

not offend my ears, as the old cracked one we had hired for so many years, had done. I cannot tell you how happy and excited I was. A piano to be all my own, seemed bliss beyond belief. I could neither eat or sleep, and I am afraid I forgot everything but my delight.

"Well, it did come at last, and I loved it, as some beautiful, living thing, and even remembered to dust and polish it, and close it carefully.

"It was nearly paid for. We hated debt, and I cheerfully denied myself many things to put aside money so that the piano might be all my own, soon.

"The very day came, at length when my father put the last fifty dollars into an envelope, and taking me round the waist, walked down the hall with me, feeling as if a great weight had been lifted from his spirits. We were as happy as to be quite wild, and I felt light headed and too excited to settle to anything. Papa had laid the envelope containing this money on the table, and went out of the room an instant, while I stood in a great whirl of happiness, my heart beating wildly and all sorts of beautiful music sounded in my ears. Suddenly, I was brought to earth again. A pile of finely cut papers, lay at my feet on the carpet. My little sister had been 'cutting patterns,' she said, and mamma had told me to gather up these pieces before luncheon. I had forgotten as usual, and as my eye fell upon the papers, a hazy sort of remembrance came to me. I picked the papers up mechanically, and stood idly holding them in my hand, while, in another excess of exultation, I took up the money and pressed it against my heart, again and again. Alas! I forgot to put it down, I suppose. I only know that I opened the door of the hall stove, in a dreamy way, to burn the waste papers, and tossed the envelope, money and all, on the glowing coals. My thoughts did not come to me, till the fifty dollars—the fruit of our self denial, worry, anxiety, and care, were reduced to ashes.

"Connie dear, I could not describe the agony that I suffered in seeing my father's face change from its expression of joy to wretchedness; and he never reproached me even once. He was sorry for me.

"It made me ill, but it opened my eyes with the help of mamma's indignation. Such a little thing as it was, Connie, only forgetfulness about the scraps of paper on the floor—only the sin of disobedience about such a trifle!

"To be sure, dear, the money was saved once more; and I should have been glad if I alone could have practiced all the self-denial it cost to get it. But I had the pain of seeing papa in a shabby over coat, and mamma's old cloak doing service for a long time.

"I'll tell you what I did, Connie. I prayed to God to help me get the better of that besetting sin. I had a little ring on my finger, to this I tied a colored string; when it was worn out I renewed it. Every

morning, as soon as I awoke, I began to pull at the string, and to repeat aloud, all the things I must not forget, and to pray God to help me. There was a long list of them—some of them small things to make the subject of prayer—but only a few people have great things to do. Connie—not to pin my clothes, but to keep on buttons and strings; 'Not to leave any shoe buttons unbuttoned;' 'To put my napkin in my ring;' 'Not to read or play till my room was in order;' 'To obey on the instant.'

"Well, dear, I suppose no one calls me 'heedless' now, but I never forget my lesson, and I never shall." ANNIE FISLER VERNOR.

#### MARRIED.

MCNUTT BEN—At Amherst, N.S., January 31st, 1889, by the Rev. V. E. Harris, William B. McNutt, of Halifax, to Maggie L. Bent, daughter of the late James Bent, of Piquash.

#### DIED.

RITCHFORD—Entered into rest, at Amherst, N.S., February 4th 1889, Caroline Ritchford, aged 78, widow of the late Charles Edward Ritchford.

ROLLIT—Entered into rest, on Wednesday, Jan. 23rd, at her residence, 184 4th street, Minneapolis, Minn., Elizabeth, widow of the late Rev. C. Rollit, formerly of Rawlton, P.Q., and mother of the Rev. Canon Rollit of this city.

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Each tender must be accompanied by a deposit equal to 5 per cent. of the amount of the tender. This deposit may consist of cash or of an accepted bank cheque made payable to the Minister of Railways and Canals, and it will be forfeited if the person tendering neglects or refuses to enter into a contract when called upon to do so, or if after entering into a contract he fails to comply with the work satisfactorily according to the plans, specification and contract.

If the tender is not accepted the deposit will be returned.

Tenders must be made on the printed forms supplied.

The Department will not be bound to accept the lowest or any tender.

A. P. BRADLEY,

Secretary.

Department of Railways and Canals,  
Ottawa, 7th February, 1889. 42-3

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