

heartily as ever, and was in love with her new papa; and Mr. Strickland, on his part, was as much in love with her.

"Martha," he said, detaining her, after he had carried Julie on his shoulder to bed—"Martha, I cannot thank you enough. What an engaging little puss it is! She isn't like Jessie at all, though," he added, after musing a while.

"There is a likeness in the eyes; don't you see it, sir?" Martha could say that confidently, for she thought she saw it herself.

"Is there? I do not see it. And yet there may be, perhaps—they are gray eyes," added Mr. Strickland after a smile; "such pretty plaintive ones!"

#### GOOD BY TO THE FARM.

When Julie woke next morning it was with a beautiful restful feeling, and she wasn't troubled by trying to remember at all. It was quite happy enough to know that papa was in the house—papa who had seemed to ease the trouble in her mind a little yesterday; and ah! she remembered something pleasant now. He had promised to open a box he had brought with all sorts of curious things—promised to open it to-day; and Julie jumped gaily out of bed, and had pulled on her stockings and slippers before Martha came into the room.

"Bless you darling!" Martha exclaimed. "How bright you are looking to-day!"

"I thought of papa the first thing when I woke. He's so nice," said Julie, earnestly.

"Who's talking of me?" said a growling voice outside the door—the kind of voice that the Father Bear must have had in the fairy tale of "The Bears." "I hear Miss Julie—telling tales of your poor old dad!" And a face with a long moustache came peeping round the corner.

It was very pleasant to hear her laughter ringing through the room. Papa's presence actually had the effect of making Julie cheeky.

"You shouldn't listen behind doors, papa," she said, dancing up to him. A sound sleep had done her so much good, with the restful waking after, that Julie looked unusually well, and excitement had brought two pinky spots upon the poor thin cheeks.

"Little pussy-cat!" he said delightedly, snatching her up in his arms. "Listeners never hear any good of themselves; that's what you mean to say. Little tell-tale! Aren't you afraid of me? You're little Golden Hair, you know; and I'm the Father Bear."

"I'm not afraid of you," said Julie, but the glad ring had gone from her voice. She was trying to remember—poor little Julie!—who used to play at Bears. Bears had been one of Puff's favorite games, after "horses" and "shops," you know.

Mr. Strickland saw she was trying to remember again, and was sorry he had mentioned the story.

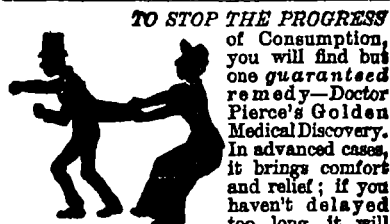
"I'm going to open my box," he said, beginning to change the subject. "I'm trying to think of some little girl who would like to come and help me."

Julie's face brightened again and the troubled look went from her eyes. "Make haste and dress, he said, setting her on her feet. "You and I shall open it after breakfast, together."

He left the room then more soberly than he had come in. What could be the matter with the child? Why was she always trying to remember things that had never happened at all? He couldn't help thinking again of the Somebody who wore a ring like his, and upon whose knee Julie used to sit.

It couldn't be John Gerring—John Gerring didn't wear a ring; even if he did, somehow Mr. Strickland couldn't imagine Julie sitting on his knee. John Gerring did not have the look of a man who would fondle and play with a child. Stop a minute; it was the doctor, perhaps—the doctor who had come to see her in her half-unconscious state; and somehow Julie in a puzzled way was mixing him up with papa.

(To be Continued.)



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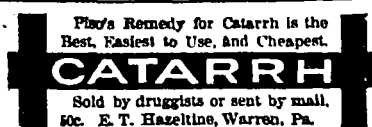
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