

Children's Department.

Consolation.

When I am in sore trouble, trouble perhaps that I cannot speak of and must needs bear almost alone, my thoughts wander back to old Palestine, following the footsteps of Him who sat weary in the sultry noon on Jacob's well, telling the strange woman, to her wonder, "all things that ever she did"; who beheld the multitudes, and was moved by compassion on them, because they were as sheep having no shepherd. I walk by the way with Him who drew nigh to the poor fishermen in the midst of their toil and danger on the midnight sea; who took little children in His arms and blessed them; also stopped the funeral procession passing through the city gate, at sight of the widowed mother's tears, who healed the leper, calmed the demoniac, and wept with Martha and Mary at their brother's grave, and then I think He knows my present trouble; the God who looked out through those compassionate eyes, whose power wrought through those wonder-working hands, whose love was expressed in that noble and generous heart, He knows my present trouble. And I can never think thus, without being soothed and strengthened; it makes the darkness less dreadful, and painful things less hard to bear. Whether Lazarus recover or die, let it be enough for our patience and peace to be able to reflect that the Lord knows how sick he is, and what black care sits by the cottage hearth in Bethany.

Baby's Sleeping Time.

I wonder if all mothers know that baby likes to be turned over after he has slept for an hour or two on one side? When he stretches and wriggles, and finally, perhaps, cries out, try turning him on his other side, or almost on his

back, and see if he does not relapse into another sound nap without further effort on your part. Do not forget to turn the pillow over also sometimes. The one or two-year-old who wakes in the night and sits up in bed, rubbing his little fists into his sleepy eyes, feels, perhaps, hot and uncomfortable. Try turning his pillow. If he is like some children the writer knows of, he will wait for the sound of the turning and then drop back on it into a renewed sleep. Remember, also, to keep a child's clothes smooth under him. Drawing down the rumpled nightclothes and smoothing the cover has much to do with quieting the restless tossings of the little sleeper.

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The Unseen Hand.

"Thank you very much; that was such a help to me," said a sick woman, as she dropped exhausted on her pillow, after her bed had been made for her.

The friend to whom she spoke looked up in surprise. She had not touched the invalid, for she had feared to give pain even by laying a hand upon her. She knew that the worn body was so racked with many pains, and had become so tender and sensitive, that the sick woman could not bear to be lifted or supported in any way. All that her friends could do was to stand quietly by her.

"I did nothing to help you, dear. I wished to be of use, but I only stood behind without touching you at all; I was so afraid of hurting you."

"That was just it," said the invalid, with a bright smile; "I knew you were there, and that if I slipped, I could not fall, and the thought gave me confidence. It was of no consequence that you did not touch me, and that I could neither see, hear, nor feel you. I knew I was safe, all the same, because you were ready to receive me into your arms, if needful."

The sufferer paused a moment, and then, with a still brighter light on her face, she added—

"What a sweet thought this has brought to my mind! It is the same with my Heavenly Friend. 'Fear not, for I will be with thee,' is the promise, and, thanks be to God, I know He is faithful that promised. I can neither see, hear nor touch Him with my mortal sense; but just as I knew you were behind, with loving arms extended, so I know that beneath me are 'the Everlasting Arms.'"

Girls who are Morbid.

I sometimes wish I could have each one of these self-termed unhappy girls for about ten minutes and talk to her, and just make her see that she is a little bit of a dunce. My dear child, when people have trouble, and real trouble, they don't sit down and analyze all their emotions, and remember whether this person or that person looked to the right or to the left when



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they were speaking to them, or whether due consideration was shown to eyes inclined to brim over with tears and lips over prone to quiver. Before real sorrow I bow myself down with the utmost respect, but before these morbid feelings of yours I am strongly tempted to smile, and yet, after all, I do sympathize with you. But count this morbidness, like a good girl, as a wicked little de-

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