

II.

She lived in a quiet village, where she was born and bred,
 She lay in a humble cottage, upon a pallet bed :
 Alas! she lay there day and night, both were to her the same,
 For a hard cough shook the pallet bed beneath her wasted frame.

III.

Yet she made nor moan nor murmur, by action or by word ;
 But she lay and thought, and lay and prayed, and surely she was heard
 Her inward spirit every day was strengthened from on high,
 And light as from a holier world shone in her fading eye.

IV.

But she had heard how Heathens live, a blind and sinful race,
 And how our wandering colonists pine for the means of grace :
 And she drew a simple argument from what she felt and knew—
 "I feel my Lord is kind to me, would that these felt Him too."

V.

So she got a little mission-box, a homely thing of tin,
 Where she might put the "widow's mite," her *very all*, within.
 A single penny every month her parents' means supplied,
 And she gave a penny every month, nine months, and then—she died

VI.

But when her parents weeping came to put her under ground,
 Beneath the pillow of their child her mission-box they found :
 They opened it and counted out her legacy to Heaven,
 She had given a penny every month, nine pence, but lo ! eleven.

VII.

And whence had come the other two? Her father pondered long,
 He feared by e'en a thought of doubt to do his angel wrong :
 But whence had come the other two? At last the tale was told ;
 Now hear the self-denying love of one not ten years old.

VIII.

One day, when fever's heat ran high through every throbbing vein,
 A neighbour saw the suffering-child and gave her pennies twain,
 To buy an orange from the shop her burning thirst to slake :
 And *in the box she dropped them both*, for her dear Saviour's sake.

IX.

She bore the thirst, she told it none, her pains, her alms she hid ;
 But "What she could do, she hath done," she scratched upon the lid ;
 And there they were, the monthly pence, the two which made eleven,
 Their worth on earth—but who can say what was their worth in heaven?

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