, and as such I insist upon having silence, and expect that you will beg your cousin's pardon for behaving so ill to her.

ELLEN (*crying*).—That I shall never do, I would not do it to Papa or Mamma, and I am sure I shall not to my cousin.

MRS. HALLAM.—Until you have made up your mind to do so, you must stand in that corner. It is very shocking for little girls to quarrel, and very displeasing to the Almighty ; remember, that he sees all your actions, and knows all your thoughts. I shall now send for your cousins, and you will, I hope, see that they will behave very differently.

ELIZA and ANNA (*on entering*).—Mamma, we are very sorry to have given you occasion

to punish us, will you forgive us, and permit us to ask our cousin's pardon?

MRS. HALLAM.—I am grieved to know my children are so unamiable, as I flattered myself they had profited by the advice I have so often given them.

ANNA.—It is only I that have been naughty, Eliza did not behave improperly; I am very vexed to have displeased you, Mamma, and beg Ellen's pardon for having been so rude.

MRS. HALLAM.—The only proof of sincere contrition will be your avoiding the like error in future; you have been taught better, and, therefore, your fault is the greater. I am glad to hear you excuse your sister, and as I hope you will not again give me occasion to be angry for the like offence, I will forgive you; go and lead your cousin to me, who I expect will also ask your pardon.

ELLEN.—If I am never to do as I please, I am sure I had better not be here; for Papa and Mamma will not allow me to be made so unhappy.

MRS. HALLAM.—I must again desire you to be silent, till you are sensible you have been naughty; and upon your acknowledgment of error, I shall be very happy to receive you into favour.

ELLEN.—I think I am rather sorry, Aunt, to see you look so very serious, and, as for my cousins fault, I will forgive them; and I hope you will let us play again.

MRS. HALLAM.—I beg then, that I may hear no more of it; and you may now come to me. I wish this correction to prove a useful lesson to you all; and that I may see each one of you from this day giving up your opinions when they are not right. Kiss your cousins, and then I have some agreeable news

to tell you ; I have just received an invitation for you all to go and see Mrs. S——, when, (if it be fine), you are to drink tea in the summer-house, and to have a dance on the lawn.

ELIZA.—How very good of Mrs. S——, I am sure we shall enjoy ourselves.

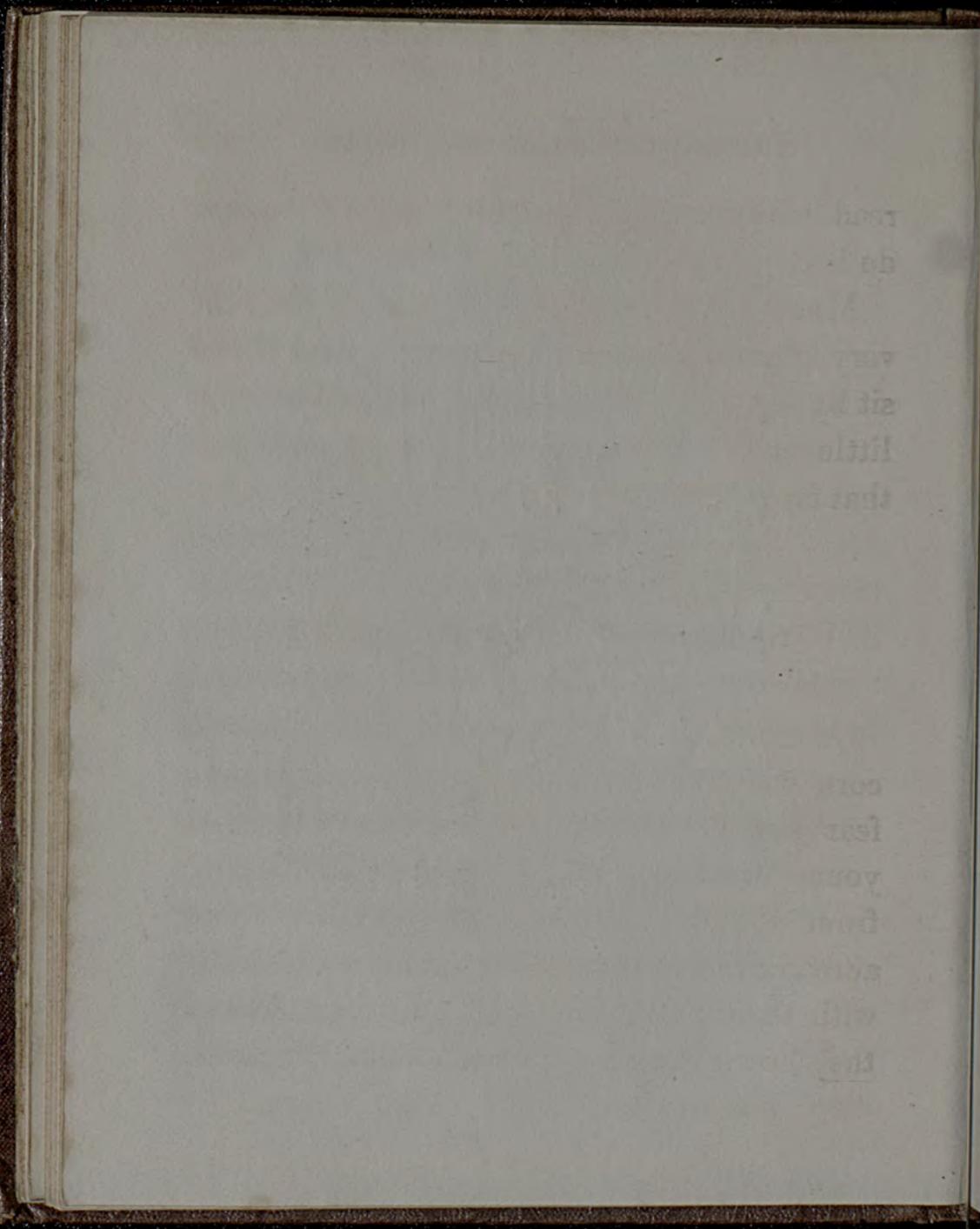
ELLEN.—What shall I put on ? there is my lace frock, but I am afraid I did not bring my white satin shoes.

MRS. HALLAM.—If you had you would not wear them ; a plain white frock and black shoes will be all your cousins will put on, and assure yourself, my dear Ellen, that good manners, and an amiable temper, will secure to a young lady lasting happiness, and attract much more admiration than any external appearance can do. As you will have unusual exertions to morrow I wish you to go to bed early ; you shall therefore say your prayers, and wish me a good night.

CHAPTER VI.

