

Care of the clothing.—Boys and girls can not always have as many clean clothes, perhaps, as they would like; but if they would be careful they might keep their clothes cleaner than some of them do.

When eating, care should be taken not to spill food on the clothing. Grease or sirup or sticky candy makes spots. When spots do appear they may often be taken out with soap and water, and the place can be rubbed softly with a dry, clean cloth, or the garment hung in the air to dry. Sometimes a cleansing material bought at the store is better than soap and water, because water may take the color out of the cloth. Your mother or your teacher will tell you what to do if you wish to take out a spot.

Coats and hats may be firmly hung on hooks or laid on shelves when not in use instead of being thrown at the hooks or on the floor, to gather dust and grease and sometimes to be trodden upon.

After school, boys and girls, before beginning to work or play, can often change their school clothes for older ones, and so have a school suit, which will stay clean a long time.

If you do not care how you look, your friends care. They like to see you dressed in clothing that is as clean as possible. An old garment, even if made of cheap material, gives the wearer an air of refinement if it is clean, but the most costly material, if it is covered with spots, can never make a person look anything but dirty.

NEATNESS.

It is not enough that we are clean; we should also be neat. If the clothes are put on carelessly, if the shoes have broken laces or loose buttons, if the hair is unparted or the hair ribbon is carelessly tied, the result is not pleasing. People think that we are slovenly, that we are lacking in self-respect, that we do not show respect to others.

The following rules might well be put into practice:

(1) Brush and comb the hair and part it neatly every morning before breakfast. When it gets ruffled, brush it again. If you are a girl, tie your hair carefully with a smooth, clean ribbon.

(2) Brush and polish the shoes, not forgetting the heels. See that the laces are firmly tied or that every button is in its place and buttoned.

(3) Put the clothing on carefully. Be sure that buttons are sewed on and that holes are mended. You can mend your clothing yourself, perhaps, and if you are a big girl you can mend your little sister's and your brother's. Surely you like to see them making a good appearance quite as much as appearing well yourself. A darn or a patch is no disgrace. It shows the wearer has self-respect and respect for others. If you can not mend a torn garment and wish to do so, your teacher will show you how or will get some one else to show you.

(4) If you are a boy, tie your necktie carefully. If you are a girl, make your ribbon bows look neat and jaunty. Always wear clean ribbons. Not all ribbons wash well, but it is in better taste to wear faded, clean ribbons than ribbons which show more color but are spotted and greasy. Do not wear too many ribbons nor very large bows; they bother other people; and the less jewelry the better.

Neatness is pleasing; we enjoy looking at neat people, but no one can look neat who is covered with bits of lace, flying ribbons, and dangling jewelry.



FIG. 4.—Everybody clean. Everybody playing. Everybody happy.

CARE OF PUBLIC PROPERTY.

Those who have learned what is the custom among well behaved people, and who pride themselves on being good citizens, are very careful when using public property—even more careful than with their own. It is not that they are afraid of being arrested or punished, but they do not wish to be careless or dirty; they would be ashamed to throw orange peelings, apple cores, scraps of paper, or anything else that would look untidy or uncleanly in a public park, on the street, or in the schoolroom or school yard. Neither would they scratch or whittle furniture, nor make marks on buildings or fences, nor scribble in books or soil or tear them. They think it would be a disgrace to do things like these, because it is not the custom of the best American citizens, and they wish to do what the best people do.