WARK AND TOTTY'S WONDER-FUL ESCAPE.

It was Saturday afternoon! The mid-summ sunlight ly warm and bright on a the green New England hills, and crept in waves of glimmering ped, with a peculiar, mournful cry. gold over the white, sanded floor of Deborah Hunter's tidy kitchen. Debbie herself sat just beyond the doorway. with a huge basket of newly-ironed clothes beside her, from which she was assorting a variety of little garments. pausing now and then to darn a hole or sow on a button, and singing softly to herself the while; for she was a hapby wife and mother, and her smile was bright and her heart cheerful, despite the endless duties that kept her willing hands very busy.

Out in the garden, in the shade of the elm trees, where the flaunting tulips and sunflowers bloomed, and the bees made homely music, Mark and little Totty were playing, and chattering like a pair of parrots.

And presently they came toddling in Mark leading his chubby little sister by the hand.

down to the wood and gather some strawberries? Father likes 'em with cream, you know! Please let us. mother! I'll put Totty's shoes on, so the briars can't scratch her feet, and I'll take good care of her. Mother. may we go?"

Debbie smiled and nodded, and Mark ran off for Totty's shoes, and ging succeed in getting them on her chubby feet. Then he clambered up on the dresser and got a little tin kettle, and off they started, hand in hand.

"Now, Mark, take good care of your sister," called his mother, "and don't go near the pond. And come back soon, for I think we shall have rain before night."

And the midsummer afternoon waned slowly. The sunshine danced and elimmered amid the green elmbranches, the bees hummed about their hives, and hens cackled lazily in the stronger tossed the purple lilac-boughs | coppice thickly roofed with vines. till the air was heavy with their sweet perfume. Debbie worked on, singing softly to herself, and the sunlight crept stealthily across the sanded floor and disappeared at last beyond the doors. Her work was done; all the little garments ready for the coming Sabbath. She rose and put her basket aside.

"What can make them stay so?" she thought, looking out again, and finding the sky well-nigh overcast, and the great black thunder-cloud rolling rapidly up before the rising wind.

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The poor mother, now thoroughly frightened, caught up a shawl, and throwing it over her head, closed the door and ran down toward the wood. calling her children as she ran. But there came no answer, no sound but the roar of the gathering storm and the angry booming of the thunder.

She searched and called in vain; they were nowhere to be seen, and, half frantic with anxiety, she ran back again and met her husband just returned from his labor at the door.

"Oh, Nathan," she cried, "the children are gone-lost in the wood. What shall we do?"

He turned without a word to the huge

"Gyp," he said, "the children are

gone; come, we must find them!" followed by the poor, distracted mother. As they reached the wood the storm broke upon them in all its fury. The clouds relled up in great masses, blotting out the waning daylight, and the lightning blazed and flamed in every direction, while the thunder rattled and shrieked amic the trees like a pack of demons. And presently the rain began to pour down in great drenching sheets. Poor Deborah wrung her hands

"Oh, my children!" she cried; "my lock of surprise and horror. poor little Totty, what will become of

The father hurried on, followed by of the children appeared.

"Gyp," said the father, turning to his dog again, " can't you find the children? Come, good dog, try!"

ground, went off like an arrrow. The parents followed, heedless of the pelting storm. On and on, into the heart of the wood and round to the shore of the pond! There the poor fellow stop-

The father and mother hastened up There, in the yielding earth, were little footprints, the unmistakeable impress of Totty's chubby shoes, and broken flowers, and presently, away out upon the yellow, angry waters of the pond, they espied Mark's little cap.

As she recognised it the poor mother uttered a piteous cry.

"Oh, my precious babies! They are gone-they are drowned!"

"Yes," replied the father hoarsely, they are gone! I must get help and drag the pond. My poor wife, you had better come home."

But Deborah shook her head, and crouched down upon the shore of the yellow pond. And there she sat, with the pitiless storm beating on her unsheltered head, waiting and watching in the very patience of despair.

Her husband went for help, and his "Mother," he said, "may we go neighbors responded to his call. They hurried to the spot by scores, and the pond was dragged, but the bodies of the children could not be found. Again and again they repeated their efforts, but with a like result.

The storm had spent its fury, the thunders rattled far away in the distance, and through the rifts in the black clouds a full summer moon pourafter considerable grunting and tug- ed down its silver light. The men stood round the yellow circlet of water regarding each other in silent perplexity, when far away came the sound of a tremulous cry. The father listened intently. It came again—a long and mournful cry.

"'Tis Gyp," he said, dashing off in the direction of the sound; "he's found 'em!''

Debbie and her neighbors followed through the dripping moonlit forest. As they neared the spot the dog heard them coming, and the howl changed into a joyful bark. He came bounding barn-yard: and the breeze growing out to meet them from beneath a little

reeking moss, little Totty fast asleep, with her curly head pillowed on Mark's arm. Mark was wide awake, his eyes will leave Pictou for Truro at 3.15 p.m. and Truro for as bright as diamonds.

The moment he caught sight of his mother, he burst into tears.

"Poor mother," he cried out, "I was anaughty boy to make you suffer so; but I didn't mean to be. We met Tom there was some jolly strawberries down by the pond, and I thought we'd get 'em to please father. But Totty walk-ed so slow, the storm was up by the time we got there. But I got the strawberries, and bouncing big fellows they are. Here they are, father; I held on to 'em. By the time I got my basket full the wind was blowing great guns, and Totty began to cry. I took her in my arms and tried to run, and the wind took my cap off and whirled it plump into the middle of the pond. Oh, my buttons, but it did rain! The drops hit my head like bullets! But I hugged Totty tight, and ran and ran, but somehow I couldn't run right; the storm had turned me round. I saw this place at last and we erept in, and COMBINED MEDICINES, poor Totty soon cried herself to sleep, and I dozed a bit too, for the first thing I knew, here was Gyp putting his cold nose on my cheek."

They journeyed homeward through the glittering summer woods, and as Newfoundland dog that stood behind they reached the cottage the Sabbath worn was breaking, fair, and sweet and holy—the type of that eternal morn which is to come: the east, one blaze of gold and purple, birds twittering on And Gyp trotted soberly after him, every spray, lambkins bleating from the green hill-tops. God's blessed peace resting on all things like a benediction.

The grateful parents bore their little ones in, and Debbie bustled about preparing hot drinks and dry garments.

"And now," said she, when everything was done, and Tot'y lay asleep in her father's arms, her brown, chubfrom hill to hill, and the winds tore by feet pepping from beneath her snowy frock-"now husband, we'll get 'em to bed, and let 'em have a good sleep; poor little dears, they need it."

She led the way into the bed-chamber, and turned to arrange the little trundle-bed; and she recoiled with a Black Corded and Lute Ribbons

The white pillows and dainty coverlids were one mass of charred and sulphurous ashes; and one corner of the room was all torn and splintered. In Gyp, on and on, till they were in the their absence the lightning shaft had dec 18. very heart of the wood. But no trace struck their dwelling, expending its deadly fury on the pillows where the little heads of their children would have lain had they been at home. There had been death and danger, and out in the wild night safety and deliverance. "And Gyp, with his nose to the God's providence had saved them. E WOODBURDE

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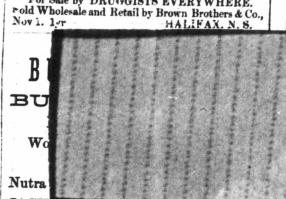
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