THE morning proved very favourable for the expected excursion; and after breakfast the young ladies prepared themselves for their ride, and in a short time after, they set off for the house of Mrs. S——; at which they soon arrived; and with other little girls spent a pleasant day, and returned home much gratified; but as Mrs. Hallam never allowed little girls to make any remarks upon their companions, she only enquired after the health of their kind friend, and they were then very glad to retire to rest. The next day they assembled in the usual manner.

ELLEN. — Pray, Aunt, may I work and



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read with you this morning as my cousins do?

MRS. HALLAM.—Yes, my dear, I shall be very glad to have your company; and if you sit by me, I will shew you how to hem this little cap. Eliza, take this book and read that fable.

THE LARK AND HER YOUNG ONES.

A LARK, who had young ones in a field of corn which was almost ripe, was under some fear lest the reapers should come before her young brood was fledged, and able to remove from the place. Wherefore, upon flying abroad to look for food, she left this charge with them, that they should take notice what they heard talked of in her absence; and tell

her of it when she came back again. When she was gone, they heard the owner of the corn call to his son : " Well," says he, " I think this corn is ripe enough, I would have you go early to-morrow, and desire our friends and neighbours to come and help us to reap it." When the old lark came home, the young ones fell a quivering and chirping round her, and told her what had happened, begging her to remove them as fast as she could. The mother bid them be easy, " For," says she, " if the owner depends on his friends and neighbours, I am pretty sure the corn will not be reaped to-morrow." Next day, she went out again, upon the same occasion, and left the same orders with them as before. The owner came, and staid, expecting those he had sent to ; but the sun grew hot, and nothing was done, for not a soul came to help him. " Then," says he,

to his son, "I perceive these friends of ours are not to be depended upon, so that you must even go to your uncles and cousins, and tell them I desire they would be here by times to-morrow morning to help us to reap." Well, this the young ones, in a great fright, repeated also to their mother. "If that be all," says she, "do not be frightened, children; for kindred and relations do not use to be so very forward to serve one another; but take particular notice what you hear said the next time, and be sure you let me know it." She went abroad the next day as usual, and the owner, finding his relations as slack as the rest of his neighbours, said to his son, "Harkee! George, do you get a couple of good sickles ready against to-morrow morning; and we will even reap the corn ourselves." When the young-ones told their mother this, "Then," says she "we

must be gone indeed ; for when a man undertakes to do his business himself, it is not so likely he will be disappointed." So she removed her young ones immediately, and the corn was reaped the next day by the good man and his son.

ELLEN.—Pray, Aunt, do birds really talk so as to make each other understand what they say ?

MRS. HALLAM.—Birds, as well as every other living creature, are endowed with an instinctive knowledge, which enables them to provide for themselves that kind of food which is suitable to their nature ; and to shun any danger with which they may be threatened ; and, from the perfect care and regularity that marks the attention of the old towards their young ones, and the imitation of the latter, we may conclude that they are capable of conveying to them the meaning of their actions.

ELLEN.—I did not know that before, though I have seen horses eat the grass, and little birds pick up worms, and fly away with them.

MRS. HALLAM.—Yes, my dear, and they were gifted with these powers by that great Being who rules in Heaven and earth; and who has ordained the different species with which they abound, to perform their respective duties. Man, who is alone gifted with the faculties of reason and speech, having been permitted to discover the wise order and regularity that prevails in every part of the natural world, did, in the earliest ages, write fables (or feigned stories) for the instruction of the young mind, wherein he made the instinct, or knowledge of self-preservation, industry, or any other prevailing property of the lower creatures, to act as examples (or warnings) to his own species, and it is a mode of instruction that

abounds in holy writ; and is particularly inviting and suited to the capacities of children, when their preceptors will fully explain to them their meaning.

ELLEN.—How very nice it must be to understand the meaning of a fable; I dare say my cousins know what is meant by the one Eliza has just read.

MRS. HALLAM.—Though it is very probable I have before had occasion to use this fable of Æsop's as a lesson of reproof or instruction for them; yet they are, at present, too young to remember at all times what they have been taught; I will therefore, if you wish it, explain it now.

ELLEN.—Indeed Aunt, I shall like very much to hear about it.

MRS. HALLAM.—The important lesson this fable conveys, may be shewn in language

suites to more advanced years than you are arrived at; but, as it is my intention that you little girls should derive some instruction from it, I shall give to it such a moral, as you will be able to comprehend. You find that the old lark was not uneasy regarding the safety of her brood, the time the husbandman depended upon the assistance of his friends, for reaping his corn; but as soon as he determined to do it himself, she knew it was necessary to remove to a safer habitation; from which we may learn, that we should never rely upon others for the performance of any thing, that it is our duty to execute ourselves, as it is most probable that, by so doing, we may sooner or later, experience some serious disappointment; but on the contrary, when we exert our abilities in the best manner we can for our own interest, should we fail in

the execution of our wishes, we shall not have to suffer from the reproach of having been idle, as we shall have at least proved a desire to make a proper use of our reason; but they who are always contented with being dependant upon others are unworthy of the talents with which human nature is endowed.

ELLEN.—I do not yet understand what you mean, Aunt.

ELIZA.—I think Mamma means that we should do every thing we can for ourselves, and not always want a servant to wait upon us.

MRS. HALLAM.—You are right, Eliza; and I wish to teach your cousin, that although she is only eight years old, it is quite time for her to learn that she possesses an active and intelligent mind; and it is necessary for her to begin to feel how capable she now is

of doing many things for herself, which she was obliged to depend upon others for, when she was a baby.

ELLEN.—And I suppose that is the reason why you insist upon my cousins waiting upon themselves ; for you keep as many servants as Papa and Mamma do.

MRS. HALLAM.—It is my study, as well as my duty to live in every respect agreeably to my station in life, and I do not keep a less number of servants, because I wish your cousins to know that even as children they have duties to perform, that will, every year they live, become more important.

ELLEN.—Pray Aunt, have I any duties to perform ? I have never been told I have any.

MRS. HALLAM.—To you, as well as to every other little girl, belong the duties of submission and obedience, which require you to attend to

every instruction that is given you, and always to do as you are bidden, without asking the reason why ; for you are quite as incapable of judging of what is right as the young larks were of the necessary time for their mother to remove them out of the corn field.

ELLEN.—I know what you mean now Aunt, and I hope I shall in time be able to understand such nice reading as well as my cousins do ; for I really think I shall be quite fond of sitting still, as I am not so tired as when I used to play all day.

