

A Touching Poem

The following beautiful home-circle poem is intended for the family-circle. It is founded upon an incident where a rich neighbour offered to a poor family comfortable and provide for the child, if one of the seven was given to him. Some one has felt the pang of poverty, and yet been a father, with all the deep love and feelings of a parent has clothed in devotion, and faith that will find a holy response in the breast of every father and mother who are blessed with little pledges of affection, be they one or seven—

WHICH?

"Which shall it be? Which shall it be?" I looked at John—John looked at me. (Dear patient John who loves me yet As well as though my locks were jet.) And when I found that I must speak, My voice seemed strangely low and weak; "Tell me again what Robert said."

"I will give

A house and land while you shall live, If in return from out your seven, One child to me for aye is given."

"Come, John," said I,

"We'll choose among them as they lie Asleep," so walking hand in hand, Dear John and I surveyed our band. First to the cradle lightly stepped, Where Lillian, the baby slept, A glory, 'gainst the pillow white; Softly the father stooped to lay His rough hand down in loving way, When dream or whisper made her stir, And hushly he said, "Not her—not her."

"I have no patience with this kind of stuff,"

spoke out one of the company, almost angrily. "What has the wine been ordered for, if not to drink?"

Birdie in the Home-Nest.

"Have you not forgotten some one?" The child had risen from her knees, and lifted her soft brown eyes to her mother's face.

"Who, mamma?" she asked; then, before her mother could reply, she said, "Oh, yes, I did forget," and dropping on her knees, clasped her clasped hands, and with shut eyes, and face upturned, spoke these words to our Father in heaven:

"Bless dear papa, and make him good and happy." As the gentle young mother kissed her darling, she shut her eyelids tightly to keep the tears from falling over her cheeks.

"You must never forget dear papa,"

said the mother. It was only by an effort that she was able to speak with a steady voice, for her heart was moved by some strong feelings that she wished to bid "FATHER GOD."

"I won't again," answered the child, and then added, "I don't know what made me forget. I always pray for you."

For a little while arms were clasped tightly around the child, and her head held closely against her mother's breast. Then good-night words were said, and good-night kisses were exchanged. Soon after the only sound heard in the room was the soft breathing of a child asleep.

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COACH WITH GUN. A little while he remained bending above them. Great waves of tenderness came sweeping over his heart. They had never seemed so lovely and precious. Stopping, at length, for he could no longer restrain himself, he touched his lips to the fair forehead of his wife. Then he kissed the little one who had said, ere she went to sleep, "Tell him to kiss me when he comes home, mamma, won't you? May be I'll know it in my dreams."

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A Little Boy Moves a Great Ship. We have somewhere read that at an English dockyard, a great ship was to be launched; an immense multitude assembled to see it glide down the slides that were to carry it into the water. The blocks and wedges were knocked away, but the massive vessel did not stir, and the ship lay on the ways, as if it were a mountain.

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