

RECOMPENSE.

Brave little woman, trudging along  
 Patiently, day after day,  
 Weaving a garment of shining light  
 Out of the clouds of gray;  
 Bearing the burdens and vexing cares  
 Like one of the saints of old—  
 Making the best of a dull, hard life,  
 With its miseries all untold.

Long have I watched her with wond-  
 ering eyes—  
 Faithful, and sweet, and strong,  
 Doing the work that the Master  
 sends,  
 Making of sorrow, song;  
 Questioning never the wisdom that  
 asks  
 Self-abnegation complete.  
 Willingly treading the pathway of  
 thorns  
 That leads to the Master's feet.

I see not the dull gray cotton gown,  
 That is faded and worn and old—  
 But the shining gleam of a raiment  
 white,  
 That glistens in every fold  
 I see not the brow that is worn and  
 lined

From the anxious, toiling years—  
 But the halo divine that glorifies,  
 Giving beauty for ashes and tears!  
 Somewhere is waiting a fair, dear day,  
 Meet for such infinite grace—  
 Somewhere, oh somewhere, fruition  
 shall be

When the angel shall find her place,  
 Close to the Father, and hear Him  
 say,  
 As He tenderly bids her come,  
 "Out of the valley of darkness and  
 toil,  
 My child, thou art welcome home."

THE BOY CAME BACK.

James Whitcomb Riley, in his inimitable way, tells the story of "a much aggrieved and unappreciated lad" who made up his mind that he "could not stand the tyranny of home longer," and so early one morning he put a long-contemplated plan into execution and ran away.

All day long he played down at the old "swimming-hole" with the other boys, making a raid on an orchard at noon to stifle the pangs of hunger. At night, when his companions went home, he was left alone, "with a lump in his throat which hurt worse when he didn't notice it than when he did." As it grew dark, he "oozed" toward home. He climbed the back fence into the back yard, which had such a "homely" look that he had never noticed before. After roaming around getting acquainted with his home that he had left so long ago—about twelve hours since—he wandered into the sitting-room, where father was reading the evening paper and mother was sewing. They took no notice of him, and he sat down on the remote edge of a chair and waited to be recognized. He could hear the boys playing out on the commons their nightly games of "town fox," but he didn't want to join them. He just wanted to stay right here at home forever. The clock ticked, oh, so loudly; but other-

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wise the silence was so deep that it was painful. Finally, when it became more than he could bear, he cleared his throat, and mustered up courage enough to say, "Well, I see you've got the same old cat."

God bless the boy who, finding he has made a mistake in his valuation of home, is brave enough to go back and prove just how much the "same old cat" is worth, as compared with no cat and a homeless life.

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