MRS. HALLAM.—It will give me great pleasure to teach you any thing you wish to learn, and I am sure you will be much happier when you find you are able to be useful ; as you have finished your sewing, you may listen to what your cousin Anna reads ; after which I will select an easy tale for you.

ANNA.—

THE ANT AND THE GRASS-HOPPER.

IN the winter season a common-wealth of ants were busily employed in the management and preservation of their corn, which they exposed to the air, in heaps, round about the avenues of their little country habitation. A grass-hopper who had chanced to outlive the summer, and was ready to starve with cold and hunger, approached them with great humility, and begged that they would relieve his necessity, with one grain of wheat or rye. One of the ants asked him how he had disposed of his time in summer, that he had not taken pains, and laid in a stock, as they had done. "Alas, gentlemen," says he "I passed away the time merrily and pleasantly, in drinking,

singing, and dancing, and never once thought of winter." "If that be the case," replied the ant, laughing, "all I have to say is, that they who drink, sing, and dance in the summer, must starve in the winter."

MRS. HALLAM.—From this fable we learn the admirable lesson, never to lose any opportunity of providing against the future evils and accidents of life.

ANNA.—But can little girls learn any thing from it?

MRS. HALLAM.—If little girls prefer being always at play, and take no pains to gain knowledge and habits of industry, whilst they are young, they may, like the grass-hopper, be destitute of food in their old age.

ELIZA.—Then I am sure, Mamma, we ought to take all the pains we can to learn.

ELLEN.—Why, cousin? there is no fear of

our being in want; for we shall always have money to buy food with, and servants to wait upon us.

MRS. HALLAM.—But my dear niece must understand that by the “future evils and accidents of life,” are meant those misfortunes, to which even the most wealthy are liable; such as loss of health and property; by the first calamity she would be prevented from enjoying any other pleasure in this life, but what proceeded from a well directed understanding; which would teach her the duties of patience and resignation under so severe a trial; and in case it should be her lot to endure the latter evil, she would stand in need, not only of the habits of industry, but also of a practical knowledge to direct them properly; and all this must be learned in early life.

ANNA.—Then how very necessary it is for us

to know how to sew, as well as to read ; I hope I shall be more patient, and attend better to what Mamma says to me.

ELLEN.—And now my Aunt has told me the reason why I must learn, I think I shall like better to be shewn what I ought to do.

MRS. HALLAM.—Besides, my dear children, should you escape these calamities, and be always blessed with good fortune, young ladies, who are entirely ignorant of the time it takes to do things for themselves, are apt in early life to be impatient with their servants, and expect to be more quickly obeyed than is possible ; and as mistresses over households are subject to impositions, which useful knowledge would prevent ; therefore, whatever our station, whatever our condition, a correct judgment upon every subject is indeed a valuable acquisition : which must be obtained step by

step, from a state of infancy to matured life. Now, Ellen, you shall read this short fable.

ELLEN.—I am glad I may read a fable, and I think here are no long words in it.

THE HARE AND THE TORTOISE.

A HARE insulted a tortoise upon account of his slowness, and vainly boasted of her own great speed in running. “Let us make a match,” replied the tortoise, “I’ll run with you five miles for five pounds, and the fox yonder shall be the umpire of the race.” The hare agreed, and away they both started together. But the hare, by reason of her exceeding swiftness, outran the tortoise to such a degree, that she made a jest of the matter ; and finding herself a little tired, squatted in

a tuft of fern that grew by the way, and took a nap; thinking that if the tortoise went by, she could at any time fetch him up with all the ease imaginable. In the meanwhile the tortoise came jogging on, with a slow but continued motion; and the hare, out of a too great security and confidence of victory, over-sleeping herself, the tortoise arrived at the end of the race first.

ANNA.—I know what that fable means, for Mamma once said I was like the hare, and that Eliza resembled the tortoise.

MRS. HALLAM.—Indeed I frequently feel inclined to make the comparison; for whilst your sister is regular and earnest in the pursuit of her studies, you, like the hare, place too much confidence in your natural readiness to learn, and after speedily enabling yourself to repeat the words, rest satisfied that you have

acquired all that is necessary ; consequently Eliza will possess a really solid and well cultivated mind, while your information will, I much fear, be very superficial. But I see you have completed your morning tasks. After your dinner we will walk to the village.

ELLEN.—Have we done already ? how short this morning has appeared.

MRS. HALLAM.—I hope as you have been so pleased with the pursuits of this day, you will join our party again.

ELLEN.—Oh yes, that I am sure I shall ; but I must make haste, as my cousins are going to dinner.

CHAPTER VII.

As soon as their dinner was over, the little girls prepared for their walk, and set out with Mrs. Hallam to the old man's cottage.

MRS. HALLAM.—You may all go in and see the poor girl to day ; I hope we shall find her much better.

ELIZA.—I was quite vexed to see the poor old man yesterday ; he appeared so distressed about his granddaughter, who he said was now his only comfort.

MRS. HALLAM.—It was pleasing to see how grateful he was to the Almighty, for having allowed me to become a benefactress to him—

here is the cottage—how is your granddaughter to day, my good man ?

OLD MAN.—God bless you, my lady, she is much better, the good things you sent have revived her ; and through the blessings of Providence, and your kindness, my lady, I hope she will get well and continue a comfort to me.

MRS. HALLAM.—I am very glad to see her so much stronger—here is some broth, wine, and clothes for her, and I shall come again in a few days to see how she gets on.

OLD MAN.—Thank ye, my lady, and if a poor old man can be of use to you in any way I shall be happy to serve you ; I know a little about gardening, and if I can do any thing in that way, I shall be very glad.

MRS. HALLAM.—Thank you, my good man, I will not forget your offer. Now, my dears, we will proceed to the farm.

ELIZA.—Yes, Mamma, and if you please we will show my cousin the bees, I dare say she has never seen any.

ELLEN.—Indeed I have not—how I enjoy the country, I cannot think how I shall bear to live in London again.

MRS. HALLAM.—My dear child, it is right that you should be contented in whatever place you may be situated. I shall be sorry for having had you to visit me, if it make you repine at returning home to your dearest friends ; for although the country offers many enjoyments, and more particularly in this season of the year ; yet there are some equally inviting in London, and if, instead of spending your time in idleness, you go to school, and gain that knowledge that is suited to your years, you will never be at a loss for either occupation or amusement.

ELLEN.—I wish you would tell me how I am to do that Aunt?

