

made any mess with the wood ; he is far too skilled a workman to do that."

Their voices were here drowned by harsh, discordant sounds ; and looking up, they beheld the carpenter severing the wood with a saw. This done, the saw was placed beside the planes on the bench, and began at once to give an account of what it had been doing.

"Well, I declare ! I have discovered a talent I did not know I possessed ! I went as cleanly as a knife through that wood ! It was a capital job ! I quite enjoy this work ! Did you hear how some of the tools applauded me ?"

"As you are so clever," said the old plane, "perhaps you will saw through this piece of waste wood here ? We should like to test your powers."

The saw, without the slightest misgiving, made an attempt to rise ; it tried again, made a desperate struggle, and then gave it up, looking so ashamed at its utter failure.

Before anyone had time to speak, the saw was again taken up by the carpenter, and sent cleanly and swiftly through another plank.

While this was being done, the door opened, and a sunny faced little girl ran in, saying, "I have learnt my text, father ; may I say it now to you ?" And slowly and sweetly the little one said : "Without Me, ye can do nothing."

"Right, my little sunbeam," said the father. "Would you like me now to tell you what that means ?"

Raising the little one up in his arms, he showed her the drawer of tools, and asked her, how much work they could do by themselves ?

"Oh, father, you are laughing," said the child. "Of course the tools cannot move, they are not alive."

"Then how did that wood become so smooth ?"

"Why, you did it, father," said the child.

"Will you not give the plane any credit ?" said the father, smiling.

"Oh ! now you are making fun of me, father. Why do you ask me such funny questions ?"

"My darling," said the father, folding her closely in his