

**SUNSHINE
AND SHADOW**

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Sunshine and shadow by American Sunday-School Union

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AMERICAN SUNDAY-SCHOOL UNION

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AND SHADOW**

Sunshine and Shadow.

Sunshine and Shade — Frontispiece.



"I see it now, Aunt Edith," Fanny answered eagerly. p. 46

SUNSHINE AND SHADOW.

BY THE AUTHOR OF

"THE HIVE AND ITS WONDERS."

*"Of happy country life—pure life in air,
Free from the rage of grills—the plague of care."*

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SUNSHINE AND SHADOW.

CHAPTER I.

On a bright and lovely morning in the month of May, two boys might have been seen standing by the side of a rail fence, in the corner of a green field. They were boys of eight and ten years of age, and were on their way to school.

"Come, Charlie," said Fred, the elder of the two, as he laid his hand on the highest rail, and made the first step upward with his foot, "come along faster! What's the use of being late at school such a fine morning? Hurry up, I say!"

"No use at all, Fred," said the little boy;

"I don't want to be late, but I tell you my boot hurts my foot, and I must stop here and take it off to see what the matter is."

Charlie sat down on an old stump near; Fred slowly mounted the fence, and, taking his seat very deliberately on the upper rail, opened one of the school-books which he had carried under his arm.

These boys were Fred and Charlie Harris. They were brothers. Fred was a frank and fearless boy, with a kind heart, and many faults. He relied too much upon himself; thought it very pleasant to have his own way, and did not always stop to consider whether to follow out his various plans and wishes would lead him in the right or wrong path. Many other boys are like Fred in these traits of character. But his honest, truthful face, clear bright eye, and kind smile, gave him favour in the eyes of many, and those who saw Fred Harris for the first

time, often wished to see more of "that fine, manly-looking boy."

Charlie was very different from his brother. His pale face and slender form gave him the appearance of rather delicate health. Indeed he had not been very robust from infancy. Retiring, and even reserved in his character, Charlie was gifted with a thirst for knowledge on every subject, remarkable for his years. To this was added a quick, intelligent understanding of anything that was taught him, and a tenderness and warmth of feeling that made him a favourite with every one.

The field in which the boys stood was elevated quite above the surrounding country. It was an apple-orchard. The blossoms had not yet all fallen from the trees, though the soft green leaves were putting forth on every twig and branch. The rich carpet of grass covering the soil was thickly strewn with another carpet, the delicate leaves of the