MRS. HALLAM.—By reading well chosen little books, you may now have a great deal of amusement, and obtain much general knowledge; and as you become older, the study of those elegant accomplishments, Music and Painting, will be added to the other necessary branches of your education, and with such continual employment for your mind you will be sure to be happy, besides, as you gain a knowledge of the wonderful works of Nature you will be able to pass your time in so pleasing a manner, that you will feel no regret whether you reside in town or country. These are great and real sources of delight; but there are still greater to make you love your home; for I am sure your affectionate regard for your Papa and

Mamma would make you very unwilling to be separated long from them.

ELLEN,—I am to go to school soon, and the reason why I have not been yet, is, because I always used to cry when Mamma said any thing about my going, but now I shall ask to go, as I have a great wish to be as clever as my cousins.

MRS. HALLAM. — You will derive every advantage from following such good resolutions.

ELLEN.—I shall indeed, for how surprised all my young friends will be to see me so altered. I think they will be quite envious of my knowledge.

MRS. HALLAM.—I have been telling you of the advantages arising from a good education, which can only be obtained by a regular course of study, which must have for its foun-

dation the duty we owe to God, our neighbour, and ourselves ; for it was the express command of our blessed Saviour, to have little children taken to Him, by which we are to understand that in the years of infancy they should be instructed in a knowledge of these most important duties ; and then, my dear child, you will find you are rather an object of pity than of envy.

ELLEN.—I am sure I cannot think how I can be that, living in such a fine house as Papa's, and having so much knowledge as you talk of.

MRS. HALLAM.—In learning your duty, you will be taught to set a proper value upon things, and feel that you enjoy many blessings of which the imperfections of your nature too frequently make you undeserving.

ELLEN.—Oh, that is what you meant by my being an object of pity.

MRS. HALLAM.—It is, my dear, for to be a deserved object of envy falls to the share of a very few persons ; and, indeed, even though it may be desirable to resemble the most worthy ; we are strictly commanded to envy no one.

ELLEN.—I may try to be so good that my school-fellows may wish to be like me ; may I not, Aunt ?

MRS. HALLAM.—Yes, my dear, and I am sure you will never be happy unless you are good ; but where are your cousins ? Oh ! I see they have left us, and are already by the farm-yard, do you follow them, and look at the bees, whilst I go and speak to the woman.

ELIZA.—You and my Mamma walked so slowly Ellen, that Anna and I ran away from you ; there are our pet lambs, let us go and see them.

ELLEN.—What innocent little creatures !

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are they coming to meet us, for they seem as if they knew you, Cousin Anna?

ANNA.—We have always fed them, and that has made them fond of us; see, Ellen, this will suck my finger.

ELLEN.—I thought lambs had wool on their backs.

ELIZA.—Sheep have; lambs are young sheep, and when they are older, they will have warm coats; which will be cut off every summer, and made into flannel, cloth for gentlemen's coats, and a variety of other articles.

ANNA.—Now let us go into the garden, and look at the bees.

ELLEN.—What a number! will they sting me?

ELIZA.—Oh no! if you do not touch them, look how busy they are; here is a glass hive, you may see them at work.

ELLEN.—Why what work are they doing?

ELIZA.—Making honey. Mamma has promised to tell us a great deal about them; and we will ask her to do so as we walk home.

MRS. HALLAM.—Well, my dears, have you been amused?

ELLEN.—Very much indeed, Aunt; I have been quite delighted with seeing the bees.

ANNA.—Mamma, you once said that you would tell us something about them, and Eliza was just saying that perhaps you would do so as we walk home.

MRS. HALLAM.—I have no objection, but I shall only be able to give you a short outline of their history; for no study has more excited the attention of naturalists than the colonies of these useful little creatures.

ELLEN.—I cannot think, Aunt, how so many of them can live in such a small place.

MRS. HALLAM.—The society of a hive of bees, besides the young brood, consists of one female, or queen bee; several hundreds of males or drones, and many thousands of workers.

ELIZA.—Pray, Mamma, how are the different kinds of bees known?

MRS. HALLAM.—They are distinguished by peculiar forms; as well as by their offices or employments.

ELLEN.—I want very much to hear how you are to find out the queen bee.

MRS. HALLAM.—The colour differs in some parts of her body from either the drones or the workers; besides the body of the female bee is considerably longer than that of the others.

ANNA.—You have often told me, Mamma, that I might learn to be industrious from the bee. I suppose you mean from those that are called workers.

MRS. HALLAM.—They indeed afford a useful lesson to every one, and these workers (or neuters) of a hive are of two descriptions, one of which are called nurse-bees, and the others wax-makers.

ANNA.—Of what do they make the wax, Mamma?

MRS. HALLAM.—Of the sweet honey which they suck from flowers; and it is conveyed from the stomach into bags, which may be called wax-pockets; but when they do not want any wax to be made, they empty their honey into the cells.

ELLEN.—What do they use the wax for, Aunt?

MRS. HALLAM.—They build their city with it; for a bee-hive may be so called, as it consists of streets half an inch wide, with houses on each side, erected on the most exact prin-

principles ; some of these houses are for the habitations of the citizens, some to store their food in, and the rest are of larger dimensions, for the palaces of their sovereign.

ELIZA.—Is that what you call the honeycomb, Mamma ?

MRS. HALLAM.—It is, my dear ; and you know that it is a flattish cake of wax, in which there are a great number of cells regularly joined to each other, and built in two layers, placed end to end.

ANNA.—Pray, Mamma, where are the streets ?

MRS. HALLAM.—The inside of a hive consists of many of these cakes, and they are placed at a sufficient distance from each other to allow two bees to pass when they are at work upon the opposite cells ; these spaces are called the streets ; besides which there are little posterns,

or doors that they can pass through from one cell to another, to save the time that would be lost in going round.

ELLEN.—Do you mean, Aunt, that the bees make what I just now saw in the hive full of holes?

MRS. HALLAM.—Yes, my love, the wax-makers, by a regular process, prepare the wax (which they have previously made and conveyed into their wax-pockets) for the builders, and then one of them deposits her mass in a proper place in the hive, and thus lays the foundation of the comb (or city), after which she flies off in pursuit of more, and is succeeded by another wax-maker, and so on until a sufficient quantity is heaped up for the nurse-bees to commence the formation of the cells (or houses) as they alone are able to model and perfect the work; whilst the nurse-bees are

thus engaged the wax-makers return with fresh supplies of materials.

ELIZA.—Pray, Mamma, which cells do they build first ?

MRS. HALLAM.—The first care of a new swarm is to construct a series of cells to serve for cradles, into which the queen bee lays her eggs, and as soon as the young ones are fit to receive nourishment ; different bees are seen feeding them on bee-bread with the most anxious attention.

ELLEN.—Do bees make bread, Aunt ?

