

THE WHITE FEATHER.

WHEN the English first went to North America a great part of it was inhabited by tribes of Red Indians. Among the white people, at a small settlement near the frontier of Cincinnati, lived a Quaker and his family. When war broke out with the Indians all the white people fled to other villages, except the Quaker, who had made up his mind that he would stay and make peace with the enemy. One day he saw a party of Indians approaching his house. He went up to them and held out his hand to the leader, who took no notice, but entered the Quaker's house, where his wife and family were. After searching for weapons and finding none, the Quaker invited them to partake of some dinner, which he had prepared for them, and after enjoying the meal they left. As soon as they got to the borders of the forest, they sent back one of their number. When he reached the Quaker's house he stopped at the door, and placed a simple white feather above it, as a sign of peace. On other occasions the Indians came that way, but the Quaker and his family were never attacked, for the Quaker had conquered the enemy by kindness.

THE WAY THEY PITIED.

66 **G**IRLS, I am so sorry for Edna Earl," cried Mary Edwards, as she entered the school-room, "she has to give up her part at the exhibition. She can't be in the drill because she can't get a dress for it. She has nothing at all that will do. Her mother had intended to get her one, but you know their baby was sick so long with the pneumonia, and they had so many extra expenses that she can't let Edna have the dress. Isn't it too bad?"

With "ohs!" and "ahs!" the girls agreed, for sweet-natured Edna Earl was a general favourite in spite of plain clothes and poverty.

"You ought to see my dress," and Mary began again. "It's just lovely, white gauze over silk and its to be looped with white ribbons and rosebuds, and mamma is going to let me wear her pearls around my neck. Fannie's dress is to be just like mine, isn't it, Fannie?" she asked turning to her cousin who was among the group.

"Yes," answered Fannie slowly and with an apparent effort—"that is I think so. But perhaps mamma may change her mind about it," she added.

"Oh, I hope not," cried Mary, "I counted on our being exactly alike. You coax her to be sure and let yours be like mine, won't you Fannie?"

"I don't know," said her cousin, "I'll see." And then she turned away from the group and went to her desk.

Fannie's lessons did not occupy her thoughts as fully as they usually did that morning. Edna's sweet face seemed to swim before her. She knew how disappointed she must be, for hers was to have been an important part in the drill that the scholars of Elmwood school were getting up.

It was a very simple dress that Edna was compelled to resign. Just a plain white muslin affair with perhaps a very little trimming, but more than her, poor, overworked, underpaid mother felt able to buy for her after the expense of baby's sickness.

"And my dress will cost more than twice what hers would," thought Fannie to herself. "I wonder if mamma would consent to buy me only half as fine a one and let me get one for Edna out of the rest of the money. I would love to have the gauze, but I know I would not enjoy it if Edna must lose her pleasure. I shall ask mamma when I go home," she decided.

Fannie's heart felt lighter after her resolution was taken. On the way home she confided to her cousin her intention.

"Oh, you foolish girl," cried Mary, "don't you do any such thing. Why, you will be just spoiled completely in a plain, old muslin dress. Of course I pity Edna and am sorry for her, and all that, but dear me I wouldn't think of giving up my dress for her!"

"Well, said Fannie, "it seems to me that our pity is only a mockery if we have nothing but pity to offer. Pity won't warm the cold or feed the hungry, and I know it won't put a dress on Edna. So I have decided that if I pity her I must also offer her substantial aid."

"Do as you please," said Mary, still unconvinced, "she don't get my dress, that is sure." And with that she flounced off in another direction, leaving Fanny to continue her way homeward alone.

When Fannie broached the subject to her mother on her arrival home, she met a very ready acquiescence. Indeed her mother was delighted to find her little daughter's sympathies taking so practical a turn, for she herself was a woman of wide charities, and a like disposition in her child greatly cheered her.

Although she was amply able to give both Fannie and Edna a fine dress, she decided to let their costumes together cost only what she had intended to lay out for Fannie's alone, deeming it best for Fannie's soul development that her sacrifice be made one of deed as well as spirit.

So Edna had her dress after all for the exhibition, and did her part to perfection. Indeed, there was but one who excelled her, and who was happier than she, and that was not Mary in her handsome costume and her cheap sympathy, but large-hearted Fannie who wore only a simple white muslin and carried the sweet consciousness of a noble kindness.—*The Little Christian*.