

"O yes ma'am," they both replied in a breath.

"That's right, children, for she is a dear good mother to you; she works very hard for you to get your food and clothes, and do you try and help her?"

"O we can't, we're too small," they answered at the same time.

"O no, you are mistaken, my dears; you are not too small. To be sure, you can't work much to help her, but I will tell you what you can do. When your mother is sewing, if she drops her needle or thread you can pick it up for her; or if she wants anything you can run and get it for her; and you can rock the baby and play with it to keep it from crying; and you can keep your feet clean so that you won't track the floor; and you can put your playthings all away when you are through with them, and not leave them, as I saw them the other day all scattered about the room; and you can take care of your clothes, and be careful and not soil them. O children, you can do a great deal to help your mother."

"So we can," exclaimed George earnestly.

"Yes you can, indeed, if you will only try," replied Miss Perley.

"Well we'll try, won't we, Katie?"

"Yes, we'll try," rejoined Katie with a bright smile.

And they did try. When they reached home their mother was just going to the spring to get a pail of water to fill the tea-kettle. "O mother let me bring the water!" exclaimed George, attempting to take the pail from her hand.

"Why you, couldn't carry it, child," replied Mrs. Halsted putting him aside.

"O but I can go with the little pail a good many times and bring it till I fill this one."

"Well you may try, George, for I don't feel well this afternoon, my head aches so."

At this moment the baby commenced crying, and Katie ran in, not waiting as usual for her mother to take it up; and going to the cradle she lifted the little one out and sat it upon the floor and played with it till she got it to laugh merrily. And all through the week they did so much to help their mother that she really felt that her labours were lighter, and every week they became more and more so through the assistance of George and Katie.—*Rena Ray.*