

"Has he had a fall?" was Doctor Gardener's question, after a grave and careful examination.

Adela's heart sank within her, and when Mrs. Holt began to assert quite eagerly that he had had no fall, and had been as well as usual till that morning, she sorrowfully interrupted her to tell of how he had sprung through the window after baby, and tumbled headlong on the ground, and how they had taken him up insensible. All this had been forgotten, and never spoken of in the excitement about baby, as Angie did not appear to have injured himself.

But now baby was safe and Angie was very ill; and it was in many a long watch by his bedside that Adela, in her grief and repentance, received the lasting impression of what her faults really were—of how she had been wrong from the first. She saw and never forgot that the original cause was her having so hotly espoused her cousins' side against their step-mother instead of using gentle and loving influences to soften the feeling in them which was so very wrong, and induce them by kindly conduct and loving attention to endeavour to win her affections; and the rest had followed link in link and step after step.

Poor Adela! It was well for her that Angie's illness was not a long one. Sometimes she thought her darling was going to leave her, and fly away to that heaven of which he had loved to think and to speak, and then she really believed that her heart would break; Myra also was in the deepest grief, and the step-mother was so kind and so affectionate to all the children, that around Angie's bed a happier understanding was arrived at than might have been possible but for his illness; and that never was destroyed afterwards, though faults of temper and want of tact might occasionally disturb it.

Angie recovered. Believe me, dear children—if

you have felt frightened about him—I would not have told you this story at all, if Angie had died, and our poor Adela's heart had been broken. He recovered, and was as well again as ever; nay, he was better, for the long rest and strengthening remedies had done his little back good. He never complained of pain when he began to get about again, and was more active on his feet.

When Major Herbert returned from his campaign, in which he had gained much honour, and earned by his bravery the gift of a Victoria Cross from his sovereign's hand, he found a happy family party in—— Street, of which his Adela made one with much praise and love for her portion from all; and yet with frank regret, after he had carried her home, she told him her story, and never attempted to conceal from him how she had been wrong from the first, and how deeply she had suffered in consequence.

He heard, blamed, pitied, loved, and forgave her.

But he pointed out to her in the strongest terms that it was the error of encouraging children against her whom God had given them to be in the place of their mother that was the cause of all; he spoke to her of the happiness that it was for motherless children when a kind step-mother took care of them, instead of their being left to themselves, and of how shocking and unnatural it was that they should give her anything but love and obedience.

"And if you had not suffered at all," he said; "if baby had not been stolen or Angie ill, this fault, you know, would have been just the same; and you might have continued doing irremediable injury to your own character and to those of your cousins. And I am quite convinced it is most merciful, my darling, when our faults bring their own punishments upon us, as yours have done, though we may perhaps be slow to perceive this mercy ourselves."

THE END.

ON COLLECTING CRESTS AND MOTTOES.



A BOOK of crests may be much prettier than an album of foreign stamps. The best way of collecting is, of course, to ask one's friends, and to ask them to get from *their* friends a few crests cut off note-paper; but packets are also sold, containing the more public devices, such as those of the Oxford and Cambridge colleges or of the navy. The name must be written very neatly below each crest in the book, or they may be numbered, with

a corresponding list of names at the end, or written in corresponding spaces on the opposite page. The last plan is perhaps the best, as writing or numbering may spoil the pretty effect of a page full of coloured devices. For an album, any blank book may be taken, with a few pages cut out, to allow space in the binding for the thickening of the leaves by pasting in the crests. Illuminated books are sold with a design on every leaf, broad lines of gold and colours forming loops and diamond spaces, in which the specimens are to be placed. But if a young collector want something

