

Doddles, nor comb his hair, nor put soap in his eyes, so he finds it quite easy to think I ought to like Maria. I try, but I can't. Oh! I can't, so I shall only tire my poor little heart by trying, and I'm tired so often now it seems as if the days were ever so long, and—"

"Don't you think you've talked enough rubbish to yourself, Master Boy?" interrupted Nurse.

"Was I talking out loud, Nurse?" asked Boy dreamily.

"You're always on the talk, and it's a bad habit," said Nurse, passing with the tray. Something made her turn and look at the child. "Are you tired dear?" she asked.

"Dear," and from Nurse! thought Boy to himself. "Not much more than usual, Nurse, thank you," he said aloud.

She made no further remark, but thought to herself the children wanted a change, and made up her mind to suggest the sea to her ladyship when she had a chance.

Presently a loud peal at the front door awoke Boy from his reverie.

"My guests!" he cried, as he started downstairs. He waited in the hall, and watched to see who it was. Bruce opened the door; and there, in the castle barouche, sat the little Lady May. A giant footman lifted her out, and she walked slowly up the steps. Then she turned and said, with a tiny bend of the golden head, "You'll tum at thickth, Thomath?"

"Yes, my lady," said the footman.

"Fank you she said, as she came in, and then catching sight of Boy, she forgot all her dignity, and flew across the hall and threw her arms round his neck, crying, "I'm tum, I'm tum, Boy, 'tos I love 'oo," and she hugged him again and again.

"Then, May, we love one another," answered Boy, as they went up the big oak stairs with their little arms entwined. As they reached the nursery there was a patter, patter, patter up the back stairs, and the under-house-maid looked in, saying, "There's some mistake here, Nurse, Polly Mason says she's been asked to tea."

"No mistake at all," said Boy, looking vexed and going to the door. "I asked Polly Mason my own very self, and I'm particularly glad she's come," and Polly came in, literally shining with cleanliness and a beautiful clean pinafore.

"How do you do, Polly Mason?" said Boy, shaking hands, "I hope you are quite well?" and he led her up to his other little friend. Lady May looked at her a moment and thought Boy's visitor seemed a little strange, then the true courtesy which is the proof of blue blood showed itself, and she put out a dainty hand, and lisped, "How do, Polly Mathon, I, ath well ath Boy, hope 'oo ith quite well?"

Polly made her very best curtsy, and said with her brightest smile, "I'm doing nicely, thank ye kindly, Miss."

May thought it sounded grand to be called "Miss," so she patted Polly's hand, and they all felt as happy as possible.

Another bell, and Nurse gave a gasp, wondering who on earth would turn up next. This time Bruce came all the way up to the nursery himself, and, throwing open the door, announced "Mr. Dodsworth, sir."

"Thank you, Bruce," said Boy, as he went forward to greet his friend.

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(Signed) J. H. MCKENZIE, President.

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"Oh! Doddles, this is going to be the loveliest party you've ever been to," he said, putting up his little face to be kissed. Doddles did not answer, only silently bent and kissed him. He was thinking to himself he had never seen the little face look so lovely, or the white skin so transparent.

"We'll sit down now we've all arrived," said Boy, and he showed his guests to their places at the little table.

"I've put you on a stool, Doddles," he explained, turning to the curate, "cos I wanted us all to be pretty near the same size;" and Doddles made him quite happy by assuring him he much preferred a stool to a chair.

To be Continued.

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