MRS. HALLAM.—Yes, another set of labourers (or workers) are always engaged in collecting the pollen from the stamina of flowers for that purpose. They form this yellow treasure into little pellets, which they put into the baskets, with which their hind legs are admirably provided.

ELIZA.—I suppose, Mamma, that the other bees go on building the cells after they have finished the cradles ?

MRS. HALLAM.—Yes, my dear, they all pursue their different employments, and in the months of April and May the bees collect the pollen from morning to evening: when they have gathered more than is wanted for the immediate support of the brood, the laden bees put their two hind legs into the cells, and with their middle pair push into them the pellets of bread; and if they be very much fatigued from the exertion used in seeking it, other bees knead and pack it close for winter provision.

ANNA.—Do they put it into one of the cells that you called the store-houses, Mamma ?

MRS. HALLAM.—Yes, and there are many of these cells in a hive which are filled with bee-bread; whilst an equal number are stored with

honey, and the latter are always covered with a lid of wax.

ELIZA.—Does the queen bee turn those bees out of the hive that make a swarm, Mamma ?

MRS. HALLAM.—No, my dear, the queen bee always leads the first swarm out, in order to form a new society ; but before she quits her subjects she takes care to provide for a royal successor.

ELIZA.—I thought you said there never was but one queen in a hive, Mamma ?

MRS. HALLAM.—There are usually sixteen, and sometimes not less than twenty royal cells in the same hive, and when only one is permitted to live, you must suppose there is great warfare till the others are killed ; but where many queens will be wanted to lead the swarms, as they will not live in community, they do not all arrive at perfection at the same time ; and the suc-

ceeding sovereign is always carefully watched, and kept a close prisoner till she is quite fit to form a new colony.

ANNA.—Then I suppose she flies away as soon as she is let out of her cell?

MRS. HALLAM.—No, my dear, when she finds herself at liberty she immediately endeavours to attack the other royal cells, but is driven away from them by the watchers; this opposition makes her angry, and she sometimes stands in a commanding posture, and makes a noise that completely frightens her subjects.

ELLEN.—I think, Aunt, the queen bee must have been scolding when we were looking at them, for they were humming very loudly.

MRS. HALLAM.—Perhaps she was then asserting her sovereign power; but as soon as she attempts to get at the royal cells again the guards will prevent her.

ANNA.—What will she do then, Mamma?

MRS. HALLAM.—Repeated opposition will throw her into a state of violent agitation, and communicating her anger to others, the bustle will keep increasing till a swarm of bees will leave the hive, which she will either precede or follow; and while there are any swarms to lead out, the young queens are treated in the same manner.

ELIZA.—And I suppose, Mamma, each swarm forms a new society and builds the comb, as you have been describing?

MRS. HALLAM.—They do, my dear, and I hope you have been amused with what I have told you about these excellent little creatures.

ELIZA.—I have been very much so, Mamma.

MRS. HALLAM.—The valuable work on Entomology, from which I have obtained my information respecting them, will afford you

both amusement and instruction, and I shall have great pleasure in hearing you read it, when you are old enough to understand it.

ELLEN.—Pray, Aunt, what book is it, for I am sure I shall ask Papa and Mamma to buy it for me?

MRS. HALLAM.—It is a most interesting work, written by the Rev. W. Kirby, and W. Spence, Esq., and when you are capable of comprehending the many natural wonders it unfolds, your hearts will, I am sure, be led to admire that Creative Wisdom that has endowed the meanest of His creatures with that instructive knowledge that most conduces to their comforts.

MRS. HALLAM.—Now we are home, and you may amuse yourselves till you are summoned to prayers in the evening.

Thus was passed the third day after Ellen's arrival at her Aunt's, and she began to feel much

more happy than she had ever been ; and we shall see that she daily derived benefit from the society of her cousins, and the excellent precepts of her worthy relation ; nor was she the only one that gained an advantage over their errors by this friendly intercourse ; for the impetuous temper of Anna, was checked, and indeed reprov'd, by the gentle and persuasive method used by her Mamma, in order to correct the undisciplined feelings of her otherwise amiable and engaging cousin.

CHAPTER VIII.

DURING breakfast, the next morning, the servant brought in a letter.

MRS. HALLAM.—This letter is from Mrs.

Park, and I am glad to inform you that she accepts the invitation I sent yesterday, for her two daughters to visit you. I find by it, they will be here this morning, and spend a long day with us, therefore you may omit your reading and working, and prepare for your visitors.

ELIZA.—Thank you, Mamma, we shall be very glad to see them.

A short time after breakfast the young ladies arrived, and they all soon went to their play-room, where they found a variety of subjects for their amusement.

ELIZA.—How shall we spend the morning?

MISS PARK.—Do you ever play at cards? Emily and I often play at Quadrille with Papa and Mamma; we also know Piquet.

ELIZA.—Oh no, we never play with those kind of cards, as Mamma says we are too

young to do it, but we have a pack of Geographical ones, which are very amusing.

ANNA.—And we also learn a great deal from them.

MISS PARK.—What kind are they? for I have never before heard of them.

ELIZA.—On each of them is a description of some country in the world, with the boundaries, rivers, mountains, chief towns, and manufactures: but I will get them.

ANNA.—You forget that Mamma has lent them to Miss Montague, but let us look at the games on this shelf, and if you please, we can play at one of them.

MISS PARK.—Here is Geography, Biography, Entomology, History and Botany—are all these games?

ELIZA.—Yes, each case contains a large sheet of paper pasted on canvass, and folded

so as to slip into it, and on each of these are pictures which represent the different subjects; this one on Geography, is a map of Europe, and the situations of all the most important cities are noted by the figures.

ANNA.—It is played with a tee-totum, besides which, each player must have one of these travellers, and four counters of the same colour.

ELIZA.—The tee-totum is to be spun, and a traveller must be put upon the same number on the map at which it falls.

ANNA.—Then this little book will give you a description of every thing you want to know about the place your traveller is on; and it will also tell you what you are to do next. London is marked number one on the map, and against that figure in the book there is a long account of the city: and it says, you must

stay three turns, in order to look at all the curiosities.

ELIZA.—So you must take your traveller off the figure, and place three of your counters on it; and instead of spinning it when it comes to your turn; you must take up one of them, and so on for three turns, when you may spin again.

MISS PARK.—I think that must be a nice game, but I should like to see the others, and then we can choose one; will you shew us how to play? for we have no such amusements at home.

ELIZA.—They are all numbered in the same way, and every case contains a book in which are directions how to play the game. This on Entomology, has a great many painted insects, upon the plants they are most fond of; and all the different

changes they undergo are very clearly represented.

