

This was a great joy to them ; he was so kind, and had so much to tell them about far away places, and strange people and animals and things such as they had never seen. They never wearied of hearing his stories, and he did not seem to weary either of telling them.

One day after dinner, they both climbed on his knees, and Lucy said, " Oh, uncle, do tell us a *tiger* story ! "

" Very well," said he, " I will tell you a story about a tiger and a baby, which happened to some friends of my own. This gentleman and lady had one sweet little baby, and they had to take a very long journey with it through a wild part of India. There were no houses there, and they had to sleep in a tent. That is a kind of house made of cloth, by driving high sticks firmly into the ground, and then drawing curtains all over them. It is very comfortable and cool in a warm country where there is no rain, but then there are no doors or windows to shut as we do at night, to make all safe.

" One night they had to sleep in a very wild place, near a thick wood. The lady said, ' Oh, I feel so afraid to-night ; I cannot tell you how frightened I am. I know there are many tigers and wild animals in the wood ; and what if they should come out upon us ? '

" Her husband replied, ' My dear, we will make the servants light a fire, and keep a watch, and you need have no fear ; and we must put our trust in God. '

" So the lady kissed her baby, and put it into its cradle ; and then she and her husband knelt down together, and prayed to God to keep them from every danger, and they repeated that pretty verse, ' I will both lay me down in peace and sleep ; for thou, Lord, only makest me to dwell in safety. '

" In the middle of the night the lady started up with a loud cry, ' Oh, my baby ! my baby. I dreamed just now that a great tiger had crept below the curtains, and ran away with my child ! '

" And, when she looked into the cradle, the baby was not there ! Oh, you may think how dreadful was their distress ! They ran out of the tent, and there, in the moonlight, they saw a great animal moving toward the wood, with something white in his mouth. They aroused all the servants, and got loaded guns, and all went after it into the wood. They went as fast and yet as quietly as they could, and very soon they came to a place where they saw through the trees that the tiger had laid down and was playing with the baby, just as pussy does with a mouse before she kills it. The baby was