

## THE TWINS

KEYWORD: Reason.

Bobbie and Billie were little twin brothers. They lived in beautiful California, where the Sun shines nearly every day, and children can play outdoors in the sunshine.

It was the day after their fifth birthday, and the evening of their first day at school. Every night their mother allowed them to play for half an hour with their toys before going to bed. This evening they were playing school, and were counting the little wooden blocks that had animals and the

A, B, C,'s on them. Perhaps you have some like that.

Presently from the kitchen where she was talking with Janie, the ten-year old sister of the twins, their mother heard the highpitched voices of two excited little boys.

"Tis right," said Billie.

"It's not right," said Bobbie.

"'Tis."

"It isn't."

"For goodness sake," said the twins' mother to Janie, "just listen to those children." Wondering what the dispute was about, she went into the dining room where the boys were playing. There she saw two troubled little faces, and Billie was holding a picture block in each hand.

"Mother," Bobbie said, "Billie wants to make three blocks out of two; just listen to him."

Holding up the blocks, one in each hand, Billie said:

"Look, Mother, this block is one, isn't it?"

"Why, yes," said Mother.

"And this other block is two, isn't it?"

"Yes, Billie, that's right," said Mother.

"Then," said Billie, "one and two make three, don't they, Mother?"

"But you've only one block in each hand, Billie," said Mother, "and one and one make two; but if you had two blocks in one hand and one in the other, it would make three."

"But, Mother," Billie argued, "one and two do make three, don't they?"

"Well now, Billie, let us see," said Mother. "Suppose you give one block to Bobbie and one to Mother, and you keep the *third* one."

So Billie gave one block to Bobbie and one to Mother and of course there was none left for himself, which puzzled him very much. So that was the way he learned to think for himself and to use his mind. Mother was pleased be-

cause it showed that the twins had started to use their eyes, their ears, and their minds, which they had begun to learn to do at school.

“Now, children,” Mother said, “as we are once more happy, put away your toys tidily, and let us have our evening story.” Mother told them a story every day about someone who had done some big thing to help the world. Before this she had told them about a man named Bell, who had invented the telephone, and about Edison who had done such wonderful things with electricity. This evening she told them about Henry Ford, who had built so many automobiles, and who made so many of the people happy because the price of the automobile was not too high, and with it they could get to work quicker on week days, and on Sundays, after Sunday School, they could ride out and show their families the beautiful sights of the country.

This story made the twins want to grow up and be men so that they could also do helpful acts in God’s beautiful world. So Mother told them that in order to do this they must go to school, where they would learn many useful things. She also told them that they should not quarrel with each other; instead when they disagreed about something, they should ask some older person to decide the matter. In that way they would use *reason* and grow up to be kind as well as wise.

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