ELLEN.—Oh! how very pretty some of the butterflies are, and those large maggots, they appear to be eating; will you tell us about them, cousin Eliza,?

ELIZA.—We have not yet played this game, but Mamma has told us that all insects pass through four different stages:—first, the egg; secondly, the larva, that is, the caterpillar, or maggot state, when they do nothing but eat; thirdly, the pupa, when they are generally wrapt up in a thin covering which they make themselves; and this state has many different names, as the crysalis, &c.; and lastly, the imago, or the perfect insect, as the butterfly.

MISS EMILY PARK.—How very amusing the account of them must be; but will you shew us the one about Botany? for I am very fond of flowers.

ELIZA.—The paintings of this on Botany are considered very beautiful.

MISS EMILY PARK.—That rose is natural, but some of the flowers are in pieces; here is a leaf, and there is a stalk quite naked.

ELIZA.—They are painted in that manner to shew that a flower is composed of several parts, we often see Mamma dissect them; and she calls that green part at the bottom of the corolla of the rose the calyx, or cup; but in some plants it is called a fence, and it has many other names.

MISS E. PARK.—Which part do you call the corolla?

ELIZA.—Mamma says the name of that beautiful part that we call the blossom is corolla, and the pieces or leaves of it are petals; then there is the stamina, which is composed of two parts, one long and thin, and the other

thicker ; and out of the top of that the bees get the pollen, with which they make their bread ; besides these, there are four other parts belonging to a flower, but I cannot describe them.

ELLEN.—Oh, I remember my Aunt's saying so when she told us how hard the little bees work.

ELIZA.—At present Mamma only allows us to see her examine the flowers, except we read about any very common plant, then we are sometimes permitted to know a little of its history.

MISS E. PARK.—I should like very much to see your Mamma dissect something.

MISS PARK.—What is this game on Biography about?

ELIZA.—It gives an account of the lives of many great men—we often play it ; and Mamma reads to us what is said about them

in the book, and sometimes Anna and I have to tell her for what qualities they were most noted; besides which, we are forced to remember in which king's reign they lived.

ANNA.—This on History is my favourite game; here are pictures all round it, and we are sure to meet with something relating to them, whenever we read the History of England.

MISS PARK.—If you please, we will play it now. Shall I spin the tee-totum first? Oh! it is fallen at number six.

ELIZA.—How nice to begin with so good a king as Alfred. I will read the account of him. He was the youngest son of Ethelwolf, and succeeded his brother Ethelred in the year 872; for the nine succeeding years he was at war with the Danes, till his country was so reduced, that he was unable to resist them any longer. He, therefore, retired to the little

island of Athelney, in Somersetshire: it is said, that during his privacy, he, in disguise, sought employment at the cottage of a herdsman, but not being able to do any kind of work, he was set to watch some cakes that were baking on the hearth, and that he suffered them to burn, for which he was sharply reproved by the herdsman's wife.

ELLEN.—Look! here is the woman holding up her finger, and she appears to be scolding the king; she might have known he was not so poor a man as he seemed to be, by his having such a handsome sword.

ELIZA. — When she learned the rank of her guest, she was (as you may suppose) very much surprised. After this Alfred entered the Danish camp in the dress of a harper, and having observed where his enemies were weakest, he collected his forces, and totally defeated



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the invaders. This great and good king founded the University of Oxford, established a navy, rebuilt London, and other cities, divided the kingdom into counties and hundreds, and drew up a body of laws for its regulation; he was a remarkable economist of his time, he devoted one part to sleep and the refecation of his body, by diet and exercise; another to the despatch of business, and the third to study and devotion: and as the arts that measure hours were very imperfect at that early period, he daily used three tapers of equal length, which he fixed in lanterns, and when one was burnt out he knew it was time to begin another employment. To complete the character of this great hero, king, and scholar; he was temperate and pious. He died in the fifty-first year of his age, A. D. 901, and was buried at Winchester.

ANNA.—And as Miss Park has begun with so good a character, I know the book will say she is entitled to two more spins.

MISS PARK.—How very fortunate I am! the tee-totum is again fallen at six, what am I to do now?

At this instant the servant entered to say it was time to prepare for dinner.

ELLEN.—I am sorry for it, as at number twenty-six I see a man playing on a harp, and I should like to know why he is doing it.

ELIZA.—He represents the harper who played near the prison where King Richard the First was confined; but we can finish the game after dinner. They now went down stairs, and before they left the dining-room

MRS. HALLAM said, I shall summon you to an early tea, my dears, and after it, we will take a little walk and gather some grasses, for

I think the Miss Parks will be amused with seeing me dissect them, and hearing a little of their history.

MISS E. PARK.—I have just been saying Ma'am, how much I wished to see you examine some plant, for I should like to understand both Botany and Entomology.

The arrival of company prevented Mrs. Hallam's intended walk, and the young ladies after tea preferred retiring to the play-room, where the following dialogue passed.

MISS PARK.—I cannot think how you learn so much, how long do you practice your Music every day?

ELIZA.—Only one hour a day, but Mamma says I am soon to spend more time at it.

MISS EMILY PARK.—It is difficult and dry at first; but afterwards it will be very pleasing.

I like it, because it amuses so many persons at the same time.

MISS PARK.—Of course you have begun to Draw and Paint.

ELIZA.—No, indeed, I have not; Mamma wishes us to acquire useful knowledge before we give up much time to the ornamental part of education.

MISS PARK.—I have no doubt but your Mamma is right; but at the same time I know some young ladies would consider you very unfashionable.

ELLEN.—What is in this box, cousin Anna?

ANNA.—It is a dissected Multiplication Table; which, I am sure you will like, for when it is put together, you will see cats, dogs, horses, cows, and a great many other animals. I know it perfectly; and if you wish to

learn to join it, I will shew you one day when we are alone.

ELLEN.—I think you are very kind to me now, cousin Anna, and I am much happier than I was when I first came here.

The servant now informed the Miss Parks that the carriage was come for them ; they soon after took their leave, and the other young ladies retired to bed ; but Eliza could not go to sleep, as she did not feel so happy as usual, and the events of this day gave Mrs. Hallam an opportunity to check in her the growing seeds of vanity ; for though she was a very clever, and generally a good little girl, yet she was not without some faults, as will be seen in the next chapter.

CHAPTER IX.

WHEN they were seated at their works, on the following morning Eliza began a conversation with her Mamma.

ELIZA.—Mamma, can you tell me when I shall begin Drawing and Painting?

