

articles, all indispensable to the children's happiness, grew to a very alarming extent. But this was not all. Visits had to be paid to the bootmaker and other juvenile outfitters, all of which required much time and patience. Vi, in the process of "trying-on," was reduced to tears, while Jackie underwent unknown tortures in the selection of sandals. At length the preparations were complete and the exodus took place.

The children occupied the corner of the railway carriage, and Miss Forman breathed again, for she had at least a few hours' respite till they arrived at their destination.

Jackie gently took a match-box out of his pocket.

"Guess what I've got here," he said with a smile to his sister.

"I don't know," she replied. "Worms, for bait?" —they had already decided that fishing was to form one of their holiday delights.

Jackie shook his head.

"Wrong. Guess again."

"Can't," replied Vi.

"Then I'll show you," and he opened the box slightly.

Instantly, two long active antennæ protruded anxiously from the box, and Vi drew back a little.

"What is it, Jackie?" she asked, nervously.

"Black-beetles," said her brother, in triumph.

"I thought it would be great fun to play with them on the journey."

"What a splendid idea!" said Vi. "We can feed them on the crumbs from the sandwiches."

Jackie, very proud of his foresight, opened the box a little wider, when, in a moment, a plump beetle bustled out and alighted on the paper Miss Forman was reading. Jackie hastily closed the box and hid it in