

Children's Department.

Little Children.

A dreary place would be this earth, Were there no little people in it; The song of life would lose its mirth, Were there no children to begin it.

No little forms, like buds to grow, And make the admiring heart surrender; No little hands on breast and brow, To keep the thrilling love-chords tender.

The sterner souls would grow more stern, Unfeeling natures more inhuman, And man to icy coldness turn, And woman would be less than woman.

Life's song, indeed, would lose its charm Were there no babies to begin it; A doleful place this world would be, Were there no little people in it.

Mickey's Sacrifice.

Mickey was one of the many little newsboys who daily ply their humble calling; only one of the many who work hard to earn the few cents necessary to them for sustenance; only one of those who are obliged to toil from early dawn until long after nightfall. Yet on this particular day of January there was no lighter heart, no happier boy in all the city than Mickey Dolan. His brown eyes were bright as stars, his cheeks were flushed to a rosy red. In one of his small hands he held a ticket, the possession of which entitled the holder to a "turkey dinner" given by the Ladies' Aid Society. This was the cause of Mickey's joy. In all his short life he had never partaken of a square meal. During the night which preceded the eventual day he dreamed of long tables filled with good things and of fat turkeys, and when he awoke in the morning it seemed as if the hours were never so long. He strolled down to the City Hall and sat on the steps to watch the hands of the big clock opposite. In three hours he would be "eating till he busted."

He was indulging in these pleasant day dreams when Jimmy Doyle came hobbling up. Jimmy was a little cripple with his small limbs misshapen.



Mr. Joseph Hemmerich

An old soldier, came out of the War greatly enfeebled by Typhoid Fever, and after being in various hospitals the doctors discharged him as incurable with Consumption. He has been in poor health since, until he began to take

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"Ain't you going to the turkey dinner?" Mickey asked as the little fellow approached him.

"Nop," he answered sorrowfully; "you see somehow I couldn't get round as fast as the other chaps and—well, when I did get round the tickets was all give out, and I didn't get none." A sigh or two accompanied these words.

"You're going, ain't you?" he added. But Mickey Dolan did not answer the question. Somehow his heart was not as "busting" as it had been five minutes ago; the bright light faded from his eyes, the red spots from his cheeks. He sat there gazing intently at Jimmy's thin little limbs and trying hard to think.

"You got a ticket, didn't you, Mickey?" he asked again. "Yes," Mickey answered, rather

absently, "they give me one; but," he added, rising, "I don't know as I'll go. Mother ain't well, and—well, you ken have my ticket." It cost Mickey a big struggle to say these simple words. He did not see the look of joy that lighted up the pale, thin face of Jimmy Doyle. He had turned away to hide the blinding tears, the tears that would come in spite of all the efforts he made.

That evening as the boys were trooping out of the hall Mickey went down to hear the news. The street was soon crowded with the merry little urchins. No one but the Almighty, who sees all things, knew what was about to happen. Suddenly a horse standing near took fright and dashed in among the terror-stricken boys. As quickly the street was cleared and the horse dashed on, but not before it had struck poor little crippled Jimmy a fatal blow. The boys crowded around, and Mickey Dolan raised the poor, bleeding head to his knee. The blue eyes slowly opened.

"Oh, Mickey, it was so grand, so beautiful; you ought to been there, Mickey." The little face quivered with pain; he took Mickey's hand in his.

"It was so kind in yer, Mickey; so kind in yer to give me yer ticket. Oh, it was so beautiful, so"—the blue eyes closed wearily, a happy smile stole over the thin, pale face, there was a little sigh, and the spirit of Jimmy Doyle went forth to meet its Lord and King.

That night Mickey Dolan cried himself to sleep; but way down in the loyal little heart there was a feeling of sweet content, for he had given to Jimmy the one great pleasure his little cheerless life had ever known.

FLORENCIA A. LEWIS.

Friends in Need.

My first story is about a dear old dog that we used to have years ago.

He was a brown Irish retriever, with a thick coat of short silky curls, and his name was Choice.

It happened that a neighbor of ours also kept a dog, which, I am sorry to say, he did not feed properly, and so it was always barking for food.

Now old Choice evidently knew how hungry this poor dog was, and set to work to think what was to be done. He had not enough supper to share it with anyone else; besides, he was always chained up at night, so he had not the chance of doing so.

However, an opportunity came at last. One very wet Sunday he found the lid off the large iron bin in which his biscuits were kept. Now was his chance. He seized a biscuit and ran with it to his half-starved friend, and that afternoon we watched him going again and again to fetch more biscuits. Was not this a generous dog! He lived to be very old—nearly sixteen, I think—and was loved by all who knew him.

We also had a donkey named Pedro. He was very clever in taking off his halter, and, once free himself, he would go and let all the pigs out for a morning run.

At the same house we had a large mulberry tree standing in the middle of the field. A flock of white ducks living at the next house were very fond of these mulberries, so when they thought no one was looking they used to run as fast as they could to the tree. They could not fly up to get the mulberries down themselves, so

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