

Suddenly the reason flashed upon me—we were suffocated, Birdie and I, with the charcoal fumes!

I had just strength to crawl to the door, open it, and fall a senseless mass across the threshold, where I was found by the servants.

Only just in time had Birdie's drooping head warned me: a few minutes more and I should have slept the sleep of death.

How glad I was I had thought of Birdie's comfort before my own—through that my life was spared.

The dear little thing took longer recovering from the poison than I did, but he is quite well now and still travels everywhere with us, which he deserves to do I think for having saved my life.

A Mouse in the Pantry.

God has placed us in our position in life, and it is our duty to be contented; discontent is a sin, and envy is a sin. Listen, my child, to what my grandfather told me when I was a little girl. When I used to be out of temper, or naughty in any way, if grandfather was near he would call to me, "Mary! Mary! take care; there is a mouse in your pantry!" I used to cease crying at this, and stand wondering to myself what he meant. I often ran to the pantry, too, to see if there really was a mouse in the trap, but I never found one.

One day I said: "Grandfather, I don't know what you mean. I haven't any pantry, and there are no mice in mother's, because I have looked often." He smiled, and said, "Come, little woman, sit down here in the porch by me, and I'll tell you what I mean. Your heart, Mary, is the pantry; the little sins are the mice that get in, and nibble away at all the good, and that makes you sometimes cross, and peevish, and fretful, unwilling to do as your mother wishes; and if you do not strive against it, the mice will keep on nibbling till the good is all eaten away. Now, I want to show you, my little girl; how to prevent this. To keep the mice out you must set a trap for them,—the trap of watchfulness, and have for bait good resolutions and firmness."

"But, grandfather," said I, now quite interested in the story, "wouldn't they nibble the good resolution away after awhile?"



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"No, Mary, not if the watch was kept strictly, and the bait was a good one." I did not exactly understand it when my grandfather first told me, for I was such a very little girl; but I knew it was told for me in some way, and after awhile I began to find out what he meant. He told me, too, that I might store my pantry with good things if I watched it well. Do you know what that means? To store it with good principles, good thoughts, and kind feelings.

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