

It is a long time since; but, though she has grown to be a tall young woman, Ruthy has never forgotten that she is the King's flower, and every day her life grows and blossoms in the sunshine of His love. Sorrow and tears have come with the years, but they only make her heart more sweet and tender; and the King of heaven looks down, and is glad because of His little flower.

How Six Boys Earned their Fun.

"Hurrah, boys! Three cheers for the grandest coasting of the season!" shouted Ben Green.

"When?" "Where?" "How?" questioned five merry boys together.

"This afternoon, down Scrabble Hill, on father's wood sled," returned Ben, answering all the questions in one sentence.

"How did he happen to let you have the sled?" asked Harry Greene, Ben's cousin. "I thought he was too busy hauling to spare it for half a day in such fine sledding weather."

"He had to go to Millville on unexpected business; and he said as it was not likely he could spare the sled again before the thaw begins, I might invite you boys to go coasting."

"How jolly for us that he had to go! We'll have lots of fun."

"Yes, but it's not so jolly for mother. She had planned to do her baking to-day, so she could go to-morrow to see a friend from the West who's visiting at the minister's. She can't go any other day, either, before Mrs. Harris goes home."

"What's to hinder her baking to-day?" asked one of the boys.

"She's out of fire-wood. Father had a load out ready to haul this morning for her, and now she'll have to wait till to-morrow."

"Boys," exclaimed Harry, "let's haul that wood for Aunt Mary ourselves. We six could load it in no time, and we'd enjoy our coasting ten times as much if we earned it first."

"That's a fact!" "So we will." "Good for you!" "Come along, Ben!" shouted the four boys enthusiastically.

Only Ben hung back, with bent head and a red face.

"What's the matter, old fellow? Don't you want your mother to have her fun once in a while as well as you?" asked Harry, indignantly.

"Of course I do, Harry Greene," answered Ben, with flashing eyes; "but I didn't ask you fellows to come here to work to pay for a sled-ride."

"Well don't you s'pose we know that? It isn't for you: it's for Aunt Mary, the best woman in the country. I'll wager there's not a chap here she has not done something for some time or other."

"That's so," answered the four in chorus.

"All right. I'll be glad enough to have her go to-morrow, and I couldn't haul that wood by myself," Ben replied gratefully.

Away the six boys tramped to the barn, hitched the oxen to the sled, and drove down the long lane to the woods. Three hours later, a great noise of shouting brought Mrs. Greene to the kitchen door. There stood the sled piled with well-cut wood, and the six boys sat on top.

"Mother, here's your wood. Is there time yet for you to do your baking? Please don't cook any dinner. A pick-up dinner is good enough for me."

"Please bake to-day, Aunt Mary. You will disappoint six boys as well as

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your friend, if you don't go to-morrow," added Harry.

"Bless you for the best boys that ever lived!" exclaimed Mrs. Greene, with tears in her eyes. "I can bake easily now."

A glorious time those six boys had that afternoon, and an unexpected reward in the evening; for Mrs. Greene called them in, and placed before them apples, nuts, pop-corn, and a big pan

of doughnuts fried expressly for them, while Mr. Greene told thrilling tales of his adventures in the Rockies to the boys who had thought of others' pleasure before their own.

Little Things.

Little words are the sweetest to hear; little charities fly farthest and stay longest on the wing; little lakes are the stillest; little hearts are the fullest, and little farms are the best tilled. Little books are the most read, and little songs are the dearest loved. And when nature would make anything especially rare and beautiful, she makes it little—little pearls, little diamonds, little dews. Agar's is a model prayer; but then it is a little one, and the burden of the petition is for but little. The Sermon on the Mount is little, but the last dedication discourse was an hour. Life is made up of littles; death is what remains of them all. Day is made up of little beams, and night is glorious with little stars.

Fault Finding.

"What does make you so disobedient, Edward? you do not seem to be the same boy that you were when I stayed with you before. You make no effort to try to please your mother in anything. What is the reason?"

"The reason?" answered the boy, as he looked into the kind face of his cousin who was paying them a short visit, "well, I suppose that the reason is that I can't please her. If I come into the house noisily and wake the baby, she scolds me. If I try the next time to come in quietly, perhaps I forget to wipe my feet, and she scolds me about that; if I come in quietly and wipe my feet, perhaps I forget to hang up my hat, and she scolds about that. Just when I think I have been quite perfect, is the time when I find I have been most in the wrong. You see I am a careless kind of a fellow, and I expect I am aggravating, but as long as I get scolded for whatever I do, I have come to the conclusion lately that I may as well do as I please."

"A very bad boy," you say. Undoubtedly, but why? Is there any more hardening process, to a young heart, than to be constantly exposed to indiscriminate fault finding. Is there anything more discouraging to it, than to realize that to please is an impossibility?"

Appreciation is a most important factor in the training of children. The mother's smile of approval is sunshine that starts into growth many a seed of good resolution, and praise, judiciously administered, is the very best tonic in the world. It is a sad thing that so few parents comprehend this truth. Praise is generally dealt forth in very homoeopathic doses, and too often used to coat some bitter pill of criticism. Thus perhaps,

"Well, you really have managed to be down to breakfast in time all this week. I wonder how long this extraordinary goodness is going to last?"

Or thus, "Yes, you have been very helpful to-day, but what a shame it is that a boy who can work so well, should be as lazy and idle as you generally are."

Most boys have troublesome and annoying ways, but whilst the mother strives patiently to counteract disagreeable habits, it is well for her to be blind to defects that do not affect character, whilst she should be far sighted in discerning faults that threaten the foundation of a worthy manhood.

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When your boy successfully fights a temptation, let him thoroughly understand that his mother is his sympathizing friend, who rejoices in his victory. Often when you tell him how glad you are, he will answer, "why, mother, did you see that? I thought no one noticed," and as he realizes, in your watchful love a faint type of the Almighty love with which he is surrounded, a new strength and courage will come into his life.

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