

Their First Party.

Have you ever had a letter all to yourself? If so, little reader, you will know how delighted little Dorothy and Jack Masters were, when they came down to breakfast one morning and found that the postman had actually brought them a big letter all to themselves. They couldn't wait until mother came down to read it to them, but clambered upstairs in a big hurry, and rushed pell-mell into her bed-room, begging her to read it at once and quickly.

'All right, my dearies,' said kind mother; 'let us all sit down on this big chair, and see what this big letter is all about.'

And what do you think it was?

first! But, then, father was always such a tease, as Jack said.

After the meal was over, mother took Dolly into the town, and bought a beautiful piece of white cashmere to make the party frock; and then how busy mother was for the next day or two, cutting out and fitting on that pretty dress, and how wildly excited Dolly grew as it approached the last few finishing touches!

When the day really came at last, there was great sorrow because it was a wet day. The rain poured down, and seemed determined to go on pouring all day long, so that Dolly was quite afraid she would not be allowed to venture out. But mother said she could have her old

little colored candles, and with lovely toys of all descriptions hanging from its branches. After tea all the little guests went into the nursery, and each one of them received a present from this tree. Dorothy had a doll dressed as Little Red Riding Hood, and Jack found his present was what he had longed for for a long time past—a horse and cart! Then after the tree was stripped of all but the candles and lights, they had all sorts of games—'Blind-man's-buff' being the general favorite.

That evening seemed to rush along, and the children were all surprised when it was announced that supper was ready. And, oh, what a supper that was! The table seemed loaded with all sorts of dainties and delights. Crackers were there in abundance, and the children started the feast by exploding these and revealing their hidden treasures. Inside of them were all sorts of quaint and curious caps and masks, with which they all adorned themselves and wore throughout the merry meal, and very queer sights some of them looked; I can tell you. Jack had a large dunce's cap on his head, with the word 'Dunce' printed round it in large red letters, and little Dolly was gay in a gilt crown, which made her look quite a small queen of beauty.

After supper more games, and then, alas! nurse came and demanded that her small charges should be delivered up to her care once more; and reluctantly they said good-night to their little playmates, and earnestly thanked their hostess for their lovely evening. And then what do you think they found awaiting them at the door? Why, mother had actually sent a cab to fetch them home; and they much appreciated not having to trudge through the cold and wet, for the rain had kept its resolution, and still steadily poured down.

What a tired and happy couple of bairnies they were that night, and what chatter-boxes they were all the next day! Poor mother declared they quite made her head ache with their chatter.

For many days after they could talk of nothing else but the party and its delights, and it was a very long time before either Jack or Dolly forgot the pleasure of that evening.—'Adviser.'



Why, an invitation from Robbie and Phil Bowden to a party at their house on the next Tuesday evening!

'Oh, how lovely!' shouted Jack, 'Can we go, mother?' said little Dolly.

'We'll see about it,' said mother; 'but now let us go down to breakfast, or father will be waiting, and that will never do.'

So down they all went and told the great news to father, and showed him the letter, which he said should be framed, as it was their

cloak on, and run along with nurse as quickly as possible. So off went the happy pair, looking a pretty pair, too, with their rosy smiling faces. Oh, how charming it all was! Dolly dreamt of that party for months afterwards, and of all the pretty things that there were and the beautiful time that they had.

All over the house there were pretty fairy lamps and Japanese lanterns, hanging from the ceiling and decorating the rooms and passages. In the nursery there was a large tree, ornamented all over with