

A JAPANESE BLOSSOM

tal contempt — "take Plum Blossom."

The latter smiled gratefully in the direction of her step-brother.

"I goin' wait till you grow up, Beely. *Then* I keep house for you."

"You gotter git marry with Takashima Ido," put in Taro.

"I *nod* got!" cried the little girl, indignantly.

"You *got!*" persisted Taro. "His fadder already speag for you to our fadder."

"Tha's jus' account our fadder becom' hero. *He* wan' be in our family also. But I *nod* goin' marry thad boy all same. He got a small-pox all over his face."

"Plenty husband got small-pox," said Taro. "He also got lots money. Mebbe one hundred dollars."

Plum Blossom pouted.

"I goin' marry jus' same my