

"Susie's Dolly"

By GRACE LOVE.

Three merry little maidens,
Sitting in a row,
Busy making dolly clothes,
Fast as they can sew.

Watch the winsome faces,
So eager and intent;
See the needles flying,
Like as if they meant

Business was a rushing
In the dolly line,
And "Arabella Adams"
Her sister's must outshine:

"Because," said gentle Nellie,
With eyes so brown and wise,
"It's going to be the sweetest,
Delightfullest surprise!"

And Arabella darling,
You're going off to stay,
To cheer poor lonely Susie,
Who lies in bed all day.

When mamma took us to her,
She looked so tired and sad,
So you, my pretty dolly,
Must help us make her glad.

She's just as poor as can be,
And has no pretty things;
She'll think you're just an angel,
Altho' you don't have wings."

So talked the happy children,
While nimble fingers wrought
The cutest dolly's outfit
You ever would have thought.

And when they had it finished,
And done up "quite in style,"
They all trooped off to Susie's,
And there it was worth while

To see her bright eyes glisten
Until the tear-drops came;
She knew she'd be so happy
She'd most forget she was lame.

And mamma kissed each beaming face,
When, as the twilight fell,
They clustered closely to her side,
And each vied to tell

Of how it was the "gladdest thing"
They'd ever thought to do;
And their dear hearts were doubly blest
I'm sure, I think, don't you?

Daddy Jack.

He could not tell where he came from.
One winter day he appeared, ragged and
forlorn, at the asylum gates, when the
bigger boys were warming themselves
with a game of ball. A little toddler
of four or five, noticing the pale face
pressed against the bars, offered to
share the bun he was eating with the
stranger. The morsel was so eagerly
devoured that Baby Ben applied at the
house for more for the hungry boy, and
Jack was called inside the gates. No
one from the outside ever claiming him,
the asylum became his home, and
Baby Ben the object of his passionate
attachment.

He might have been eight years old,
but the matron needed but a look into
his pretty, vacant eyes to tell her that
his mind was little older than a babe's.
He had no name for himself but Jack.
The boys finding him continually with
little Ben upon his knee, nicknamed him
Daddy. As the days grew shorter and
colder, Ben, always a sickly child,
seemed to droop, and Daddy Jack's voice
became a familiar sound, crooning crazy
lullabies to his baby, with always the
same singsong but sweet tune like a
chant.

Sometimes it was—
"And snow, and cold, and ice,
And warm, and bread, and milk,
And by Benny! Benny by! Benny,
Benny, Ben."
Or it might be—
"Where's Jack? Here's Jack. Here's
Jack—
Benny's Jack. Good Jack. Benny's
Jacky Jack."

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