

## Children's Department.

### Rainy-Day Sunshine.

"Seems to me this isn't a very nice world!"

"Why, Kitty?" said mamma.

"It's very nice for mammas and big people who can do as they please, but when children have to sit in the house and just look at the rain, it isn't very nice."

"It seems to me," said mamma, "if a little girl I know would just look around this big nursery and see all the things provided for her amusement, she might be happier."

"I'm tired of every one of them. All my dolls are naughty and all my toys are horrid."

"Please, Mrs. Brown," said nurse, coming into the room, "Mrs. Dixon has sent her two children home with the clothes, and they are so wet I want to know if I may keep them and get them dry before they go home?"

"Let them come up here. Do, please, mamma!" exclaimed Kitty, all the clouds gone from her face.

"Very well, nurse; find some dry clothing, and then send them to me."

"I'll show them all my things," said Kitty, "and they shall hold my very best doll."

Soon two shy little girls were led by nurse to where Mrs. Brown was sitting.

"This is Annie, and this is Jennie, ma'am," said she, presenting them in turn.

"I have seen you before," said Mrs. Brown, taking little Jennie by the hand. "I saw you when your mother was ill. Now go and have a nice time."

"Come," said Kitty; "I want you to see all my dolls."

Never had they seen so many except in the store windows, and then they could not touch them.

"Are these all your very own?" asked Annie.

"Yes. Haven't you so many?"

"We've only one between us and she has only one arm," replied Jennie.

"O my!" said Kitty. "You shall each have one of mine."

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"Really!" whispered Annie.

"May I, mamma?" said Kitty, running up to her mother.

"May you what, dear?"

"Give Annie and Jennie each a doll. They have only one."

"Will you let them choose?" said mamma.

"Only"—said Kitty, and then she stopped. "Yes I will," she went on, "even if they want Louise."

Annie chose one dressed in blue, and Jennie one in red. Both had real hair. Such happy little faces!

"It seems to me," said mamma, "that the sun is shining indoors now."

"They didn't take Louise," whispered Kitty; "but I truly would have let them have her."

As Kitty showed the little girls her doll house and all her treasures, their shyness wore away, and soon happy laughter came from the corner of the room where Kitty had been sitting so forlorn. Then nurse came and said it was time for the children to go.

"Will you come the next rainy day?" said Kitty.

"May we?" said Annie, looking at Mrs. Brown.

"Indeed you may," she said; "for you have scattered the clouds to-day."

"Why, there comes the sun," laughed Kitty, as she came back from seeing her little guests off. "It isn't a bad world any more. I guess I was the bad one."—*Harper's Young People.*

### Bob's Bad Example.

"Now, Bob, mind what I say, and don't play with those matches. Father will want them if he comes in before I do."

As she said these words, Bob's mother kissed him and his little sister, and went out to do some more shopping.

Bob had nearly burnt himself a few days back in trying to imitate father in lighting some paper and fancying it was a pipe.

But to-night Bob thought he could manage better, so he rolled a piece of newspaper to look like a pipe, and struck a match and set light to it. His little sister shouted with delight as the paper burned away; but Bob although he kept drawing the smoke into his mouth in what he considered a manly fashion, began to feel very unwell. So he put out the burning paper, and sat very still for some time.

Presently there came a knock at the front door, and thinking it was father, Bob looked as cheerful as he could, and went to answer the knock. It was only a boy, who left a parcel for mother, and Bob said a few words to him before going upstairs again.

But Fanny, his little sister, thought she would like to do as Bob did; so she rolled up some paper in her baby fingers and set light to it. But she was only a child, and soon the flames frightened her, and she began to scream. Bob heard her and ran down to see what was the matter.

Poor little Fanny! Her pinafore was in flames, and she was nearly frantic with fright.

Bob put the flames out quickly, but not before his sister's arms were badly burnt. And so she sobbed in great pain until mother came back.

"Oh, my darling, what is it? Oh, Bob, Bob, you have been at those matches again! Did you burn Fanny?"

"No, mother; she did it herself while I was upstairs."

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Mother was too busy attending to Fanny to ask any more questions just then; but when baby's arms had been tenderly wrapped up, and she was lying in her cot, Bob came as usual to say his prayers at his mother's knee. But in the middle of them he broke out in sobs, and could not go on.

"What is it, dear?"

"Oh, mother, I can't ask Jesus to bless me, 'cause I'm wicked!"

"What have you done, dear?"

"Mother, I did play with the matches, and left them on the floor when I went down stairs: and Sissie saw me strike them and pretend to smoke."

"Oh, my boy, I am so glad that you have told me the truth! You see what comes of a bad example. Your sister might have been burned to death. Let it be a lesson to you, Bob, never to do wrong again, and especially when by so doing you lead other people astray. And now ask God to forgive you, darling, as mother does."

And so Bob sent up his childish prayer for forgiveness, and always carried the lesson in his heart.

For, my dear readers, the wrong we do never stops with ourselves.

### Honest with Himself.

Little Frankie was forbidden to touch the sewing machine, and as he was generally a pretty obedient boy, his mother, auntie, and his auntie's friend were much surprised one afternoon to find the thread badly tangled and the needle broken. Frankie was, without doubt, the culprit, and he was called before the family tribunal of justice.

"Frankie, did you touch the sewing machine?" asked mamma, severely.

"Yes, mamma," was the tremulous answer. He was such a mite, so frail and delicate, so utterly helpless as he stood before us all with parted lips, and big, frightened eyes, our hearts went out to him in pity. "Now, Frankie," continued his mother, "you know I said I would punish you if you disobeyed me, and I shall have to keep my promise."

"Yes, mamma," came in a trembling whisper. Surely the little fellow was punished sufficiently, and yet we real-