MRS. HALLAM.—That must in a great measure depend on yourself, for till you have acquired a tolerable share of knowledge in the more necessary and useful branches of education, I do not consider you have any time to devote to them.

ELIZA.—When do you think I shall be forward enough to leave off Grammar and French?

they are not at all amusing, and I think I know nearly enough of them.

MRS. HALLAM.—I cannot help saying that you talk like a very ignorant little girl ; for to gain a thorough knowledge of the construction of your own language, you must pursue the study of it through the whole course of your education ; and, I fear, if your acquirement in French were to undergo an examination you would have the mortification to hear that you really know but little of it.

ELIZA.—But, Mamma, French cannot be very necessary ; and I am sure it is not so pretty as painting.

MRS. HALLAM.—French is now become a very important branch in the education of an English woman ; as the friendly intercourse between the two countries, is much greater than formerly, and should you visit the Con-

continent, your being well acquainted with the French language, would then be found a great advantage, for it is almost universally spoken.

ELIZA.—Then I suppose I must give up all idea of learning either Drawing or Painting.

MRS. HALLAM.—Why so?

ELIZA.—Because it will be impossible for me to find time for it; Miss Park told me she practised her Music at least three hours a-day, and I have now only one to spare for it.

MRS. HALLAM.—You talk of impossibilities without considering what you say; for when I observed you had at present no time to devote to Drawing and Painting, I did not mean to infer that you could not spare an hour or two every day in the pursuit of them; but being aware that little girls at your age are sometimes apt to feel a pride in showy attain-

ments. I wish you first to be sensible of the value of real knowledge, before you begin to acquire what I will allow is more inviting; and now I find that you attach so much importance to them, I am convinced that my precaution has been necessary. Be assured, my dear child, that it is my desire so to direct your education that it may ultimately conduce to your advantage, and whenever I require you to add the study of any other accomplishment to your present pursuits, I shall expect you to comply with cheerfulness.

ELIZA.—I am sure, Mamma, that you wish me to do what is right; but Miss Park told me yesterday that I could not be fashionably educated without learning Drawing and Painting; so I thought I had better just mention it to you.

MRS. HALLAM.—Take this book and read Æsop's fable of ——

THE COCK AND THE JEWEL.

A BRISK young Cock, in company with two or three pullets (his mistresses), scratching upon a dunghill for something to entertain them with, happened to scratch up a jewel, which sparkled with an exceeding bright lustre; but not knowing what to do with it, endeavoured to cover his ignorance under a gay contempt, so shrugging up his wings, shaking his head, and putting on a grimace, he expressed himself in the following manner:—“Indeed you are a very fine thing, but I know not any business you have here; I make no scruple in declaring my taste lies quite another way, and I had rather have one grain

of dear delicious barley, than all the jewels under the sun."

MRS. HALLAM.—The moral that may be drawn from this fable will perhaps convince you of your folly in wishing to pass for an accomplished woman, though a stranger to real knowledge and the value of learning, which is certainly as much superior to the embellishments of education, as the finest brilliant is to a barley corn; for by the former you will be furnished with rich and solid means of gratification, when increase of years may have robbed you of the power to pursue the latter; and though you may palliate your ignorance by declaring that your taste directed your judgment: yet, remember that a desire to possess only shewy attainments cannot produce any lasting enjoyments.

ELIZA.—Indeed, Mamma, you have made

me quite ashamed of myself and the more so, as I told Miss Park yesterday that you had said I should soon spend a longer time every day at my Music. I am very sorry for having done so; and I beg of you to pardon me for it.

MRS. HALLAM.—If you are convinced of your fault, I shall not regret having had occasion to correct you, for a confession of offence is the first step towards amendment; but I must not forget to warn you, my dear child, against the too common error of deceit, as one untruth leads to many, and though you may, for a time, appear to have gained some advantage, yet the dread of discovery must preclude any enjoyment resulting from it; besides a proper attention to your duty to God, will effectually prevent the commission of so serious an offence.—His over-ruling power and watchfulness

cannot be evaded, and a God of Truth must hate all deceivers; but I am sure I have said enough to convince you of the consequences attendant upon a repetition of this fault; and as we have many things to complete for our Sunday school children to-day we will try and do them before we walk, that they may then be carried to the village, as I wish each of you to present a little girl with something.

ELLEN.—What is a Sunday School, Aunt?

MRS. HALLAM.—It is a valuable institution for the instruction of the children of the poor.

ELLEN.—Why cannot they be taught on any other day?

MRS. HALLAM.—As the poor are obliged to earn their livelihood, many of their children have no leisure but on the Sabbath, which was

too frequently mis-spent before these institutions were thought of; but as Sunday schools are happily become universal, the children of the poor are not only taught to read and spell in them, but are made to understand the duties of a Christian, and clearly to comprehend many Divine Truths of which they might otherwise have remained ignorant. You shall go with me to the school to-morrow morning.

ELLEN.—Will my cousins go too?

ELIZA.—Oh yes, we have each a class, and many of the little girls I teach, can read very nicely, and say their Catechism.

ELLEN.—I do not know that myself, therefore I am afraid I cannot teach it.

MRS. HALLAM.—I hope you will learn a small portion of it every day till you know it; as it is of the utmost importance that you should know and perfectly understand



that excellent compendium of your Christian duties; but though you cannot say your Catechism, I will endeavour to find you some employment at the school to-morrow.

ANNA.—Mamma, there is a carriage at the door, I wonder who is come?

ELIZA.—It is Mrs. Sinclair and her two little girls.

MRS. S—— (*on entering.*)—I do not doubt but I am a most unexpected visitor.

MRS. HALLAM.—Not an unwelcome one I assure you; and I hope it is your intention to pass the day with us.

MRS. S——. No, the purport of my visit is to inform you that a rural fête has been provided for the poor children in the adjoining village; and knowing your active benevolence, I was assured it would give you pleasure to see so many happy faces; therefore, I hope you

and your little party will accompany us to Mitley Park, where the children, (after being examined in their different classes and receiving rewards,) are to dine off plum pudding and roasted beef, and to finish the day with some rural sports.

MRS. HALLAM.—It will indeed give me pleasure to witness this great treat; so, my dear children, you may put away your works, and prepare yourselves to go with Mrs. Sinclair.

As soon as they were ready they set off; and in the park they saw a large assemblage of persons of different ranks; who were all shortly after their arrival seated on benches that had been prepared for the company. The charity children (attended by their preceptors) walked two and two to the centre of the green, where they rehearsed many lessons

which they had learned at school, and after this the clergyman presented the monitor of each class with a book, promising the like reward to others when they had obtained such a situation. Inferior gifts were also bestowed as they were merited, and when he had given them all some necessary admonitions they were permitted to depart, in order to partake of the bountiful feast which he and his parishioners had provided for them; and the day was finished with many juvenile amusements.

