

may never have the same strength in your feet and limbs that you had before your illness. But he also says you are slowly recovering; so as soon as you are strong enough to study your father is going to have you educated for a teacher, and hopes with a good training to have you fitted so that you may make your own way in the world."

"I should like that, mother, so much, and I think I may have some special gift in that way; for surely if the wind is 'tempered to the shorn lamb,' as you have often told me, there is, I am sure, some special endowment for poor lame boys to help them make their way in life, and I may have a chance yet. But I want to tell you my dream that I had last night, mother, after you had read to me that "sweet, sad story" as you call it. I went to sleep, and dreamed that a bright ray of sunshine shone right on my bed, and that somehow, somewhere, in a far distant land, perhaps in the world of spirits (for I felt as light as a ghost), I was strong and well, and full of life, though lame like Mephibosheth; that you and father were

with me, and that I was prosperous and able to help you, and that somehow my poor, lame feet brought blessing instead of sorrow to all the family, and that we all sat at the "King's table." But it was only a dream, mother, and yet it seemed to bring with it peace and contentment, and when I awoke this morning I felt strength was returning, and my pulse was steadier.

"See, see, mother! look out of the window!—there is such a beautiful rainbow in the sky after the storm. Is it possible this is a bow of promise for us all, and the future has in it some rich store of blessing for the family?"

The father of the family was in humble circumstances, but with care, management and economy was just able to earn a livelihood for his household, and that was something in that dark period of English history in the early part of the last century, following the continental wars, when England had fought for her very life and won it.

As the young mother had her household duties to attend to, she had for awhile to