

### FIVE LITTLE STORIES

#### WHAT THE BOY WANTED

A MAN was visiting at a home where a little boy lived. The man was pleased with the boy's brightness and good behavior, so he gave him a dollar.

"Is it a good coin?" asked the boy. When he was told that it was a good coin and not a counterfeit piece of money, he exclaimed, "Oh, I'd much rather have a bad one."

"Why do you prefer a bad coin?" asked the visitor.

"Well, you see if it is a bad one, I would be allowed to keep it, but if it is good, it will have to go into my money-bank."

#### THE UNJUST KING

A KING, noted for his tyranny and unjust deeds, cast a certain poor but wise man into prison. Later on, in a fit of anger, he ordered the man to be put to death. When he told the prisoner what was to be his fate, the prisoner replied:

"In acting thus unjustly, you do yourself far more injury than you do harm to me."

"How is that?" asked the king, whose curiosity had got the better of his temper.

"Well," replied the prisoner, "the pain of this punishment will affect me only a moment, but you will have it pressing on your conscience and tormenting you forever."

The king was so impressed with the prisoner's remark, that he changed his order and set the prisoner free.

#### THE JEALOUS BIRDS

"WHY is that plain little bird such a favorite?" said the parrot to the crow. "Look how colorless her feathers are compared to mine. There is nothing at-

tractive about her."

"You are right," said the crow. "And as for her song, I cannot for the life of me see anything special about it."

"I will tell you why I am a favorite," said the plain bird. "Neither my feathers nor my song in itself is the cause, but I make music when other birds like you two do not sing—you just make noise."

The plain bird was right. And you and I can learn a lesson from it. Always have a cheerful song or word for everyone, and you will be well liked.

#### MR. BOASTER

"WHAT a wonderful fellow Mr. Boaster is!" said a pony to another pony. "He has the finest figure of any race horse in the country; he can leap the highest fences and jump a river, and he has won the largest prizes that have been offered for years."

"How do you know all this?"

"Why, Mr. Boaster told me so himself."

"Ah!" replied the other. "When you hear an account like this about any one from an enemy, believe it all; when from a friend, believe half; but when you hear it from the person himself, believe none of it."

#### THE LUCKY PIN

A FAMOUS Frenchman once said he owed his start in life to a simple incident. When he was a boy, he applied for a position as a messenger boy in a bank, and was refused. Crossing the floor on leaving, he noticed a pin on the floor. He stooped, picked it up, and fixed it in his coat.

The incident was noticed by the president of the bank, who offered him the position he wanted.