ELLEN. — Where have these little girls learned to read so nicely?

MRS. HALLAM.—They have all been instructed at the Sunday school, and, as I before observed, had it not been for that valuable institution, they would, perhaps, have been quite ignorant.

ELLEN.—They all look very happy, do you

think, Aunt, they have always been quite good?

MRS. HALLAM.—Perhaps not always so; but whenever they have been naughty they have received suitable correction; and I hope as they grow older, they will not only prove by their good conduct the benefit they have derived from it, but will also feel grateful for the anxious care that has been shewn for their welfare. I see the company are now dispersing, and, as it is getting late, we must return home.

During their ride, the little girls expressed themselves much pleased with all they had seen and heard.

ELIZA.—I am afraid, Mamma, that the pleasure we have this day enjoyed, will be the cause of great disappointment to the children of our own school, as they cannot have their new frocks to-morrow.

MRS. HALLAM.—I was aware that we should not return home till the evening, therefore I ordered the servant to finish them, and carry them to the different families; for I should be very sorry to have our own gratifications make us unmindful of the duty we owe to others. We are now at the end of our ride; and, as I am sure you must all be very tired, I wish you to go to bed early.

Thus pleasantly passed the first week of the holiday, and in the same manner the remaining three almost imperceptibly glided away. The indulged and wayward Ellen daily evinced the benefit she derived from good instruction; and by conquering all her petulant habits, she became an amiable child, and a blessing to her affectionate and indulgent parents, who, on her return to them were most agreeably surprised with the alteration that

had taken place in the conduct of their little girl. One month had wrought a great change, and she from that time became a docile and amiable daughter, and in a few years a kind friend and an intelligent and useful member of society; she never forgot how much she was indebted to her aunt for the pains she had taken with her; but endeavoured in every way she could, to repay the kindness of this highly valued friend. Eliza and Anna gradually improved, and with their brother were the delight of their excellent mother.

Many of my young readers have, I do not doubt, kind friends, who teach them what is right, and by gentle corrections try to make them forsake their bad habits. But I have seen and heard of little girls, who think they know better than their instructors; and in defiance

of strict injunctions follow their own wills. Reflect, my little friends, ere it be too late, on the wickedness of disobedience, and that only by attention to the oft repeated admonitions of matured wisdom that you can be preserved from danger, and directed in the paths of virtue.

Filial obedience is absolutely necessary to render you happy, and to make you beloved and esteemed by the good; therefore, let me entreat you diligently to listen to precept and to imitate every good example; by which means you will be enabled daily to evince the “Advantages arising from good Instruction.”

THE END.

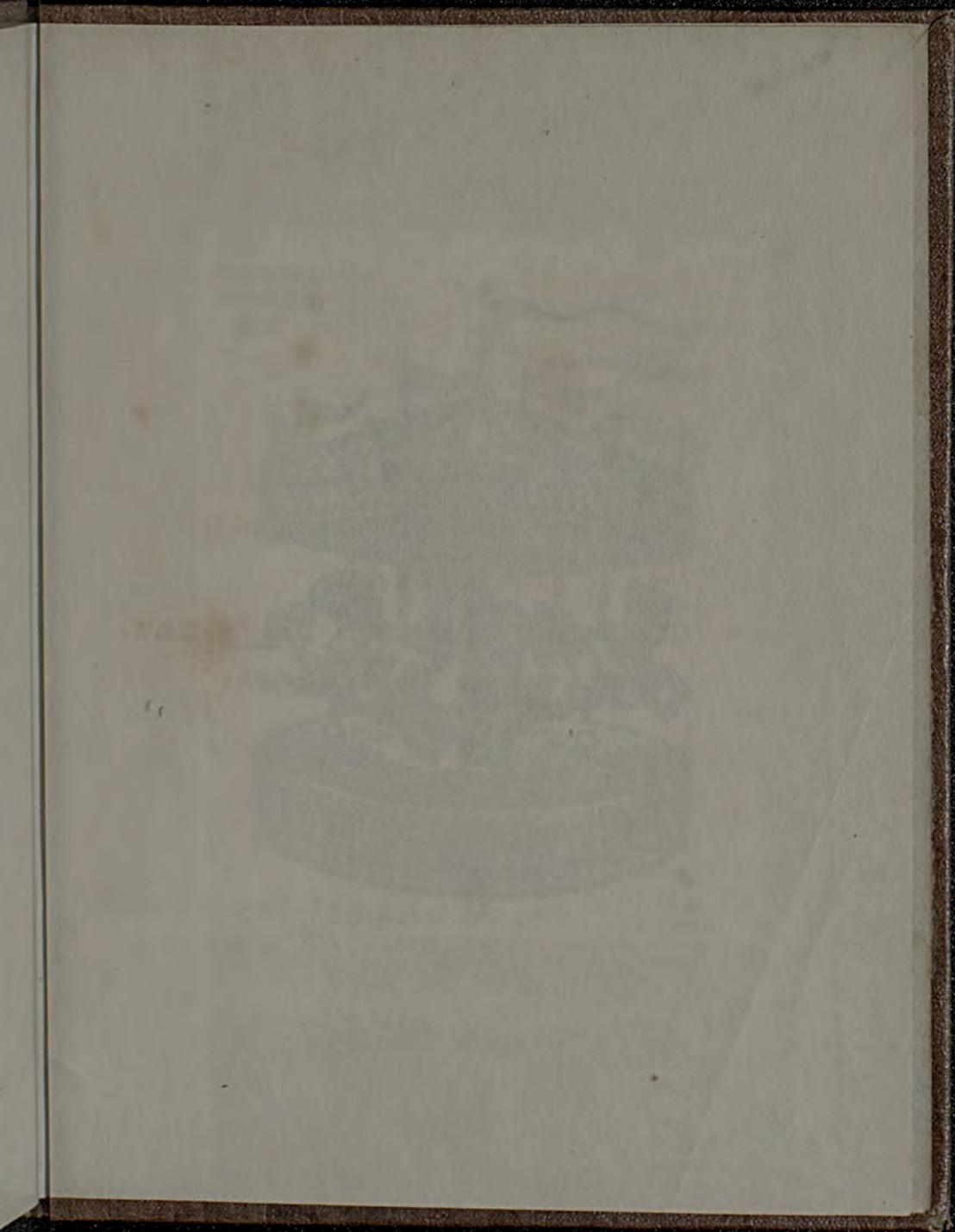
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