better than plain pages, it is easy to make an album for oneself with a little care. To form designs for the pages, begin with a penny, a halfpenny, and a pencil. Lay the penny in the middle of a page, and holding it steadily with one hand, trace a light line round it. Trace the same circle above it, with edge touching edge, and again below, and two more will fit exactly on each side, making one circle, with six others round it. Next lay the halfpenny very carefully in the centre of each circle, and trace a pencil-line, so as to leave all the seven circles marked with double lines. Then go over them in coloured ink, gold, or silver, or the space between the lines may be of one colour or of two interlacing shades; but this is not easy to do evenly, and blotches spoil everything. With a ruler and two coins the pages may be designed with wonderful variety, but some of the spaces should be left as large as the penny, or even larger; and there should be only one colour on each page, or two colours contrasting well, or a light and a dark shade. Silver and gold enrich the pages, but are not necessary. These coloured designs should be done on the right-hand page of every opening; and if the same design be traced opposite in thin black ink-lines, the names of the crests may be written in the corresponding spaces.

But, let us ask, What are crests? and where did they come from? First of all, as every word has a history, why are they called crests? When a white cockatoo is angry or excited, and raises the long yellow feathers on his head, we say he has put up his crest. Now, what has this kind of crest in common with the animal or the armed hand stamped in colours on note-paper or painted on carriages?

Long, long ago, when the knights went to war clad in armour, with even their faces covered with steel, it would have been impossible for their men to know them and rally round them in battle unless there were some mark to distinguish one from another. So the knights began to wear on top of their helmets little figures, made of metal or of stuffed and gilded leather, and their followers knew their leader by his crest. You see now the link through which the same word is used for the feathers on a bird's head and for the mark that distinguished each knight from the rest.

It was at the time of the Crusades that crests were first used. The oldest example is on the great seal of Richard I., where we find the lion, which has since become the crest of the royal family. The lion of England made his appearance first on the top of Cœur de Lion's helmet in the Holy Land; and a wonderful lion it was, crouching, with a long metal tail waving loose, like a horse's tail. The most ancient crests are ferocious animals,

the lion, the eagle, and those imaginary terrors, the dragon and the griffin—all chosen to signify the power, daring, or bravery of their owners. The next in antiquity are the crests that are memorials of some very old tale connected with the family. Others were given for knightly or religious service. Others, again, have been chosen according to fancy in times later than the days of armour and chivalry.

There is a quaint story to be told of the origin of many crests; and if you are fortunate enough to get a crest with its story, be sure to write the old story on the opposite page of your book. The origin of the motto may be worth noting too; for instance: the motto of the Leslies, *Grip Fast*, is historical. When Queen Margaret of Scotland was shipwrecked and drowning near the shore, a Leslie threw his belt to her, shouting, "Grip fast!" and saved her life. Again, the Dukes of Hamilton have but one word, *Through*—because an ancestor of theirs escaped from pursuit in a forest by changing clothes with a wood-cutter; and when his pursuers reached the spot, he bade the woodmen working with him not to stop in sawing a tree-trunk, telling them to saw it "through," by which presence of mind he remained unsuspected. The incident furnishes the crest of the family—an oak-tree with a saw half through it. The Stanleys, the Earls of Derby, have a very curious crest—an infant closely swathed in a cradle, with an eagle standing over it. It is an emblem of the rescue of a little child of the family, who was carried up into a high tree by an eagle. The Dukes of Leinster have a monkey for their crest, in memory of another rescue, when, long ago, the child who was the heir of the family was stolen and hidden by a mischievous monkey.

Under the crest is the representation of a twisted wreath. It was once the wreath worn on the helmet, and twisted of gold or silver lace and silk, of the principal colour and the principal metal in the arms upon the shield. This wreath was made by the knight's "faire ladye" before he rode to tournament or battle. Instead of it, there is sometimes a coronet or crown. A ducal coronet is marked by standing strawberry-leaves round its rim; they were once oak-leaves, the symbol of victory. A "mural crown" shows the battlements of a tower, and is placed under the crest of soldiers who have been the first to enter a besieged town, while the "naval crown" is given for naval victories; and thus it was that our brave Nelson—who, with only one arm and one eye left, did such great wonders on the sea—had under his crest the honour of the naval crown, with little square sails, and sterns of ships standing up all round its edge.